

HORSES.

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

SPEEDY CUT.

Speedy cut or speedy stroke is the name given to an injury on the inner surface of the fore leg on or below the knee, usually on the lower portion of the inner surface of the joint. The injury is caused by the horse striking his leg with the shoe of the opposite foot. In rare cases the injury is above the knee. Horses whose toes turn outwards when standing are very liable to this accident, as when the foot is raised and brought forward the toe turns inwards towards the opposite leg and the seat of contact will depend upon the height of action. Only horses with reasonably high action will strike on or above the knee when trotting, but when galloping any horse whose conformation predisposes to the injury may do so. When a horse strikes himself in this way he is liable to fall from the intensity of the pain, and thus endanger the safety of the rider or driver, and probably injuring the front of the knees by coming in contact with the ground. Horses whose conformation predisposes to the accident are undesirable except for slow work, and especially unsafe for saddle work; and horses that show scars, enlargements, etc., which indicate former wounds from this cause, may justly be considered unsound, since they indicate a fault which may at any time interfere with the animal's usefulness.

SYMPTOMS.—While lameness is not always present, the symptoms are easily detected. There will be swelling and heat on the injured part. In some cases there is an abrasion, but in most cases the wound is simply due to contusion, and no wound of the skin is noticeable. The swelling varies greatly in size and consistency. It may be comparatively small and hard or large and puffy, indicating to the touch that it contains a fluid which may be either serum or pus. There is heat and usually tenderness to the touch, and may or may not be accompanied by lameness. When the contusion has been severe and near or upon the joint there will be lameness more or less marked.

TREATMENT.—Preventive treatment is much better than curative. Horses that are predisposed to the injury should be shod with the idea of preventing it. In some cases shoeing with light shoes in front will so reduce the height of action as to cause the foot to pass the opposite leg between the knee and fetlock, and unless the animal rolls to considerable extent he will not strike (horses with the peculiar action noted are said to "roll"). In other cases where the action is low and the animal hits his fetlock, shoeing with heavy shoes in front will so increase the height of action as to cause him to go higher than the joint, but not so high as the knee, hence avoid striking. In some cases the application of three-quarter shoes will prevent the accident, but in many cases, where the ill conformation is well marked, no method of shoeing will suffice, and all that can be done to avoid the accident is to wear knee boots. While the conformation noted predisposes to the accident, it will sometimes be noticed that horses in whom the conformation is well marked will go clear, while in rare cases those whose feet stand practically straight may strike. When the injury has been inflicted treatment will depend upon the severity of the wound. Of course, a recurrence of the stroke must be avoided, either by giving the animal rest or driving at a gait at which it is not liable to occur, or wearing boots. If there be simply a swelling and tenderness without the formation of fluid, the application of hot or cold water, followed by an anodyne liniment, as 4 drams acetate of lead, 1 oz. laudanum and water to make 8 ozs., several times daily will reduce the inflammation and swelling. When the tenderness is well marked, hot water is probably better than cold, as it is more soothing, but has not so much of a tendency to reduce swelling. In many cases hot is used for a day or so, and then, when the soreness has become lessened, cold is substituted. In any case in which bathing is advisable, either quite hot or very cold water should be used; water that is neither hot nor cold does little good. When the enlargement contains any considerable amount of fluid, either serum or pus, an operation is necessary. If quite a small quantity of serum is present (by serum we mean

a watery fluid containing a percentage of blood, it being caused by wounding of the small bloodvessels and consequent effusion into the tissues) the treatment noted may be effective and the fluid removed by absorption, but if the quantity be considerable, or even a small quantity of pus be present, the abscess must be opened. In most cases the fluid is serum. This is always the case when the enlargement has suddenly appeared, but when the contusions or striking has been frequent, but not severe enough to irritate and bruise the parts without rupturing the vessels, the swelling will gradually appear and may contain pus. When an operation is necessary, care must be taken to not lance too deeply, especially if the joint be involved, as cutting through the capsular ligament of the joint would be a serious matter, by causing open joint; an opening of considerable size must be made in order that it will remain open and allow the escape of pus that will certainly form after the operation. Some recommend a small opening and a piece of tow inserted into it to prevent closure, the tow to be removed each time the wound is to be dressed, but we have found it better to make a larger opening into which it is not necessary to insert anything. The cavity should be flushed out twice daily with a four-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid or other antiseptic until it is filled and the wound healed. If an enlargement, due to a thickening of the tissues, remain, repeated blistering will reduce it, and, of course, means must be taken to prevent a recurrence of the injury, as repeated operations will result in a chronic enlargement of greater or less size that cannot be reduced.

"WHIP."

PERSISTENCY IN BREEDING.

The apparently aimless manner in which many farmers in most districts breed horses with no fixed type in view and with little regard to the market and demand for the different classes has been well presented by Dr. A. S. Alexander in the Live-Stock Report of Chicago in the following pointed paragraphs:

"Evidently the farmers of these districts have not the slightest idea of what they would like to produce or of what type or variety it would be most profitable to own. They seem to be experi-

in the district that could grade up his progeny, for it requires a pure-bred sire in every case and at each cross to attain progress toward eventual purity of blood in the production of horses, and it is a shame and disgrace to all concerned that the pure-bred sires are not treated more practically, pampered less, and purposely worked or fully exercised each day of the year, that being thereby made work horses themselves they may as a natural consequence be able to sire a large proportion of effective work horses from their hard-worked mates. Under the circumstances every possible effort should be made to improve the virility of the pure-bred stallions so that their foals may be strong at birth and able to stand up and suck, as is the case with a majority of foals sired by the working scrub and grade stallion, and then the pure-bred stallions should be taken from farm to farm or make stands at many places in a district so that the farmers may be able to use them without much loss of time.

"Often the mixing of blood is induced by the fact that the grade or scrub stallion is close at hand and known to be sure and cheap, while the pure-bred horse is away off, dear and not sure as a foal-getter. The remedy for these evils is in the hands of the farmer. If he takes as much interest in horse-breeding as he does in the production of hogs or in the preservation of purity in his seed corn and oats and barley, he will speedily retire the scrub and grade stallion, increase the number of pure-bred sires and see to it that such sires are cared for in a natural manner so that their progeny may be natural and therefore strong. It is within the power of the farmer, too, to make the pure-bred stallions not only numerous, but comparatively cheap, for each well-to-do farmer can well afford to buy a pure-bred mare or two and from them breed the stallions needed in each district in the land. We soon could get along without imported stallions, and the sooner the better, for the country and the average farmer, for the reason that the home-bred stallions will be cheaper, acclimated, not pampered, hard-worked, and therefore more prepotent and sure. We need the imported stallions now

simply for the reason that we continue to mix breeds instead of breeding pure-bred stock. We pay exorbitant prices for imported stallions because they are scarce and sold on the expensive 'company plan' by men who are not satisfied with moderate profits. We fail in the use of such sires because we pamper them, overfeed them, treat them as abnormal curios of the equine race, and so render them unhealthy, flabby, impotent, or sires of weak foals, born heirs to a host of ills that are unknown or unnecessary to the hardy, naturally managed and used horses predominant before the introduction of pampered stallions. There is but one way to produce grade horses of fixed type and quality, and that is to use a pure-bred sire of the same breed, top cross after top cross, year after year, generation after generation, until the blood of that breed shall have so diluted the blood of the native foundation stock that no

evidence of impure blood can be seen in the graded-up animal. Such grades, practically pure-bred animals, can be obtained by persistent, progressive breeding for fifteen to twenty-five years, taking it as correct that five successive top crosses of pure blood constitute practical purity of blood in breeding up from native foundation stock. They never can be obtained by the prevailing practice of using grade and scrub stallions and outcrossing to sires of different breeds. We have been for fifty years or more using imported pure-bred stallions promiscuously among our mares and at the same time using as sires the grade and cross-bred stallions from such promiscuous breeding, with the result that the country is filled with mongrel-bred horses, lacking in breed character or breed ability in a special direction. During this time we might, by properly-directed, persistent and concerted breeding operations, have become possessed of an adequate supply of pure-bred horses



Brigham Radiant —327— (9142).

Hackney stallion; bay; foaled 1903. First at Royal Show, England, 1906, as a three-year-old, and reserve champion; also first in class, Toronto and Chicago, 1906; first in aged class under 15.2 and champion at Toronto, 1907. Imported and exhibited by Graham Renfrew Co., Bedford Park, Ontario.

menting toward an indefinite end, or to be perfectly unconcerned as to what shall be the outcome of their blood-blending operations. If this be not so how comes it that we found a scrub stallion (unsound at that) that had served forty mares, another grade one that had cared for seventy mares, and here and there stallions of impure blood that had been patronized more or less simply because they were cheap as to fee and owned by men obliging enough to bring them right to the farm during the busy season when it would not pay to drive to town and use the 'company horse' that the lazy owner kept back of his store or shop and found no time to exercise properly. The well-exercised plug stallion driven about the country in search of mares was used first because he was cheap, second because he was 'handy,' and thirdly because he was apt to be more sure than the pampered pure-bred stallion. But all the while the pure-bred was the only horse