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THE HORSE. Bone Diseases of Horses-II. Splint.

Splint is a common and sometimes quite an alarming disease in young horses, and occasionally in horses of any age. It is rarely seen in the hind limbs. In order to understand and appreciate the trouble it is necessary to have an intelligent idea of the bony anatomy of the horse from the knee and the hock to the fellock joint. This part is usually called the cannon, and consists of three bones, one large cannon bone extending the whole distance from the knee in the fore and from the hock in the hind limb to their respective fetlock joints. The posterior surface of this bone is rather flat with a roughened portion on each edge with a com-paratively smooth portion between them. To the roughened portion on each edge there is attached by ligamentous attachment a small, somewhat triangular-shaped bone, of considerable size above, where it articulates with the bones of the knee joint, and gradually decreasing in size as it extends downwards, becoming quite small and terminating in a small nodule, somewhat pea-shaped, a little more than two-thirds down the large bone. These nodules can be easily felt, one on each side of the large cannon bone, a few inches above the fetlock. In fine-boned horses without long hair on their legs, they can sometimes be seen, and are occasionally mistaken for splints, by those not familiar with the

anatomy of the part. A splint consists in bony union between the large and small bones. Inflammation is set up between the bones, usually by concussion during ordinary travelling, especially on hard roads. As a result of the inflammation an exudate is thrown out, which is, of course, soft at first but later on becomes converted into bone, and thereby unites the large and small bones by bony union. An enlargement of greater or less size is noticeable, which, in most cases, gradually disappears by absorption until nothing can be noticed. At the same time the ossific

(bony) union between the bones continues. We often hear people say that horse over seven years old never had a splint." This statement arises from the fact that the visible enlargement has usually disappeared by the time the animal has reached that age, but, as stated, the union of the bones is permanent. This absorption does not always take place, and it is not uncommon to observe well-marked splints in horses of all ages. In some cases the splint is double—that is, an enlargement is noticeable on each side of the legand, in such cases there is generally a bony deposit extending across the posterior surface of the large bone, from one splint to the other. tion to the suspensory ligament, which passes down this surface, and this may

cause permanent lameness. the splint is so high that the knee joint is involved, splints seldom cause persistent or permanent lameness Symptoms.-In many cases there is no lameness. The first intimation of the presence of splint is the appearance of the enlargement, which gradually disappears. At the same time splint lameness is often seen. The symptoms are usually quite characteristic. A horse lame from splint will usually stand and walk sound, but if asked to go faster than a walk will show well-marked lameness, the head dropping decidedly when the foot of the sound leg comes in contact with the ground. Lameness is often noticed before there is any visible enlargement. When a horse, especially a young one, shows this peculiarity of lameness, splint may be suspected. Manipulation will usually discover the seat of the trouble. By pressing with the thumb and finger, the line of attachment between the large and small bones from the knee to the termination of the splint bone, the seat can be detected by the horse flinching and lifting the leg when pressure is exerted on the affected part. If severe pressure be exerted he will probably rear on his hind legs. The usual seat of splint is the inner surface of the fore cannon, but it may be on the outer or both surfaces. The hind limb is seldom affected, but when it is the seat is usually on the outer surface. Splint langeness sometimes appears very suddenly. A horse may be driven a journey and go perfectly sound, and after a rest when taken out to drive home may go very lame when trotting. When we know the pecul-iarity of the lameness and the manner of locating it, there should be little difficulty in diagnosing. *Treatment.*—Lameness is usually shown only during the inflammatory stage. When the exudate becomes ossified (converted into bone) the inflammatory action ceases and lameness disappears, unless the enlargement is of sufficient size and so situated that it causes irritation to the suspensory ligament, or involves the knee joint.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

times daily with cold water for two or three days, or if pounded ice can be kept to it, still quicker results will be noticed. This is often all that is needed. horse then goes sound, and after a time the enlargement becomes noticeable. In other cases lameness is more persistent, and it becomes necessary to apply a blister. A second or third blister is sometimes necessary, and in some cases it is necessary to have the splint fired by a veterinarian. In rare cases the lameness is persistent and a long rest is necessary, and, as stated, lameness may be permanent. When lameness does not exist it is seldom necessary to treat. Friction or blistering has a tendency to hasten absorption of the enlargement, but in most cases nature effects this with-out extraneous interference. As a simple matter of fact, there are few horses that have done considerable road work that are free from splints, although they may never have gone lame, and there are no visible enlarge-ments. Unless a splint is large, double or very close to the joint, it is not generally considered an unsoundness. WHIF.

Overgrown Hoofs.

The hoofs of various animals grow with more or less speed, according to the conditions under which they are kept. Horses kept out in the fields and doing a lot of walking do not often develop superfluous hoofs, but they grow fast on animals in yards and stalls. They are always an impediment, and often a danger as they interfere with easy walking, and may trip or impede the action. Overgrown hoofs are very objectionable on the horses. The attending dangers are stumbling, broken knees, broken shafts, or a broken neck. Whenever the hoofs grow over and extend beyond the shoes, it is undesirable. The shoes may not be worn out, but they should be removed, the hoofs reduced, then the shoes put on again if good enough. Guidance when to cut back is not got from the durability of the shoe, but the length of the hoof. There are other objections besides those stated. Overgrown hoofs in horses are very ant to sulit or create and this is grip horses are very apt to split or crack, and this is crip-



Speeding Up Production by the Four-horse Hitch.

nd in those in which pling. It spoils the hoofs and disfigures the horse.-

Prevent Loss in the Flock.

August is considered the most critical month for It is when the weather becomes hot and the lambs. pastures parched that internal parasites commence to play havoc with the flock. Weak lambs in particular suffer from attacks of stomach worms. The general symptoms of trouble from this source are loss of flesh, dullness, failing appetite, thirst, sometimes colic and an anaemic condition in general. Prevention of attack should be failered as for a start the which may be should be followed as far as possible, which may be done by keeping the digestive organs in good condition by the use of plenty of succulent feed, both winter and summer. This necessitates frequent changing of pasture during the summer or else feeding rape, turnips or other green crops when grass is dry and short. If possible avoid feeding on infested land. The old sheep harbor the parasites and spread them over the pastures in the excrement. The eggs hatch on the ground, particularly in wet, muddy places, the worms grow, and are swallowed by the lambs and sheep. Thus it will be seen that using the same pasture year after year is likely to increase the trouble once it makes its appearance. If lambs must be pastured on infested land, they should be given only a small area to graze on at once and moved to fresh grass at least every ten days. In this way the flock is moved before the eggs hatch. One remedy which has been effective is two ounces of copper sulphate dissolved in one gallon of water and two ounces of the solution given to a mature sheep, less to a lamb, depending on age. Withhold feed and water from the flock for about twelve hours

before treatment and for a few hours afterwards. Tapeworm and "Gid" are also two parasites which should be guarded against by sheepmen. Fresh pastures at frequent intervals will go a long way towards keeping the flock thrifty and the parasites in check. flock should always have access to clean water and salt. Forcing the sheep to depend on water from stagnant pools to slake their thirst is frequently followed by loss. Sheep are too valuable a class of live stock to neglect in any way.

Pasture the Hogs This Fall.

The hog is generally looked upon as an animal that requires grain and grain only for its diet. True, its digestive system is not constructed to handle roughage like cattle and sheep, but a limited quantity may be fed to advantage, especially to growing and breeding stock. When it comes to finishing for market a heavy grain ration is necessary. For the next two or three months the shoats can gather considerable of their living in pasture and stubble fields. They should be fed a little grain but where the pasture is good it need not be much. It pays to have paddocks near the piggery where rape, clover, or alfalfa, can be grown and the pigs can be turned in them as the different crops This requires a little extra fencing, but it is believed that it would result in a saving in the cost of production of a hundred weight of pork. On comparatively few farms are these special permanent forage crops grown for hogs, consequently they are closely housed the greater part of the time owing to some of the fences not being hog-proof. Where these conditions prevail it may be found profitable to cut green feed, as clover, peas, rape, vetch, oats, etc., and feed to the growing pigs in the pen. They will consume a large quantity of green stuff at a saving in high-priced grain.

Some stockmen have small movable yards in which they confine the pigs in the field so as to prevent them from roaming in forbidden places. We recently saw four pigs weighing about one hundred pounds each yarded in this way in a field where the clover was about eighteen inches high. The pen was ten by twelve feet and was moved each day as the four pigs cropped off 120 square feet of clover every twenty-four hours. At the end of a couple of weeks there was good picking where the hogs had first pastured. This system while economical of pasture entails a good deal of work. As soon as the grain crops are garnered the growing hogs may be given the run of these fields. It is surprising the amount of grain they will pick up and turn what would otherwise be waste into pork. The second growth of clover or the rape field will also furnish ex-cellent picking for the porkers. If the corn field is separate from the roots, there will be many ears for the hors to rick up after the corn is ensiled. It may require hogs to pick up after the corn is ensiled. It may require a little work and patience to induce the hogs to pick in these fields until they find out that there is good feed there for them. However, it can be done. When the pigs run on pasture from the time they are weaned there is little trouble in starting them on the stubble Henry and Morrison, in their book on "Feeds and Feeding", state that "through the use of suitable forage and pasture crops pork may be produced at a much lower cost than where pigs are maintained on dry lots on expensive concentrates alone. Spring pigs will thrive amazingly on good pasture suppleme. It by a limited allowance of concentrates. Not only do pigs on pasture processing but the succulent feede on pasture make cheaper gains, but the succulent feeds and the exercise they obtain are important aids in keeping them thrifty and in good health. By the use of pasture crops throughout the growing season and legume hay during the winter the cost of maintaining brood sows may be materially reduced". Another point to be considered is that there is less loss of fertility when the pigs run on pasture than when housed or kept the pigs run on pasture than when housed of kept in dry lots. Numerous experiments have been conducted to determine the amount of concentrates necessary to feed the pigs on pasture. Results show that pasture effects a saving of about fifteen per cent. in the grain required to produce one hundred pounds of gain. Pigs on pasture fed a limited grain ration, usually make more on pasture, fed a limited grain ration, usually make more

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Treatment should be directed to allay the inflamma-tion. Of course, the patient should be given rest. The seat of the splint should be well showered several

Farmer and Stockbreeder.

LIVE STOCK.

Precaution Necessary When Turning Sheep on Rape.

Rape is an excellent feed for sheep and it is greatly relished by them. Experiments have shown that they make rapid gains on it. It is a crop which is easily grown and where sheep and feeding cattle are kept it will be found advantageous to have a few acres of this succulent feed. As a rule it is pastured off but it is also a valuable soiling crop for sheep. When the pastures become a little dry, rape may be cut and drawn to the sheep. A little of it will go a long way in preventing the animals from running down in condition. However, as a rule it is pastured off and proves valuable in keeping the lambs in condition after being weaned and in toning up the breeding stock. There are a few precautions, however, which must be observed in order to avoid loss. It is a feed which readily causes scouring and bloating if care is not exercised at the first. Turn the flock on in the middle of the afternoon the first time or two when the rape is perfectly dry. After a few days sheep may be left on it continually, but there should be sneep may be left on it continuality, but there should be grass pasture near the rape field to which the sheep have free access. This will tend to avoid feeding to excess on rape. If bloating should occur a pint of strong salt solution is a simple remedy which has given good results. One cunce of oil of turpentine in ½ pint remeliered oil given as a drench is an excellent remedy raw linseed oil given as a drench is an excellent remedy. When the sheep are on rape or any fresh pasture they should be seen every day or two so that if any happen to be ailing treatment could be applied in time to save the animal. When rape is sown in rows loss has occurred from lambs getting on their backs between two rows which prevented them from rising. When regular attention is paid to the flock, death from this cause is not likely to occur.