Veterinary Department.

Hints on Horse-Shoeing.

Mr. Johnson Jix, shoeing smith and farrier of Brantford, has sent us the following remarks on horse-shoeing, and commends them as eminently judicious. They are from the pen of C. Spooner, M. R. C. V. S., author of "The Foot and Leg of the Horse:"—

"There is no subject relating to the horse which amateurs profess to know so much about as that connected with shoeing. One gentleman requires the sole and other parts of the foot to be pared extremely thin, and the toe very much shortened, no matter what sort of foot the animal may have; another forbids the use of the drawing knife, wishes the sole to remain unpared, and views with horror the slightest attempt to remove any ragged portion of the frog; the one is a blind worshipper of art, the other a zealous votary of nature; each prides himself on his superior knowledge of the foot, and regards the slightest opposition to his opinions as the vapouring of ignorance and prejudice. Similar contrarieties prevail with regard to the sort and shape of the shoe. One insists on having a shoe with a very broad web, no matter what sort of foot the animal may have, or work he may have to perform, another, with an equal indifference to circumstances, demands an extremely narrow shoe; one requires very thick heels, another the heels of the shoe to be as thin as a shilling, or he would work his horse with tips, whether on a sandy or a flinty road. Then one will require the shoe to be kept considerably wider than the foot, under the absurd idea that it will prevent or relieve contraction; and will not hesitate, as the writer has frequently known, to condemn the smith who presumes to pay some little attention to nature in the matter. As well might the wearer purchase a hat much larger than his head, with the expectation that his brains will enlarge so as to fill it. Some amateurs will allow the heels to remain untouched, but order the shoe to be shortened considerably at every shoeing, and then anathematize the unfortunate smith when he finds that his horse goes tender in consequence.

"Then, with regard to the nailing on, some require the nails to be driven as low down, and others as high up, as possible; some will have the shoe fastened on with abundance of nails; others, inspired with some novel ideas or new-fashioned doctrines, propagated, perhaps, by "Miles' boy," as the saying is in some countries, will eschew one-half the nails, and scarcely believe the other half essential for the security of the shoe.

"Amidst such a chaos of opinions, who can wonder at the perplexity of the unfortunate operator, who yet, with all its difficulties, regards the fitting of the shoe to the foot as a far easier task than that of fitting it to the ideas of the master. Far be it, however, from our wish to discourage the interference of the owner in the matter of shoeing, if he will but seek his information from proper sources, and when he puts it in practice, pay some little attention to the rules of nature and the endless diversity of horses' feet. By so doing, he will be able to put a wholesome restraint on the conceit of the groom or the coachman, who often regard themselves as unerring judges on all matters connected with the subject. The great error amongst amateurs is not making due allowance for the great variety in horses' feet, which differ so greatly that it would be a gross absurdity to shoe all alike. Some horses have so strong a development of the horny structure of the foot, that a considerable portion requires to be removed at each shoeing; whilst others require, if it were possible, horn to be added. for in them the wear is greater than the growth. Some horses have a tendency to high heels others to low ones; some require the toe of the foot to be reduced every month, in others there is not a particle to spare. In some horses the frog is so large and gross that it requires considerable paring; in others it requires to be carefully removed. We find the sole in some horses so thin and flat, that the shoe must be seated considerably to prevent its pressing on the sole; whilst in others the sole is so strong and concave, that it is a matter of indifference whether the shoe be seated at all, except for the purpose of rendering it lighter.

"With this endless diversity in horses' feet, how is it possible to lay down any fixed plan for shoeing all horses alike? All that can be done is to take an average foot, and consider what sort of shoe is best suited for it, and so to alter or modify such shoe as to adapt it to other feet according to their peculiarities.

"There is no better shoe for a saddle or light harness horse on the road than one of moderate weight, rather less than an inch in breadth, seated on the foot surface, with five nails on the outside quarter and toe, and two or three on the inside—and near the toe. A clip at the toe and another at the outer quarter will be a useful addition; and if the shoe is required to be light, then one, or even two, nails may be dispensed with. By means of such a shoe the foot will be secured from contraction, and the inside heels in great measure from corns.

"The shoe should be of equal thickness at the heel as at the toe, and the web should be narrower at the former than at the latter situation. If the heel of the foot is very low, it will be prudent to make the heels of the shoe somewhat thicker than the toe, and *vice versa*. If the sole is inclined to be flat, it will be desirable to make the shoe somewhat broader in the web, unless a leather sole is used, which, for such feet, is extremely useful; indeed, a leather sole is at all times desirable during the summer season. It secures the sole from injury from stones, and saves many a fall and broken knee; it materially lessens concussion, diminishes both the wear of the horn and of the shoe, and keeps applied to the sole a stopping of grease and tar spread on tow, which preserves the horn in a moist and healthy state. It is objectionable for hunters, by rendering the shoes more liable to cast: and if required on account of lameness, for horses going on the soft ground, it should be merely a narrow rim of leather between the bearing part of the shoe and the foot."

Teething in Horses.

There is no doubt that many young colts suffer as much pain in cutting their teeth as in the case of children; and the pain does not always arise, as some people suppose, from irritation of the mucous membrane of the mouth, occasioned by the point of the tooth, but frequently from pressure on, and irritation of the dental nerve. The remedy (instead of tormenting the suffering creature with a red hot iron for the purpose of burning out the "lampas," as some persons profess to do,) is a common thumb lancet. Make an incision through the gum, or mucous membrane of the mouth, in the region of the tusks or incisors, whatever the difficulty may be, and relief is almost immediate. This is a sure remedy to relieve local distension of the mucous membrane of the mouth if it exists, and at the same time prevents the fang of the tooth from irritating the dental nerve.

Sharp and projecting Teeth.—Owing to the unequal wear of some of the horse's teeth, they become sharp on the outside margin, and are then apt to irritate and perhaps lacerate the buccal membrane of the cheeks. Should this be the case, we generally find that the salivary secretion is augmented, mastication is imperfect, and the subject generally loses flesh, and appears unthrifty; the remedy is a moth rasp.—By means of this istrument the sharp or projecting edges may be smoothed.

Inflamed and Tender Mouth.—Inflammation, tenderness and tumefaction of the horse's mouth, arising from whatever cause it may, generally indicates the application of cooling and astringent lotions, and light diet of bran mashes; cool lotion, composed of solution of hydrochlorate of ammonia, or chlorate of potassa, are indicated when the mouth is hot or inflamed. A tender mouth, accompanied by corrugation and relaxation of the soft palate, known as "lampas," requires a few applications of some astringent lotion, made of alum, gum catechu, raspberry leaves, white oak bark, or diluted tincture of iron.

Use of Arnica for Animals.

Arnica montana is a perennial plant, growing in meadows throughout the cooler parts of Europe, with a hairy stem reaching about one foot high, composite yellow flowers, obvate leaves, and a cylindrical brown root. All parts of the plant have a peculiar aromatic odor, an acrid nauseous taste, and contain a resinous matter, a volatile oil, and a bitter alkaloidal principle called arnica. Viborg gave a horse six drachms of the infusion of the flowers, and noticed a quickening of the pulse and diuresis. In the human subject it is stated by Pereira "to exert a specific influence over the nervous system, causing headache, giddiness, and disturbed sleep." In infinitesmal doses it was a favourite homœopathic remedy before it was much used in ordinary veterinary practice. It appears to act as an alterative and stimulant, and amongst the lower animals has proved serviceable in rheumatism, the secondary stages of pleurisy, weakness of the loins, and muscular strains. Mr. Dollar, V.S., of New Bond Street, London, uses it successfully in rheumatism in horses, and gives the particulars of the following interesting case:

A four year old half-bred horse was last spring affected with rheumatism, which caused constant lameness, which was severe but frequently shifted from limb to limb. Being in good condition he was treated for weeks with calomel and opium, and for double that time with small doses of nitre, iodine of potassium and aloes, but without any appreciable improvement. Half drachm dose of the tincture of arnica, which is the only preparation used, were then given night and morning in half a pint of water; amendment was obvious in a few days, and in less than a month the horse was perfectly cured and at work. Drachm doses, repeated twice or thrice daily afford considerable relief in cases of rheumatic fever in cattle, and arnica deserves in such cases a more extended trial.

In the various forms of rheumatic kennel lameness in dogs, and stiffness produced from over-exertion, it is also usefully employed both externally and internally in doses of two or three drops. Its external uses are numerous and varied. It appears to allay local irritability, and forms one of the best healing and soothing remedies. In all animals it is useful in cases of strains, bruises and wounds, and is specially commendable in expediting the healing of broken knees and sore shoulders. For such purposes the tincture may be disolved in five or six ounces of cold water, but a still better lotion is made with a drachm each of tincture of arnica, and Goulards extract diluted with ten or twelve ounces of water. The Messrs. Dollar use the following prescription:

Tincture of arnica.....	1 drachm.
Sulphate of zinc.....	2 drachms.
Water.....	10 ounces.

Along with liberal feeding and tonic treatment a drop of the tincture placed daily within the eyelids is one of the best remedies in those troublesome ulcerations of the cornea which affect weakly dogs recovering from distemper.—*North British Agriculturist.*

Horses should be Exercised Daily.

Horses require daily exercise in the open air, and can no more be expected to exist without it than their owners. Exercise is an essential feature in stable management, and, like well-opportuned food, tends alike to preserve the health of horses.

Daily exercise is necessary for all horses, unless they are sick; it assists and promotes a free circulation of the blood, determines morbific matter to the surface, developes the muscular structure, creates an appetite, improves the wind, and finally invigorates the whole system. We cannot expect much of a horse that has not been habituated to sufficient daily exercise; while such as have been daily exercised and well managed, are capable of great exertion and fatigue, and are ready and willing to do our bidding at any season. When an animal is over-worked, it renders the system very susceptible to whatever morbid influences may be present, and imparts to the disease they may labor under, an unusual degree of severity. The exhaustion produced by want of rest is equally dangerous: such horses are always among the first victims of disease, and when attacked their treatment is embarrassing and unsatisfactory—*Horse Owners' Book.*

Wind-Gall and how to Cure It.—A gall is a swelling that appears on each side of the back sinew above the fetlock, and injures the sale of many fine horses. Many people puncture them, which is a wrong thing, as it often produces an incurable lameness. I had a very fine horse, which was injured by the same thing. I tried many remedies which I saw recommended in the papers and never found one that cured him. In fact, found more that injured him than there were that did him good. I at last thought kerosene oil might do good, so I made the trial. I had used the oil but a few times, and the gall entirely disappeared. Procure the best kerosene oil possible, and bathe the spot two or three times a day, until you see the gall has diminished. Dip the end of your finger in the oil, and rub it in well. Then put a tight bandage of cloth around the gall. Be careful and not let the oil spread more than is necessary, for if allowed to run down in the fetlocks, it will cause a bad sore. If the gall be a bad one, and the oil should cause a sore, heal with Green Ointment, made as follows:—Two ounces of beeswax, two ounces of rosin—when that is melted, put in half a pound of lard, and four ounces of turpentine, and to this add one ounce of powdered verdigris—strain through a clean cloth.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*