

Colic.

This complaint is very frequent in horses. It is of two kinds—the flatulent, or colic with swelling; and the spasmodic, or colic with great pain, but very little gas at first; no swelling, but cramps of the bowels. The cause of the frequency of this disorder in horses is that the horse has the smallest stomach and the longest bowels of any animal of his size. Much of the horse's digestive process takes place in the bowels. The cow, on the other hand, has four stomachs and very short bowels. Colic is very much a bowel complaint. The flatulent colic is caused by sudden changes of food, too long fasting, feeding when the horse is exhausted—in fact, by anything that produces indigestion. The pains from the start are continuous; the horse paws, and may or may not lie down. The belly enlarges, and is hard and drum-like. Then follows hard breathing, perspiration, trembling of hind legs, staggering, and, finally, plunging forward and death.

Alkalines should be promptly given. Baking soda, in doses of 2 to 4 ounces, is good, as is chloride of lime in half-ounce doses every half hour. Charcoal may do good as an absorbent. Injections are frequently useful to stimulate the action of the bowels and carry off the gases. Blankets wrung out of hot water do much to give relief—they should be changed every five minutes, and covered with dry woollen blankets. This form of colic needs quick, prompt treatment, or is often fatal. Do not cease your efforts till you are sure the animal is dead. In very bad cases the bowels may be punctured and the gas allowed to escape by means of a small trocar; such punctures are not followed by any bad results when carefully done.

Breeds of Horses.

In beginning a series of short sketches of the various breeds of horses, especially referring to those kinds most common in the country, it may not be out of place to glance at the earlier records which mention this noble animal. In the Bible the horse is first mentioned in Genesis, where Joseph buys the horses of the Egyptians in the years of famine. The same book has a mention of the horse and his rider. In the Book of Job, supposed to be written of the time of Abraham, about B.C. 1896, the horse was used in war. The story represents Job speaking to God, and saying:

"Hast thou given the horse his might? Hast thou clothed his neck with the quivering mane? Hast thou made him to leap as a locust? The

glory of his snorting is terrible. He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: he goeth out to meet the armed men. He mocketh at fear, and is not dismayed; neither turneth he back from the sword. The quiver rattleth against him, the flashing spear and the javelin. He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage; neither standeth he still at the voice of the trumpet. As oft as the trumpet soundeth he saith, Aha! And he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains and the shouting." Here we have no particular mention of his points, but specially of his spirit.

The horse of the Greeks is the oldest of which we have the form and also a general description. On the Elgin marbles, now in the British Museum, is depicted the form of the Greek horses. The Greek writer, Xenophon, in giving his advice on the purchase of a horse, says in substance as follows: "On examining the feet, first look to the horny portion of the hoofs, for those horses which have the horn thick are far superior in their feet to those which have it thin. Next observe whether the hoofs be upright both before and behind. Having begun from below, let us ascend to the other parts of the body. The parts above the hoof and below the fetlocks should not be too erect, like those of the goat, for legs of this kind, being stiff and inflexible, are apt to jar the rider, and are more liable to inflammation. The bones of the shank should be thick, but they should not have the veins and flesh thick likewise. If the horse bends his knees flexibly at a walk, you may judge that he will have his legs flexible when in full canter. Flexible goers are esteemed highly; they are less liable to blunder or stumble than those which have unbending joints. The arms below the shoulder blades should be thick and muscular. The breast should be broad as well for beauty as strength. The neck ought not to be set on like that of a boar, horizontally from the chest, but, like that of a game-cock, should be upright towards the crest. The head, being long, should have a small and narrow jawbone. It is better that a horse should have prominent than hollow eyes; and widely-opened nostrils are far better than narrow. The loftier the crest and smaller the ears, the more handsome; while lofty withers give a surer seat, and a double loin is also softer to sit upon. A deep side, rounded towards the belly, renders the horse easier to sit, stronger, and more easy to keep in condition. The quarters should be broad and fleshy, the loin short and broad."

Here we have the oldest description in detail of the horse, the writer beginning at the feet,