

This is a very clear, wholesome water, and very good for many disorders. In the mean time the following medicine should be given.

- 1 oz. of Peruvian Bark.
- 1 do. Japan Earth, in Powder.
- 1 do. Irish Slate, do.

Give these in lime water, and you may repeat it as often as needful.

Some Farriers give strong alum possets two or three times a day; but this kind of treatment cannot be proper, for the alum takes so fast a hold of the juices of the stomach, that if the horse were not ill, it would be enough to make him so. But if the above are properly given, they will not disappoint expectation.

THE MOLTEN GREASE.

This is so common a disorder, that it ought to be well understood; but, alas! like many others, it is often mistaken for something else. This disease is a melting down of the fat of the horse's body, caused by violent exercise in very hot weather; or if the horse be full of flesh, it may happen in cold weather. Hard riding, or sudden colds, will bring on this disorder.

SYMPTOMS. It is always attended with a fever, heat, restlessness, startling and trembling, inward sickness, and shortness of breath. Also the horse's dung is extremely greasy, and he often falls into a scouring. His blood, when cold, is covered with a thick scum of fat, of a white or yellow color, but generally the latter. The congealed part, or sediment, appears like a mixture of size and grease, and is so extremely slippery that it will not adhere to the fingers; and the small proportion of serum is also slippery and clammy. The horse soon loses his flesh and fat, the latter being probably dissolved into the blood. Such as have sufficient strength to sustain the first shock, commonly become hidebound, and their legs swell greatly; and in this state they continue till the blood and juices are rectified; and if that is not done effectually, the Farcy, or an obstinate Surfeit, is generally the consequence, which cannot be removed but with the utmost difficulty.

CURE. In the first place, bleed pretty plentifully, and repeat the operation two or three days successively; but take care that you take only a small quantity at a time after the first bleeding, as otherwise the creature would be rendered too weak to support himself, and his blood too poor to be easily recruited. As soon as he has been bled the first time, let two or three rowels be put in, and the emolient clysters prescribed for Fevers be thrown up daily, to mitigate the fever, and to cleanse the intestines from the greasy matter. At the same time plenty of water-gruel should be given him, and sometimes a small quantity of water, with a little nitre dissolved in it. The latter will be of great service, as it will prevent the blood from running into grumous concretions, and proving the source of innumerable disorders, if not causing a total stagnation, and consequently the death of the animal.

The horse must be treated in this manner till the fever be entirely gone, and he shall have recovered his appetite; and then it will be necessary to give him three or four purges, a week distant from each other, which will make him stale and perspire plentifully, and at the same time bring down the swelling of his legs. The following is well calculated for the purpose.

- 6 drams of Socotrine Aloes.
- 4 do. Gum Guaiacum, in powder.
- 2 do. Ginger.
- 2 do. Jalap.
- 2 do. Oil of Juniper.

To be made into a ball with syrup of buckthorn. By pursuing this method the horse will soon be recovered, for this purge will mend his appetite and increase his flesh. If it be too weak, add a dram more of Aloes. It will bring down his swelled legs, and carry away all the superfluous matter that clogs the blood. When you give the physic, be careful to give plenty of warm water all the time.

A SURFEIT.

Some people pronounce every ill-thriven horse surfeited, whether it is or not. A surfeit is nothing more than the effects of an ill-cured disease, and therefore what is called a Surfeit in horses is very different to the disease which bears that name in the human body; the latter being the beginning of a disease, and the former the remains of one.

SYMPTOMS. The horse's coat will stare, look of a rusty colour, and even appear dirty, although the greatest pains have been taken to keep him clean. His skin will be covered with scales and dandriff which will appear like meal among the hair, and when cleaned off will be followed by a continual succession of the same matter, occasioned by the perspiration being obstructed. Some horses will be covered with a kind of scab, sometimes moist, attended with heat and inflammation, and the humour so very sharp, and causing so violent an itching, that the creature is incessantly rubbing himself, and by that means making himself raw in different parts of his body. Some horses have neither scales, dandriff, nor scab, but look dull, sluggish and lazy. Some are hidebound, and others afflicted with flying pains and a temporary lameness. In short the symptoms are very various, and almost as numerous as those of the scurvy itself.

CAUSES. The causes are various as the symptoms. Some horses are surfeited by high feeding and want of proper exercise; which produce a bad digestion, and generate ill humours. Some are surfeited by unwholesome food; some by hard riding; some by drinking cold water when they are hot; some by bad or improper physic, and some by standing in stables through which the rain drops, or by lying wet. But as many also get surfeited by standing when hot at the doors of public houses, such bad practices should be guarded against.