

325. Strangles is also an infectious disease of the horse, colts being more predisposed than mature horses. It is caused by infection by contact with an infected animal or the discharges of an infected animal. The germ or bacillus is shown in figure 87. It appears as a fever, lasting for some time, with formation of abscesses in various parts of the body, both near the surface and in the internal organs. It usually leaves the animal after convalescence in the best of condition. About the only treatment necessary is to keep the animal in dry quarters and feed a reasonable quantity of good wholesome food.

The swelling under the jaw should be watched and all blisters and irritating liniments should be kept away. These swellings may be bathed with hot water, and poultices may be applied. For such purposes no better poultices can be used than flax seed, with

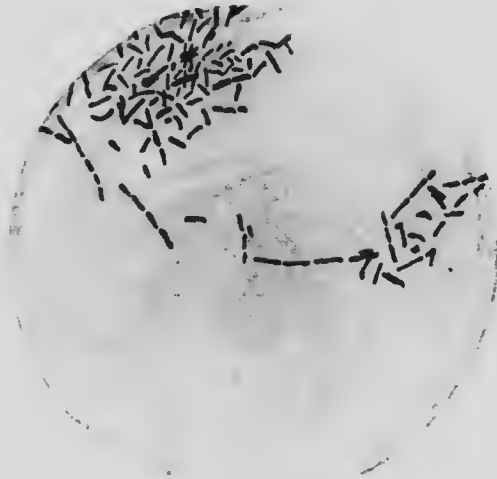


Figure 87.—Bacilli of strangles. (1000 diameters.)

a little charcoal and creolin added. As soon as there is any evidence of the formation of pus, the abscess should be opened.

326. Pneumonia is another disease of interest to breeders, and it is only in the case of very young foals that I shall make mention of it. A large number of foals coming early each spring, appear all right when foaled, but within two or three days are dead. These mostly die of pneumonia, usually contracted during the first hour of their life. In the early spring while the weather is chilly and the air damp, unless a blanket is thrown over a foal until it is dry, it is in serious danger of contracting a cold, which more likely than not will terminate in pneumonia. Lying upon cold or damp ground is also dangerous.

The first thing to attract attention in cases such as this, will be a dullness and weakness of the foal. If at this stage of the disease the membranes of the eye appear red, there is no help