

Veterinary Department.

Errors in Shoeing Horses.

The following thirty points, relating chiefly to errors in horse-shoeing, are extracted from a work by Lafosse, written one hundred and twenty years since. They are just as applicable to-day as they were in 1754. Lafosse says :

1. Long shoes, thick at the heels, never remain firmly attached to the feet, in consequence of their weight, and break the clinches of the nails.
2. They require proportionately large nails to retain them; and these split the horn; or, frequently, their thick stalks press against the sensitive laminae and sole, and cause the horse to go lame.
3. Horses are liable to pull off these long shoes when the hind-foot treads upon the heel of the fore-shoe, either in walking, while standing, by putting the one foot upon the other, between two paving-stones in the pavement, between the bars of gates, in the drawbridges of fortifications, or in heavy ground.
4. They move heavily, as the weight of their shoes fatigues them.
5. Long shoes, with massive heels, raise the frogs from the ground, and prevent the horse walking on those parts. Then, if the horse has a humor in the frog, it becomes a hethrush, or a *crapaud* (cankers), because the humor lodges there. In shoeing with short shoes, the horse goes on his frog; the humor is dissipated more easily, particularly in the fore-feet, as the animal places more weight upon them than the hind ones.
6. Long shoes, thick at the heel, when put upon feet which have low heels, bruise and bend them inwards, and lame the horse, although the heel be sprung; and, when the foot is raised, we can see the daylight between the shoe and the hoof. When it is on the ground, the heel descends to the shoes, because the hoof is flexible.
7. Shoes long and strong at the heels, when the foot is pared—the frog being removed a long distance from the ground—cause many accidents; such as the rupture or straining of the flexor tendon, and compression of the vascular sole—a circumstance not known until I pointed it out.
8. Long shoes cause horses to slip and fall, because they act like a patten on the slippery pavement, as well in summer as in winter.
9. Long shoes are also injurious when horses lie like a cow, in consequence of the heels wounding the elbows.
10. Calkins should not be used on paved roads; they are only useful on ice or slippery ground—*terre gresse*.
11. The calkins on the inside heels are liable to wound the coronets, when the horse happens to cross his feet.
12. A horse shod with them is soon fatigued, and never goes easy.
13. The horse which has only a calkin on the outside, does not stand fair; and the calkin confines the movement of the coronary articulation, the foot being twisted to one side.
14. If a horse has his feet pared, and loses a shoe, he cannot travel without breaking and bruising the wall, and damaging the horny sole, because the horn is too thin to protect it.
15. If the shoes are long, and the heels of the hoof pared cut hollow, stones and pebbles lodge between the shoe and the sole, and make the horse lame.
16. Flat feet become convex by hollowing the shoes to relieve the heels and the frog, because the more the shoes are arched from the sole, the more the wall of the hoofs is squeezed and rolled inwards, particularly towards the inner quarter, which is the weakest. The sole of the foot becomes convex, and the horse is nearly always unfit for service.
17. If the wall of the hoof is thin, and the shoes are arched, the quarters are so pressed upon that the horse is lame.
18. Pared hoofs are exposed to considerable injury from wounds by nails, stones, glass, etc.
19. The pared sole readily picks up earth or sand, which forms a kind of cement between it and the shoe, and produces lameness.
20. The reason why it is dangerous to pare the feet of horses, is because, when the sole is pared, and the horse stands in a dry place, the horn becomes desiccated by the air which enters it, and removes its moisture and its suppleness, and often causes the animal to be lame.
21. A habit to be abolished is that in which the farrier, to save trouble, burns the sole with a hot iron, so as to pare it easily. The result often is to

heat the sensitive sole, and cripple the horse.

22. It often happens, that to, make the foot pleasant to look at, the horn of the sole is removed to the quick; and the flesh springs out from it. This granulation is called a "cherry;" and sometimes makes the horse unserviceable for a considerable period.

23. It is the pared foot which is most affected with what is termed contracted or weak inside quarter, and which also lames the horse.

24. It also happens that one or both quarters contract, and sometimes even the whole hoof; then, in consequence of its smallness, all the internal parts are confined in their movements. This lames the horse, and is due to paring.

25. There also occurs another accident. When the quarter becomes contracted, the hoof splits in its lateral aspect. This accident is termed "a sand crack"—*sime*, and the horse is lame.

26. The fashion of paring the hoofs, and especially the heels, within which are the bars, causes contraction; and this renders the horse lame.

27. It is an abuse to rasp the hoofs of horses; this alters the hoof and forms sand-cracks.

28. If a horse which has pared hoofs, happens to lose his shoes, and walks without them, the horn is quickly used, and the feet damaged.

29. Another defect is in the manner of making large nail-holes in the shoes, etc.

30. The impurity of farriers, in order to pare the sole well, cut it until it bleeds; and, to stop the hemorrhage, they burn the place with a hot iron, and the horse returns lame to his stable.

Parturient Apoplexy in Cows.

Parturient apoplexy in cows is a disease which appears to be on the increase amongst the well-bred cows in this country, and is one of the most serious affections to which the cow is liable, being so rapid in its course, often terminating fatally in a very short time. Amongst highly fed cows, in cities it appears to be exceedingly prevalent.

Parturient apoplexy may be defined to be a blood disease which is characterized by the great tendency to a congestive state of the blood vessels of the brain, and also the spinal cord, and frequently involving the sympathetic ganglia. It occurs in cows of any breed, and especially such as are good milkers and are in a plethoric condition, apparently arising from the volume of blood not being directed to its proper channel for the secretion of milk, and being thrown upon the system, producing cerebral disturbance. Perhaps one of the most noticeable characteristics of this disease is the alarming rapidity with which it is developed, very often attaining its full height in the course of six or eight hours, and it generally appears from the first to the third day after calving, and the earlier it comes on the more fatal it is.

A marked peculiarity of parturient fever is that it has seldom or never been known to follow abortion, and generally attacks cows in their prime, when they are in their most vigorous milking condition. It rarely occurs with poor milkers, but usually attacks those that give a large quantity of milk.

One cause of the increased prevalence of this disease in many quarters, is due to the increased amount of artificial foods, that are used with the aim of keeping cows in very high condition.

No doubt good feeding is necessary in dairy stock to obtain good returns, but in some cases it is carried too far, and disease and death are the result.

This serious complaint can be readily detected, as the symptoms are unmistakable. After calving the cow does not give her natural quantity of milk, and the yield gradually diminishes at each milking, and for a short period there may not be any signs of pain or fever. But soon the true nature of the disease is exhibited; the eye looks dull, she walks with a weak staggering action, and appears weak in her hind limbs and drops to the ground, and may possibly make a few ineffectual attempts to rise. The secretion of milk is impaired or altogether arrested, the bowels are constipated and the urine retained within the bladder, the eye appears perfectly fixed in its socket, the mouth, ears, and horns are intensely hot, the

pulse quickened, and the breathing labored. As the cerebral symptoms become more and more developed, the eyesight is perfectly gone, the nerves of vision are paralyzed, producing a widely dilated pupil, the head is turned backwards over the shoulder, and may be raised for a little and then dashed violently to the ground, there she lies moaning, and perfectly insensible to all surrounding objects.

The pulse becomes almost imperceptible, and if you raise the head it will fall again like an inanimate body; the legs and ears are cold, and occasionally there is a tendency to convulsions, followed by complete prostration. She lies without having the slightest power of motion, all sensibility gone; and death may occur from twenty to fifty hours from the beginning of the attack.

Mares and Foals.

The separation of foals from their mothers is attended with some risk and trouble. To the foals it is a trying ordeal, especially if they have not previously been used to eating corn. Restlessly seeking for their missing dams, they do not feed well, and lose strength and flesh. Left out in the open fields in their imperfectly nourished state, they suffer from cold and inclement weather. Every autumn we see some succumb to inflamed lungs, whilst still more die from poverty of blood—diarrhoea usually being the prominent symptom. Such losses are inexcusable, and in great part preventable. Unless foals have got used to eating oats or other concentrated food, when weaned they should be kept in a yard or roomy box for several days, until they have forgotten their mothers, and become accustomed to their change of food. Whilst thus in comparatively close quarters it is a good plan to halter foals, tie them up, and lead them about. Such lessons thus early given save much after trouble, and enable the colt to be caught or handled at any time. Within a week the colts may be again allowed to run at grass during the day, but night and morning they should regularly have a serving of oats and chaff. Ordinary yards and boxes are unsuitable places for foals, unless, like young thoroughbreds, they are systematically exercised for two or three hours daily. To ensure size, strength, and muscular development, colts, whether for agricultural or other purposes, must have constant exercise. Inaction dwarfs and enervates, they get top-heavy, weak on the limbs and soft in their feet, whilst time and training rarely make up for such early mismanagement. Hence, alike for future usefulness and for health, it is desirable to allow foals plenty of room when first weaned, and throughout the winter to have a run daily for several hours. In grass counties they are generally left on the pastures, but if they are to reach a high value, whether for draught or saddle purposes, they should have a comfortable shed for shelter, and be fed as already advised twice daily. In stock management, as in many other things, what is worth doing is surely worth doing well. Moreover, with the present advanced prices of good horses, it pays to make the best of young animals. For carts and drays in towns considerably over £100 is still given for good, stout serviceable horses, and double that figure is readily obtained for desirable hunters and smart carriage horses. It is only amongst second-rate horses that any declension in price has occurred.

Brood mares at this season also demand intelligent attention. For some days after the foals are taken away from them, the milk of course continues to be secreted, and must be drawn away at first once daily, and by and by at longer intervals. Good mothers troubled with an excessive secretion, with tenderness or hardness of the udder, or becoming feverish or otherwise out of sorts, should have a dozen of aloes. Mares separated from their foals should be restricted to dry food. For several weeks, especially if they have been living on grass, they are not in condition for hard or long continued exertion.—N. B. *Agriculturist*.