

FOOT ROT IN HORSES.—A POPULAR MEDICAL ERROR.

One of our subscribers wishes to know what is the best treatment for the disease now prevalent among some of our city horses, called the foot-rot, we would inform him that it must be treated according to the indications; at times local treatment alone may perfect a cure; at others constitutional remedies are needed in order to counteract the prostrating effects which long continued pain has on the system, or to improve the morbid condition of the body, and prevent gangrene of the parts involved. The disease is probably of lymphatic origin, occurring in the deep-seated lymphatics of the foot, and generally occurs among horses of coarse breed and flabby organisation. It generally commences at the anterior part of the *hind* feet, or on the inside of the same just above the hoof. We shall try to prepare an article on the subject for our next number. In the meantime we recommend our friend to try as local agents, astringents and antiseptics. Diluted pyroligneous acid is good, so also is chloride of zinc. In the putrescent stage, use chloride of lime, or finely-pulverized charcoal.

Popular error in regard to "*proud flesh*." Some horse owners have a sort of hereditary prejudice in favour of the popular theory: "that proud flesh must be got rid of at all hazards," and often a poor horse having a wound or abraded spot, presenting a healthy granulating surface, has to submit to the application of Dr. Neverthink's remedy, which consists of nitrate of silver, or caustic potassæ. How the caustic action of either of these remedies can be confined to the luxuriant growth, and not effect the contiguous healthy granules, the *wise* men have not informed us. We clip the following from an article on "Popular Medical Errors," published in the *Medical World*.

PROUD FLESH.—Patients will frequently come to us to know if there is any proud flesh in their wounds. The fear of proud flesh is very general, and brings many patients to the doctor whom he would otherwise never see. When a wound is attended with loss of substance, it is gradually filled up by the growth of the surrounding parts—a process which is called granulation, from the grain-like surface it presents. The granulations sometimes rise above the level of the surface, and I suppose the term "*proud flesh*" was given to this appearance as a figurative term for a luxuriant or forward growth. There is really nothing bad or malignant, as it is called, in the elevation, but it is rather indicative of complete and rapid repair. There are, it is true, complaints which are attended with what are named malignant or fungous growths; but they are happily very rare, and quite unconnected with the healing of common sores. I shall not dwell, however, upon the latter, as it would carry me on to the description of a disease which is out of my present province. It is, perhaps, after all, almost a pity to disabuse the public mind of the idea of proud flesh, for it is friendly to the doctors, and may tend to induce the people to have their sores better looked after.—*Am. Vet. Journal*.

FARMERS CLUBS.—In some of the villages of this region agricultural clubs exist. These should be greatly multiplied. We have before us the plan of operations pursued by one club and give it as a basis for the constitution of others. The members of the club meet at each other's houses, on an established day of each month, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in the alphabetical order of their names. A foreman or president is selected, and, under his lead, they sally out to make an inspection of the system of culture pursued by the host of the occasion. They examine his fences, stock, farming implements, garden, buildings, and, indeed, every department of the farm, criticising everything freely, and finding all the fault possible. They then return to the house, read the minutes of the last meeting, propose, discuss and decide upon questions, the decisions all being recorded. All conversation except upon agricultural subjects is out of order. A substantial, plain supper follows. A register of crops, with the number of acres upon which they are grown, is kept by each member, and handed in yearly to the secretary, who arranges all in a table, for inspection and reference. What farmer cannot see that a club conducted like this must be attended with the best results in a social as well as professional way?—*Springfield, (Mass.) Repub.*

PATENT OFFICE.—The receipts of the United States Patent Office for 1856 were \$192,588, and the expenditures \$199,931, being an excess of expenditures of \$7,343 over receipts, caused principally by an act of Congress ordering extra compensation to Examiners. The number of applications for patents during the year was 5,960, and the patents granted 2,502, being 525 more applications and 475 more patents than any previous year.—The Commissioners recommend an increase in the patent fees.