

Veterinary Department.

DISEASES OF THE EYE.

A disease we often meet with in practice is Specific Ophthalmia or inflammation of the middle tunic of the eye; this disease is also called Hereditary or Moon blindness and Periodic Ophthalmia. This last appellation denotes its peculiarly characteristic or most remarkable property, as it returns by relapses as though it were a fresh disease, after being absent for more or less considerable time. It received the name of Moon blindness from the earliest authors on farriery, from the supposition that, "as the moon haged, the horse gradually recovered his sight."

All horses are liable to the disease, as it consists at first in inflammation of the middle tunic, which ultimately extends to the whole vascular part of the eye as the ciliary processes, &c. &c. In this inflammation of the choroid coat, or middle tunic, owing to the inelasticity of the sclerotic and cornea, when exudation has taken place the pressure causes intense pain, and as a consequence is accompanied by great fever. The causes of this disease are both predisposing and exciting; the predisposing are hereditary disposition, this hereditary disposition lurking for a long time until some exciting cause brings about the disease. Among the exciting causes, and a very common one indeed, is foul air in badly ventilated stables, also exposure to the sun; external injuries also prove an exciting cause. At first the eruptions much resemble those of simple ophthalmia. We have the watery eye, and red conjunctiva and partial closure of the eyes, the upper eyelid droops upon the cornea to shut out the glare of light, the tears are secreted in great abundance, overflowing the lower eyelid and streaming down upon the face; there is always a retraction of the eyeball, and the cloudiness may not be confined to or even exist in the cornea. The organ is intolerant of light, as is seen when the eye is exposed to the glare of the sun, or artificial light, the membrana metitans or hair protudes and the eyeball recoils within its socket. Another symptom is the peculiar recurrence of the disease, and after each recurrence the cloudiness gradually becomes more intense and condensed. In this disease we frequently find one eye affected more

than the other and the shifting of the disease from one eye to the other. The portion of sclerotic visible is always intensely red. To the symptoms are speedily added those of fever, the pulse is quickened, the mouth extremely hot, the animal if put to work perspires readily. The inflammation is very prone, on the slightest exciting cause, to return again and again, or affect first one eye and then the other, until one or both are destroyed. As the disease advances the cornea becomes transparent, leaving however a slight muddiness in the anterior chamber of the eye; and one marked symptom is the dullness of the anterior surface of the iris and the smallness of the pupillary opening. As the dullness disappears we find more or less opacity of the crystalline lens and its capsula constituting what is called a cataract.

Percivall mentions in his writings on diseases of the horse that geldings are more subject than mares to ophthalmia. He says, of the fifty cases of troop horses recorded in his own practice thirty nine have occurred in geldings, eleven only in mares. Dr. Arboval is of the same opinion, and agrees with Percivall in thinking that the greater irritation occasioned by the cutting of the tusks than of the other teeth renders geldings more subject to the disease. The treatment of this disease consists more of alleviating than curing—bloodletting and counter irritants are recommended, as bleeding from the facial vein, administering laxative medicines and placing the patient in a well ventilated darkened loose box, and also applying cold lotions. In many cases the extract of belladonna is useful, combined with powdered colchicum. When of some days standing blisters round the orbit and setons on the poll are recommended, both as expediting recovery and preventing the recurrence of the attack.

SHOEING HORSES.

A work modestly entitled "NOTES ON SHOEING HORSES," has recently been published in England from the pen of Col. Fitzwygram, of the 15th Hussars, and which has already attracted much attention, and received no ordinary amount of commendation.

Col. Fitzwygram begins his description of the structure of the foot by showing the reason why shoeing is necessary, namely, the preservation