

at Birmingham, and afterwards sold them to Mr. Taylor of Sheppards bush, for 100 guineas; this, as Mr. Burnham says, is the largest price ever paid for one pair of fowls. Mr. Burnham states that they were grey Chittogonga crossed with Cochins.

Dr. Bennett contends they came from India. During the Cochins mania, many thousands of birds were imported from China; might not Brahmas have come with them? Saunders in his popular work on poultry, notices the fact of a gentleman having several, both light and dark in his possession; his brother who had been in India having been shown the birds, at once pronounced them to be the same as he had seen there.

Mr. Bennett, author of the American Poulterer's Companion, makes the following statement:—That no Brahma Pootra fowls have ever been imported into the United States or England since the alleged importation of the three pairs into the city of New York in 1850, from which all the Brahma fowls on this continent and in England have originated. However true this statement of Mr. Bennett's may be, it is certain they never appeared in England until sent there from the United States. The question will naturally arise, what are the Brahma Pootra? They are large heavy birds, living where the Cochins would starve, and thriving in frost and snow when hatched in the winter months. They lay a larger egg than the Shanghai, and I think will lay a greater weight of eggs in the year than any fowl I have bred, unless it is the black Spanish. They make good mothers, the chickens mature very early, in fact, I may safely say they are the easiest to bring up of any chickens hatched. Unlike the Cochins, the Brahma is an excellent forager, wandering far from home for its food; now this is not the case with the Cochins, which must have its food provided for it. There is no variety of fowls that breed more true to colours than the two kinds of Brahmas; and like all domesticated fowls with light plumage and yellow legs, their flesh is of excellent quality. Poultry fanciers generally divide poultry in two classes, viz: sitters and non-sitters. The Spanish and all the different varieties of Hamburgs rank high amongst the non-sitters, whilst I place the Brahmas at the head of the list of sitters. I have no doubt my friend Col. Hassard, will change this position when we are favoured with his valuable paper on Cochins.

The following are the peculiar marks of the light Brahma, as I have been trying to breed them from year to year:

In the cock, comb pair or single, (I prefer the pair) if single it must be perfectly upright and nicely serrated, the neck well hackled—that is, a distinct black mark down each feather—the plumage creamy white, the flight nearly black, two feathers of the flight only are visible, as the others are doubled up under the wing; the tail black and carried upwards, sickle feathers drooping over, the thighs broad and fluffy, legs yellow and set pretty well apart and feathered down to the tip of the toe; carriage bold and upright. The hen generally is whiter than the cock, comb the same but not so high, darker hackle on the neck, shorter legs but same colour, and carriage not near so bold in comparison to the cock. The under feathers of these birds should be dark. The dark or pencilled Brahmas are very distinct in colour from the light variety. In the cock the comb is the same as in the light. The plumage of the upper part of the body, including the neck hackle, back and saddle, is silvery white striped with black; the breast, under part of the body, and thighs black, slightly mottled with white. The legs yellow, sometimes of a dusky shade, well covered with mottled feathers down to the toe. In the hen, the head is grey, the neck hackle silvery white striped with black, the remainder of the plumage should be a dull white, distinctly pencilled with black throughout. In conclusion, I would say, that to form a just opinion of them you must breed them, and if you breed from good stock, you will have no trouble in raising just as good breeds as I present to you this evening for inspection.

Veterinary Department.

Injuries incident to Frosty Weather.

MUSCULAR SPRAINS IN HORSES.

In a former number we mentioned some of the injuries occurring to the muscles of the hind leg, and produced by horses slipping and falling. The muscles of the thigh are frequently injured, and especially that muscle known as the "flexor metatarsi." The tendinous attachment of this muscle is generally the part which gives way, and it produces very peculiar symptoms. The horse moves the leg with great difficulty, and when lifted off the ground, the leg hangs dangling in such a manner that one might suppose the bone was fractured. When the leg is placed on the ground, the horse can stand upon it firmly, and to external appearance nothing seems wrong with the limb; and it is only when he is made to move, that this peculiar symptom is exhibited. Except in the very worst cases the animal will recover. He should be kept quiet and allowed to stand in his stable; the limb should be diligently fomented with hot water, several times a day; afterwards well rubbed with a mild stimulating liniment, and the parts kept warm. In about three weeks or so after the injury, it is generally found advisable to use a mild sweating or liquid blister. The horse should not be moved for some considerable time, and not until signs of recovery are observed; he may then be placed in a loose box, or led out for ten or fifteen minutes once or twice a day; and usually in the course of from five to eight weeks perfect recovery takes place. At present we have a case under treatment; the injury occurred about Christmas, and the horse is now rapidly improving.

SPRAIN OF THE BACK TENDONS.

Is another common occurrence during the winter months. These tendons are the chief agents in producing the motions of the limb, and are the terminations of two large muscles which arise at the back of the stifle joint; and above the hock joint become tendinous and are continued down the back of the leg and are known as tendons, or sinews. One of them, the inner one, passes down the foot and becomes inserted into the solar surface of the coffin bone, the outer forms a sheath for the passage of the former and becomes attached to the sides of the lower or small pastern bone. Owing to their disposition, they are very liable to be sprained, and the symptoms are generally well marked. The horse is lame and knuckles at the fetlock joint, the course of the tendons is hot, painful and swollen, the swelling varying according to the extent of the injury. If this is severe there is constitutional disturbance, the horse is fevered, and refuses his food. With regard to treatment, the horse should in all cases have perfect rest, and fomentation and hot bandages should be applied; he should be fed on a laxative diet, such as scalded bran, &c., and in most cases great benefit will follow the administration of a brisk cathartic, as six to nine drachms of aloes, according to the size and condition of the patient. When the more acute symptoms are somewhat abated, stimulant and blistering applications may be used; but in no case should severe counter irritants be had recourse to in the early stage when active inflammation is going on in the part. In slight cases, ten days or a fortnight's rest may suffice; but in severe cases it may be weeks, or even months, before the horse is able to go to work. If too soon used, the joint is liable to become greatly diseased and the animal may be rendered permanently lame.

A tablespoonful of saltpetre given to a cow once a day, for three or four days, is an effectual remedy for the garget.

Toronto Veterinary School.

THE OPENING LECTURE.

THE first lecture of the present season, in connection with the Toronto Veterinary School, was delivered by Mr. Smith, in the Agricultural Hall, on Thursday, 10th January, before a highly respectable audience, including a good muster of students. The chair was occupied by Col. Dennison. The lecturer commenced by pointing out the importance of providing a thoroughly educated and qualified class of practitioners to treat, amongst our increasingly valuable horses and cattle, those diseases which were almost inseparable from domestication. He next briefly sketched the history of Veterinary Medicine, from early classic times up to the present day, and paid a deserved tribute to the excellence of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, and its late distinguished ornament, Professor Dick. He then passed on to the subject of Rinderpest, and detailed its symptoms, pathology, causes and treatment. Mr. Smith considered it eminently a contagious disorder, and attributed its origin in England purely to contagion—the malady having been brought over into that country from Russia, where, in certain localities, it at all times more or less prevails. He admitted that all attempts at successful treatment had hitherto failed, alluded to the various empirical nostrums, the vaccination scheme, and the homoeopathic treatment—all of which had in succession been unduly vaunted, and proved utterly ineffectual, if not in some cases positively injurious. He believed that in the present state of veterinary knowledge, the only method of dealing with this scourge was the plan of "stamping it out" by at once isolating all cattle exposed to the contagion, and slaughtering the animals attacked. This plan had at once arrested the spread of the disease when it made its appearance in Ireland, and limited the loss to fifty head of cattle. Similar results had attended the stamping out method in France, and he entertained no doubt that if this decisive plan had been earlier adopted in England, according to the advice of Professor Simonds and others, the loss would not have been one-tenth what it has been—an opinion now generally entertained in Europe, and emphatically expressed at the annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society in England by the President, Mr. Thompson, who estimated the pecuniary loss to the country from this fearful pest at not less than three millions sterling. Mr. Smith concluded by expressing the hope that in consequence of the wise precautionary measures adopted by our Government, these Provinces would not be visited with this intractable disorder. But if it should make its appearance, he trusted its ravages would at once be checked by the adoption without hesitation of the stamping out method. The lecture was, throughout, highly interesting and instructive, and listened to with much attention. At the close, Professor Buckland moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Smith, for his able lecture, and alluded, for the encouragement of the Toronto students, to the history of the Edinburgh school, which, although it has now sent out over the world hundreds of accomplished surgeons, did not number, when Professor Dick commenced his class, more than three students. A vote of thanks was then given to Col. Denison, who expressed his concurrence in the disinterested advice given by Mr. Smith in reference to the method of dealing with this scourge, should it ever make its appearance in this country.

CONTAGIOUSNESS OF GLANDERS.—Regarding the contagiousness of glanders, Mr. Percival submits the following deductions as the result of facts gleaned from his own experience:

"1. That farcy and glanders, which constitute the same disease, are propagated through the medium of stabling, and this we believe to be the more usual way in which the disease is communicated from horse to horse.

"That infected stabling may harbor and retain the infection for months, or even years; and although by thoroughly cleansing and making use of disinfecting means, the contagion might be destroyed, yet it would not be wise to occupy such stables immediately after such supposed or alleged disinfection.

"3. That the virus, or poison of glanders, may lie for months in a state of incubation in the horse's constitution before the disease breaks out. Of this we have had the most positive evidences.

4. That when a stable of horses becomes contaminated, the disease often makes fearful ravages among them before it quits; and it is only after a period of several months' exemption from all diseases of the kind that a clean bill of health can be rendered.