

BLOOD AND BOG SPAVIN.

The above diseases are of common occurrence in this country, and considerable speculation is afloat regarding the nature and treatment of the same. Many valuable horses have to submit to very harsh treatment, without any benefit; and in view of giving the reader a correct idea of the nature of these enlargements, we introduce the following article from "Elementary Lectures on Veterinary Science," by Surgeon Percivall:—

"In the human subject, the veins of the legs now and then become varicose, by which is meant, dilatation of their coats in consequence of preternatural distention. Under these circumstances, the valves in them perform but imperfectly their offices; the veins themselves becoming tortuous, bulge, and occasionally burst in various places, forming small tumors, or bloody ulcers, in the skin, which from the appearance of blood through them are of a purple color.

"Such have many Veterinary writers* conceived to be the nature of bloody-spavin—a disease that has no existence but in the pages of their works.

"The horse, as far as our observations have gone, is not troubled with varix; and we much doubt that the veins of this animal have become spontaneously varicose, though we have none whatever, that something like varix may have been produced in them by the remedies commonly recommended for the removal of a blood-spavin. We allude here to the use of ligature—a practice long exploded by the scientific Veterinarian.

"If you examine a horse said to have blood-spavin, (for it is by no means a very common occurrence,) you will perceive a soft fluctuating tumor upon the inner and forepart of the hock, in the course of the principal vein, which is at that part superficially placed. At first view of it you are convinced, from the unnatural prominence of the part, that there must be disease—and so there undoubtedly is—though it is not of that kind which its name so emphatically expresses.

"Dissection has fully developed its nature. There is placed here a little membranous bag, called a bursa mucosa, which contains, in a natural state, a certain quantity of synovial fluid; from a too copious secretion of which, it happens, now and then, that this sack becomes distended, preternaturally enlarged, and in this condition constitutes a disease, called bog-spavin.

"The vein, passing immediately over this bag, compressed and diminished in calibre by enlargement of it, cannot transmit blood, at this part, with the usual facility of quickness; the consequence is, that a preternatural distension of it happens immediately below the tumid bursa, thence extending as low down as the first valve; and this has been taken for a varix, or some such thing, and denominated a blood-spavin.

"A blood-spavin, then, is purely a distension† of that vein which passes superficially over the inner and forepart of the hock-joint: solely produced by, and consequently co-existent with a bog-spavin.

"Be the cause of such obstruction, however, what it may, the same thing will happen; hence, if we tie this, or any other vein, we shall produce instantly, in truth, a blood-spavin, and probably, by allowing the ligature to continue, in process of time a varix."

TO STOP BLEEDING FROM THE CAVITY OF AN EXTRACTED TOOTH.—Noticing the case of Mrs. Locke, who bled to death in consequence of the extraction of a tooth, Dr. Addington of Richmond, Va., says he never fails to stop the bleeding by packing the alveolus from which the blood continued to trickle, fully and firmly with cotton moistened in as strong solution of alum and water. He cured a brother physician in this way, whose jaw had bled for two weeks.

The Boston Medical Journal mentions the following simple and economical apparatus for overcoming bad odours, and purifying any apartment where the air is loaded with noxious materials. Take one of any of the various kinds of glass lamps—for burning camphene, for example—and fill it with chloric ether, and light the wick. In a few minutes the object will be accomplished. In dissecting rooms, in the damp, deep vaults where drains allow the escape of offensive gases, in outbuildings, and in short in any spot where it is desirable to purify the atmosphere, burn one of these lamps. One tube charged with a wick is sufficient.

* Bracken was the first who detected the fallacy of such an opinion.

† We would call a varix a dilatation.