

Indigestion in Horses.

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENTION TO TEETH.

Digestive trouble in horses may be chronic or acute. Chronic indigestion is by no means rare. The usual cause is inability to masticate the food properly, on account of irregularities of the teeth. The animal will probably consume a reasonable amount of food, but will not look or feel well. His hair will be dry-looking and staring; he will be low in flesh, dull in spirits, and will tire easily. He is sometimes subject to more or less severe attacks of colic, due to trouble in digesting the imperfectly-masticated food. His appetite is often capricious, and digestion irregular. Periodical attacks of a semi-diarrhea, often followed by a semi-constipated condition of the bowels, are frequently noticed. An examination of the mouth will usually reveal irregularities of the teeth. The outer margin of the upper molars and the inner margin of the lower molars will present numerous little sharp projections, which irritate the cheeks and the tongue, which often present abrasions. In many cases, especially in old horses, one or more teeth are quite long, the bearing surface being from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch above or below their fellows. In such cases, from some cause, the opposing tooth or teeth are either absent, or worn down until the long tooth or teeth press upon and lacerate the gums during mastication. It is surprising how many horses suffer more or less inconvenience—often more—on account of the condition of the teeth. When we, for a moment, consider the anatomy of the mouth, we can readily understand why this is. The upper jaw is wider than the lower, hence the rows of teeth are further apart. Both the inner and outer surface of the molar teeth are uneven, presenting grooves running the whole length of the teeth. The motion during mastication being lateral, we can appreciate the fact that the table or bearing surfaces of the upper molars become beveled from within outwards and downwards, and those of the lower molars from without upwards and inwards. This leaves the sharp points as stated, viz., on the outer margin of the upper, and the inner margin of the lower, molars. Those who are not accustomed to examining horses' mouths will be surprised to notice how many horses, even quite young ones, will present this condition sufficiently marked to interfere to a greater or less extent with mastication. A horse has a full mouth of molars at four years of age, and, on general principles, we may say that his teeth should be dressed once every year after that, and it is not uncommon for them to need dressing at an earlier age. Of course, there are exceptions; some young horses do not require this attention, but there are few that would not be improved by it. It would not do for the practicing veterinarian to tell his patrons that all their horses should have their teeth dressed. He would soon be classed as a faker. At the same time, there are few that have reached five years or over, upon whom a dollar each spent for dressing their teeth once every year would not be money well spent. Slight irregularities of the teeth are not usually sufficient to cause chronic indigestion, but they interfere to a greater or less extent with mastication, and, as imperfectly-masticated food, while not necessarily causing disease, does not digest thoroughly, hence the animal does not get all the good he should from what he eats. The trouble may not be sufficient to cause visible symptoms during or following mastication, but an examination of the mouth will reveal many sharp points already referred to, the removal of which, a little consideration will convince us, will enable the animal to masticate more comfortably and more thoroughly. There are many so-called "veterinary dentists" who do not understand the operation, and there are many who think that any person who has a tooth rasp can dress teeth properly. This is a mistake. It is not necessary for a man to be a veterinarian in order that he may be able to dress horses' teeth properly, but the two usually go together. Many of the so-called dentists apparently think that, in order to earn their fees, it is necessary to rasp a good deal off the teeth, and often rasp the bearing surfaces, which, of course, is radically wrong. The bearing surfaces of the molars are quite rough, in order that, when pressing upon each other with a lateral motion, the food between them may be reduced to fine particles. If these surfaces are made smooth, this grinding cannot be done, and the horse is in a worse state than before. Some farmers and horse-owners, without any instructions or special knowledge of the subject, think that all that is necessary is to rasp the edges a little, and they do their own dental work. An examination of the mouth so dressed will usually reveal the first two or three molars in each row fairly well dressed, but the molars further back not touched. The competent veterinary dentist always uses a mouth speculum (an instrument by which the horse's mouth is kept open at whatever width desired). This enables the operator to insert his hand with safety, and feel all the teeth—the only way he can tell just what should be removed. If

any of the teeth are very much too long, he uses a shears to cut off the projecting portion; then, with rasps of different shapes and designs, he carefully rasps off just such portions as should be removed, and no more. The ordinary horse-owner can, with some study and practice, become proficient in the art, but he must spend some money in purchasing the necessary instruments, and gradually acquire skill by practice, and it requires considerable practice to give proficiency. On the whole, we think it better to employ a veterinarian, but the work should not be entrusted to any faker who travels the country as a veterinary dentist, as these are out simply for the money they can make. They have no reputation to maintain, as they seldom visit the same locality the second time, and, so long as they can get a job, they do not care whether or not the horse requires the operation, nor yet whether it is properly performed. "WHIP."

(To be continued.)

Buyers have been scouring the country for horses, and shipping out weekly many carloads to Manitoba and other Western Provinces this season. Good blocky pairs of the draft type sell readily for \$100 and upwards.

LIVE STOCK.

Investigating the Bacon Industry.

The bacon industry of Canada is in anything but a satisfactory condition. Whether the sending of a commission of farmers to Denmark, to investigate conditions there, is what is wanted, is a matter of opinion. It strikes us that the first thing to be done is to investigate conditions at home. The two parties necessary to the success of this industry are as far apart as the two poles. Adversity has not softened the bitterness that exists between them. The producer still blames the packer, and the packer still complains of the producer. Such has been the condition of things for several years past, and in the meantime the bacon trade has dwindled to very small proportions, and an industry that brought in many millions of dollars not many years ago is being allowed to go by default.

Might not something be done to clear the atmosphere, and to bring about a better condition of affairs, if an independent tribunal were delegated to make a thorough investigation of the whole situation? Packers claim that they are losing money on the export end of their business, and that the prices they are compelled to pay for hogs to keep their establishments running, at even half their capacity, are higher than the market demand will warrant. In fact, it is reported that one large packing concern is going out of the export trade altogether, so disastrous has that end of the business been the past few years, and will in future confine its operations entirely to the home market. These and other questions affecting the export end of the business might well be looked into and reported upon by competent parties who have no axes to grind.

Then comes the producer's side of it. He claims that the high cost of feed prevents him from producing hogs at a lower price than the average paid for several months back. This may be true, but some accurate data bearing on this question just now would have considerable weight. The comprehensive, painstaking feeding experiments of Prof. Day and others, conducted a year or two ago, showed that bacon hogs could be produced at a much lower cost than the producer claims can be done at the present time. Have conditions governing production changed materially since then? These and other matters connected with the producing end of the business might bear some further investigation, all tending to clear the atmosphere a bit, and to find out just where we stand.

The hog-buying end might be the better of a little looking into, as well. Is this f.o.b. plan of buying at country points by the packer, in the best interests of the trade? Does it give the producer a correct idea of market values? Would the shipping of hogs to large market centers, where they would be sold as to their quality, and the condition of the market generally the same as cattle and sheep are sold, afford the producer a better idea of what values are. Answers to these questions, obtained by an independent party, might help to solve some of the difficulties that handicap the business at present.

The bringing in of American hog products might also be looked into. Are these products brought into Canada in any large quantities? Do they influence price of hog products in home market? Is duty charged on such products coming into this country sufficient? There are other phases bearing on the whole situation that might be mentioned, but we have indicated enough to show that a commission of inquiry, if the appointment of one were deemed advisable in the interest of the trade, would have a pretty wide field for investigation at home, without making trips abroad.

Notes from Ireland.

SOME PHASES OF AN EXPORT TRADE IN PEDIGREE STOCK.

Few factors have so consistently contributed to the profitability of Shorthorn breeding in the United Kingdom in recent years as the extensive and well-sustained demand from abroad, especially the Argentine. The go-ahead South American Republic wants the best of our herds, and lets no consideration of expense deter. The export trade, from the home breeder's point of view is, therefore, while it lasts, a most desirable matter, but reflection shows it to be associated with certain drawbacks. Outstanding in this connection is the undoubted tendency towards the depletion of the home land of large numbers of the best sires raised, and the retention for service of inferior bulls that should never be allowed to propagate their species. The temptation to sell to the enterprising foreigner all the best young bulls is, of course, a keen one, and the immediate prospect of a high price, and the advertisement which it affords, makes a very powerful appeal to the breeder. Still, it is obvious that this policy can be carried too far, because it is quite possible to be so taken up with catering for the needs of the passing foreign customer that serious harm may be done to home nurseries of the breed. The inevitable result must be that, if any lowering of our British and Irish pedigree stock occurs, the foreign demand will no longer be at our command, and, with pure-bred herds springing up in many countries throughout the globe, the United Kingdom may find its boasted pre-eminence as the fountain-head of all live-stock improvement becoming somewhat unstable. The suggestion may be scouted as impossible, but time will tell.

Another important aspect of the export trade which merits attention, as it is a source of frequent disappointment to exporters, is the variable results that follow the administration of the tuberculin test to the same animal before shipment, and after landing. The Argentine purchasers are rightly insistent upon banning tuberculous stock, and a very large number of cases yearly occur in which high-priced bulls of different breeds are brought to South America, only to react on being tested, and partake of an untimely fate. A notable example was that beautiful young sire, Bapton Viceroy, the champion of the English Royal Show, at Derby, in 1906—a bull which in the flesh displayed scarcely a single flaw. After the show he was sold at the long figure of £3,000, but he had only been landed at Buenos Ayres when the tuberculin test condemned him to the pole-axe.

Scotch bulls seem to be especially notorious in this respect, as a very extensive Argentine breeder, Mr. Martinez de Hoz, recently stated that over 60 per cent. of the Scottish animals imported into the Argentine react. On the other hand, Irish bulls seem to enjoy a good reputation in this matter, no doubt owing to the fact that our genial climate enables stock to be kept in more healthy conditions out in the open air. For instance, that noted exporter, F. Miller, of Birkenhead, a couple of years ago expressed the belief, as one who had bought more Irish stock for shipment than any other exporter, that he always found that the animals from Ireland stood the test as well as, if not better than cattle in any other part of the United Kingdom.

Be this as it may, disheartening must be the experience of any exporter whose selection fails to the test in the Argentine. So acute has the matter become that, while no direct insinuations are implied as to the care with which, or conditions under which the Buenos Ayres authorities administer the test, the parties interested are seeking to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement that will rid the trade for all time of the risk of such bitter disappointments as at present occur. Accordingly, the Shorthorn Society of Great Britain and Ireland have approached the Foreign Office, and asked that body to confer with the Argentine Government, with a view to the establishment in Great Britain of a tuberculin station, in which the Argentine shall share control, for the testing of animals prior to export. It is proposed that a mutual understanding shall be come to, under which all animals that successfully pass the test here will be admitted without the further application of it when South America is reached. There should be no difficulty in the way of such a sensible and feasible scheme being worked, and the results are sure to be satisfactory.

In Ireland, it is gratifying to notice that breeders are taking special pains to exclude tuberculosis from their herds. A most notable sign of this is afforded at public sales throughout the country, at which the offer of a bull, concerning the soundness of which there is any doubt, invariably elicits a chorus of inquiries from bidders. "Has he passed the test?" The answer vastly affects the nature of the bidding and the price paid. Some of the county committees stipulate specifically that none but bulls that have passed the test may hold premiums for service