

A notable instance that temper is hereditary, is familiar to most of the farmers and breeders of horses in this neighborhood, in the case of Somonochodron, whose get were notoriously vicious and hard to break.

From the nature of the work done by the horse, and as I have already said, in many instances from hereditary predisposition, he is liable to a vast number of diseases. It would be impossible to treat of all these, but I shall mention a few of the most prevalent, and the best manner of curing them, where they are curable. I say where they are curable, for many diseases to which this animal is subject, have by even the most scientific been found beyond the reach of either surgery or medicine: quacks, however, are always to be found who profess to cure everything, and many farmers falling into the hands of such persons, waste both time and money, in the end probably losing the services of a horse which had it been let alone might have been worked for several years.

The first I shall mention is an affection to which farm horses are all subject, and on which there is generally more misconception than any other they are liable to, viz., Botts. In the latter part of the summer the gadfly may be observed very active about the horse, darting with great rapidity towards him and depositing its eggs on all parts that can easily be reached by the animal with his mouth. These eggs when licked by the horse burst, and a small worm escapes which adheres to the tongue, and is conveyed to the stomach with the food; by means of a small hook, it there clings with a very firm hold to the cuticular coat of that organ, and remains feeding on the mucus during the winter and spring, when having attained considerable size it becomes detached, and is evacuated by the horse.

This being the true history of the bott, you may perceive they can give the animal no pain, as they are fastened to the insensible coat of the stomach. They cannot be injurious, as a horse in the highest health may have his stomach filled with them, and their presence not even suspected till they are evacuated. They cannot be moved by medicine which it would be safe to give a horse, because they are not in a part where ordinary medicine could reach them, and if they were, have their mouths too deeply buried in the mucus for it to affect them. And lastly, of the many hundreds of horses dissected at the Veterinary Colleges of London and Paris, no horse has ever yet been found injured by Botts. The wisest thing, therefore, in this case, is to let the horse alone, and allow the botts to pass off of themselves. Horses, and young horses particularly, are much subject to a swelling of the lower bars of the palate, known as Lampas. To cure this they are often brutally treated by having the bars burned down with a hot iron, this is torturing the animal to no purpose. A few slight cuts across the bars with a sharp penknife, a few bran mashies, and in somecase, a gentle dose of cooling medicine is all that is necessary. Another disease of the mouth is what is called wolf's teeth. It is occasioned by the second teeth not rising immediately under the milk teeth, when they are found to cause swelling of the gums, sorness, and frequent wounding of the check. Have them punched out. This is more properly an irregular growth of the teeth; wolves teeth being really too small, supplementary ones, seldom injurious, and therefore better let alone,

Farmers horses in all countries, from the nature of their work, and of the food on which they are usually fed, are peculiarly liable to broken wind, called the heaves in this country, and in the United States, from the heaving motion of the sides in breathing. By great care and judicious feeding it may, in some degree, be mitigated, but is totally incurable. A broken winded horse, in breathing, performs the inspiration at one effort, the expiration at two, which causes the heaving motion of the flanks. This is easily explained; some of the cells have been ruptured, or have run together, and when they are expanded the air rushes in easily with one effort of the muscles, but when the cavities are irregular and full of corners and blind pouches, it is very difficult to force it out again, and two efforts can scarcely suffice.

This disease is most frequently the consequence of the horse being fed on bulky food, and at irregular times, after many hours fasting, and then being put to work again, and sometimes to work requiring great exertion. The stomach being full, presses upon the lungs, almost impeding ordinary inspiration. This is too often the case in most farm stables, and therefore the disease is more prevalent amongst farm horses than almost any others. To avoid it, horses when hard worked should have plenty of oats, and less hay, straw, and other bulky food; they should also, if possible, be regularly fed.

Heaves can be mitigated, and the horse rendered capable of great exertion by judicious feeding; condense his food into the smallest compass, giving plenty of oats and little hay. Keep his bowels relaxed by frequent bran mashies, water sparingly through the day, but