

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

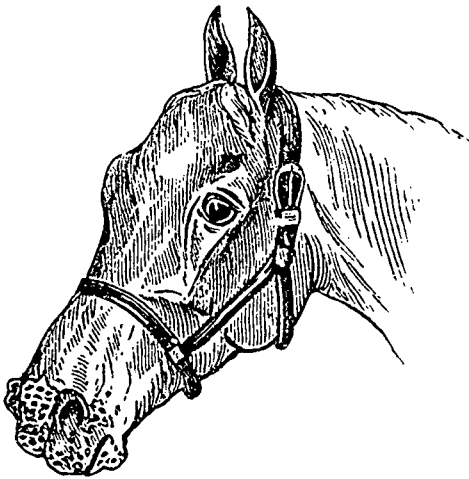
Under the direction of D. McEachran, F. R. C. V. S., Principal of the Montreal Veterinary College, and Inspector of Stock for the Canadian Government.

Horse Pox.

Variola Equina.—The prevalence of this disease in horses, in the city of Montreal and surrounding districts, in an epidemic form, renders it of more than special interest to our readers; hence, we present them with some remarks on the disease, accompanied by a few rough diagrams, to show the parts of the body on which it occurs.

That the disease is not new there can be no doubt; we are not aware that it has ever been described in Canada till we published an account of its existence, in 1877, during which year it prevailed nearly as extensively as now.

By some authorities only two forms of variola are supposed to exist, viz. small-pox in man, and in sheep; an idea which, strange to say, was brought forward at a meeting of medical men recently held in London, England, to discuss animal vaccination. The February number of the "Veterinary Journal," referring to this meeting, says: "Veterinary pathologists will be rather startled to hear that there are only two kinds of variola, human and ovine! that vaccinia is only human variola modified by the cow, though all attempts at producing the former by inoculation with the virus of the



latter have failed in latter days, though it was easily accomplished formerly; and that horse-pox was only observed by incompetent foreigners."

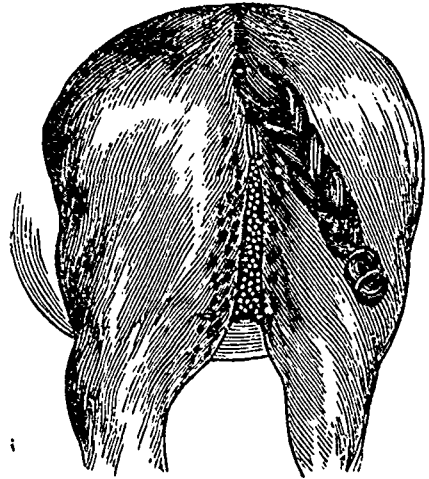
That true variola is seen in most of the domestic animals is well known; that there are distinctive and peculiar types essentially varioloid but differing in character and symptoms in the different species, seems not to be generally understood among members of the medical profession. It is a fact nevertheless.

True the disease in horses and cattle is of a much milder form, and not so fatal or contagious as the human and ovine variety; yet the true varioloid nature of these diseases is quite as distinctly marked.

The idea of the equine form of the disease being merely human small-pox modified by the peculiar organization of the horse, is quite untenable. The celebrated French veterinarian Chauveau, has refuted this idea by experiments. He has inoculated cattle with human small pox, obtained popular pustules quite different from horse or cow pox, and re-inoculation of man with lymph obtained from the pustules, has produced small pox on man.

Lymph from horse pox or vaccinia. The distinctive features of vaccinia and its true varioloid nature are amply proved by the successful prevention of small pox by its influence on the system by vaccination.

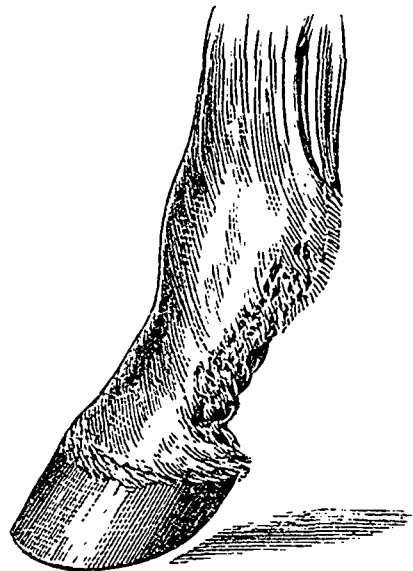
Horse pox is communicable to man and other animals; it is easily produced in cattle by inoculation; the number of grooms to whom the disease has been communicated, and the



distinctive features and regular course and termination so closely resemble vaccination, as to leave no doubt as to its nature being variolous.

The period of incubation. — The time elapsing from the introduction of the virus till the manifestation of the symptoms varies from three to eight days.

The initial symptoms are slight dulness; disinclination to exertion and, usually, a swelling of one or more of the limbs, with a slight fever evidenced by a quickened pulse, and elevated temperature. The part of the body on which the



eruption is about to take place is swollen, painful, the skin when colourless is red the hair bristly, and it feels rough and nodulous. At this time the fever is high, and the animal moves reluctantly, the swelling being painful to the touch. The appearance of a vesicular eruption which soon bursts,