

Veterinary Department.

DISEASES OF THE HORSE'S FOOT.

Pricking in Shoeing.

This injury is of frequent occurrence, sometimes the result of carelessness, although it is an accident which may occur with the most careful of shoers. In some cases the nail may not actually penetrate the sensitive parts, but it is in such close proximity that when the horse is used, it presses upon the quick, immediately setting up irritation, and if the exciting cause is not speedily removed, the suffering is very great.

Symptoms.—Soon after being shod the animal is noticed to be lame, which gradually increases, the foot is hot, by removing the shoe, and tapping the foot with a hammer, or with the aid of the pincers, the seat of the injury can at once be detected. If suppuration has taken place, it will be necessary to use the drawing-knife freely, and allow the matter to escape; then poultice the foot, and treat generally as recommended for puncture.

Canker.

This is a disease of the foot of an inveterate character, and consists in a fungus growth extending over the whole or part of the sole and frog. The causes of this troublesome complaint are injuries, or neglected or improperly treated cases of thrush; or it may supervene upon a virulent attack of grease. The primary exciting cause may be due to the injurious effects of the wet and filth in which some horses have to stand.

Symptoms.—The foot is unnaturally hot and tender, and the frog is very soft and spongy, giving off a copious secretion of offensive matter. The sole soon becomes diseased, followed by a separation of the horny and sensitive sole. The fungus continues to grow quickly, and is very vascular, bleeding freely if an incision is made into its substance.

The treatment of canker generally proves very tedious, and in commencing, it is necessary to remove carefully all detached horn, and afterwards use astringents and caustics freely. In all severe and obstinate cases the most potent remedy is nitric acid, which must be carefully applied over the fungus, and then cover with a pledget of tar and tow, firmly kept in its place by pressure of some kind.

It is necessary to exercise great patience and perseverance in treating this disease, and it is found beneficial in many cases to occasionally change the dressing, using sulphate of copper, chloride of antimony, or nitrate of silver. In all severe cases the fungus grows with astonishing rapidity.

Canker will in some instances prove incurable, and when the more internal structures, as the bones and ligaments are implicated in disease, the most humane recourse is to destroy the animal.

Sand Crack, or Quarter Crack

Sand crack is a fissure extending through the wall in a parallel direction to its fibres, and has been so named, sand-crack, from its being so often met with in hot sandy countries; the extreme heat and dryness rendering the feet brittle and predisposed to crack. Sand-crack occurs oftener to the fore than to the hind feet, and is usually situated towards the inside heel, and is commonly called Quarter-crack; but the crack may appear in the fore part of the wall producing great irritation and suffering.

Thin and brittle feet are predisposed to this disease; but hard work and dry weather are great excitants, and it also proceeds from the effects of external injuries as treads or bruises, and a very common predisposing cause is allowing horses to stand for days in the stable, without giving regular exercise, the hoof becomes brittle, and easily broken down.

Sand-crack often appears very suddenly; the horse is observed to go slightly lame, and a close examination will reveal a small crack, just between the hair and the hoof from which blood oozes. If the animal is kept at work, the crack soon extends, and the divided edges rub against each other, creating irritation

of the sensitive parts, causing inflammation which often terminates in the suppurative process, producing very great pain and lameness.

The treatment of Sand-crack is necessarily tedious, as the divided edges do not reunite, but the growth must proceed from above. In many instances, however, the disease may be successfully treated, and the patient kept at moderate work. If the irritation is severe, as in cases where suppuration has occurred, the horse must have rest, and the edges of the crack thinned carefully, and the foot afterwards poulticed until all pain and tenderness is removed; and to prevent the divided edges irritating the sensitive parts, the hoof may be bound tightly with a small cord or strap, or a clasp applied, and it is generally advisable to use the firing-iron lightly both at the upper and lower extremity of the crack. The growth of horn is greatly stimulated and assisted by the application of a blister and in the most of cases a very great benefit is derived from the use of a properly fitting bar-shoe, giving frog pressure, and taking the weight off the weakened quarter. It takes several months before a crack completely grows out.

Treads and Overreaches.

Caulks, &c., are common injuries to the foot, especially during the winter, when horses are shod with high and sharp heels. Very often these injuries seem of a trivial character, but if neglected the consequences are often serious. In the treatment of such cases, the parts should be thoroughly and carefully cleansed with tepid water, and if any hair is forced into the wound it must be removed with the forceps. The shoe should be removed, and a pledget of tow saturated with tincture of benzine or carbolic lotion applied to the wound. When suppuration occurs, which may be easily known by the increased pain and lameness, it will then be necessary to use the knife freely, and cut through the wall at the under part of the wound to allow the pus to escape, after which immerse the foot in warm water for half an hour, and afterwards apply a small poultice to the wound. If the pain is very severe, it may be advisable to use an anodyne lotion, and when proud flesh springs up, astringents and mild caustics must be applied. Irritant dressings and caustics, however, should not be applied in the early stage, as very great harm is sometimes done by the incautious use of these severe dressings in the treatment of Treads.

Tumours on the Face of Cattle.

We have lately been consulted about a disease in well bred cattle, which appears as a tumour upon the face, and is of a malignant character. The disease in question has been termed *Osteo sarcoma spina ventosa*, and *filco plastic* degeneration of bone, and is by no means uncommon amongst the cattle of Britain and on the continent of Europe. The parts principally affected are the upper and lower jaw, and it first appears as a small circumscribed swelling, which gradually extends and involves the bones, producing a large bony tumour, which is divided into several cavities containing acrid matter, the bones in the face, in some instances, becoming carious, and even the teeth are affected. In some cases it is a considerable time before the animal appears to experience any great inconvenience from the tumour, and will remain in good condition. When, however, a discharge of matter takes place, there is gradual loss of condition.

As to the causes of this complaint, it is generally supposed to result from some intrinsic influence, rather than direct injury to the part, and possibly, in some cases, it is the result of too close in breeding, whilst in others it is due to a scrofulous diathesis, and therefore we have no hesitation in stating that it is somewhat unsafe to breed from animals affected with this disease; and without the animal affected is an extremely valuable one, we would recommend it to be fed for the fat market.

In certain cases, mercurial applications may retard the growth of the tumour for some time, and relief may occasionally be given by removing the growth with the knife, but the success of either method of treatment, will altogether depend upon the extent and intensity of the disease.

Accumulation in Horses' Stomachs.

Mr. J. Begg, manager of the Springbank Chemical Works, writes to the Glasgow Herald to say that the following materials were found in the stomach and intestines of a horse, the carcass of which was sent to the works. Broken nails, 629; nails $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches long, 50; ditto, 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ 144; spring nails, 1 inch, 131; $\frac{3}{4}$ inch tacks, 158; screw nails, (6) whole and 3 broken, 9; rivets, 2; broken gas burner, 1; shoe tacks, 15; broken pieces of metal, 120; nail heads, sorts, 102; small washers, 5; buttons, (4 whole and 4 broken,) 8; pieces of lead, zinc and round shot, 75; small pieces of wire, 121; pins, 33, ditto broken, 4; needle, 1; ditto broken, 20; small broken pieces of wire riddles, 889; glove catch, 1; boot eyelets, 7; hook-and-eye, 1, small wire staple, 1; small brass ring, 1; odd bits of metal, 8.—in all, 2,525 articles, weighing 3lb. 2oz; and of gravel and sand, 6lbs. 13oz.

Mud Fever.

During the past two or three weeks a great many horses have been attacked with a disease of the skin of the legs, belly, &c., the hair falling off in patches.

It is an acute form of *erythema*, consisting in inflammation of the outer layer of the true skin, and has been brought about by the cold wet weather we have lately experienced. In some parts of Britain, this disease is known as mud fever, and we think the same name would be very applicable in the present case, as the streets of this city have had a very severe attack of the fever for sometime past.

Erythema proceeds from various causes, but in the present case the great exciting cause has been the irritating effects of wet and mud, and cold and heat operating on the skin. In some cases it has been excited by washing the legs with cold water, and not drying them thoroughly.

The symptoms of this complaint are a sudden swelling of the legs. The horse is very stiff and sore, and the legs are hot and painful. In a few days a serous discharge begins to exude through the hair, especially in the regions of the fetlock, knee and hock, and the hair soon comes off in considerable patches. In some cases there is considerable constitutional fever, shown by the staring coat, and quickened pulse. When the exciting cause is kept up, severe cracks appear about the heels, and the swelling of the limbs increases to such an extent that the horse can scarcely move. In other cases the skin between the fore legs and along the under surface of the belly is severely affected.

In the treatment of this complaint the horses should have rest for a few days, then give a mild laxative, and dress the limbs with some mild astringent lotion or ointment.

The disease may be prevented to a certain extent by careful and judicious usage.

Hot Water for Founder.

I had a horse that was very badly foundered with grain. He could not stand for several days, and was swung with a tackle. I thought his case hopeless, and considered him not worth a dollar, but concluded to do what I could for his relief. In the first place, I physicked him; then I took a tight, strong box, got his feet into it, and poured boiling water into it as high as the hair of his feet, and in 10 or 15 minutes he was able to stand on his four legs without the assistance of tackle. I kept up this treatment for thirty-six hours, when he was able to go about and help himself. In a few days I had shoes put on, and in less than a fortnight he was able to work as well as ever.—Cor. N. Y. Tribune.

For scratches in horses take white pine pitch, rosin, beeswax and honey, one ounce each; fresh lard, one-half pound; melt well together over a slow fire, stir till quite thick, so that the parts may not settle and separate. This also makes an application for harness galls, cuts and sores of all kinds, on horses and cattle.