

practice, but lessens a tendency to visceral disease.

In colic cases of this kind we do not find the rolling, agonising pain of spasmodic colic; but the animal lies and rises at short intervals, frequently points his muzzle round to the flank, the seat of pain, and when standing, either paws the litter with one of its fore feet, or strikes at its belly with its hinder ones. The pain, in cases of this kind, arises from the indigested food impacked in the colon; and the symptoms are seldom entirely removed, until the greater part become evacuated. This disease is never to be reckoned void of danger, as it may unexpectedly terminate in inflammation and gangrene.

Colic is very commonly attributed to horses from drinking cold spring water when in a heated state. This is the spasmodic colic of veterinary authors and others. That spasmodic constriction of the small intestines is occasionally caused in this way, producing very intense and acute pain, I do not question; but in a general way, the colic pain is caused by the washing of imperfectly digested food from the stomach into the intestinal canal, before it has undergone chymification, rather than to any direct influence of the cold water on the muscular coat of the intestines. I believe that food of the best description, when washed into the intestines in this manner, is certain to cause pain and spasm from the fermentation and disengagement of gases, which invariably takes place on vegetable matter being exposed to heat and moisture, which, if it had been properly acted on by the antiseptic properties of the gastric juice, would have been incapable of being fermented.

It should be understood, that a horse will drink at one time a much greater quantity than his stomach can contain, supposing it to be entirely empty; but even when he drinks a less quantity, it remains not in the stomach, but passes on to the large intestines, and is retained in the cæcum, commonly called the water gut. Hence the danger to be apprehended at all times from allowing horses to drink a quantity of water soon after feeding, or before the food is sufficiently digested in the stomach, from the chance of portions of it being washed into the intestinal canal, when the consequences are, as I before stated, fermentation and disengagement of gases, causing pain and spasms, which, when it occurs in the small intestines, produces spasmodic colic, or it may occur in the large intestines, causing flatulent colic. In the former disease we cannot detect the swelling; but it is evident enough when the colon is the seat of the disease, by the enlargement of the belly on the off flank.

Veterinary surgeons are seldom called on to attend cases of this kind in farm stables at the onset. The nostrums used by the farmers are stimulants of various kinds, such as turpentine, peppermint, gin, pepper, and ginger. Simple cases of colic can generally be successfully treated by the stimulating principle; and many cases admit of this being carried to an extreme

extent with comparative safety; but in other cases, we have constipation to deal with, which bids defiance for a time to our remedies; and then, if strong stimulants have been previously given, inflammation is quickly set up, and the disease terminates in gangrene, which, if otherwise treated at the commencement, might have had a successful result.

These visceral diseases are frequently confounded with that of enteritis, or inflammation of the bowels, and by farmers always treated alike. This error invariably proves fatal to the patient, for the stimulating drenches, which might prove beneficial in one, is certain to cause death in the other.

It is desirable that the farmer should be able to make a distinction between simple colic and enteritis, which may generally be done by attending to the symptoms of each. In cases of colic, there is very little acceleration of pulse, except during the paroxysms of pain. The extremities are also warm, and there are intervals of cessation from pain, which is much abated by a discharge of wind and fæces. But in inflammation of the bowels, the pains remain equable and fixed; the pulse is rapid, hard, and thread-like, sometimes almost indistinct; the breathing is considerably accelerated; the extremities are icy cold; and obstinate costiveness prevails from the commencement. Enteritis is, fortunately, not a very common disease in farm stables; but when it does occur, it may generally be traced to errors in diet.

With respect to visceral diseases generally, it would appear, from their being more prevalent during the latter part of autumn and commencement of winter, that the state of the atmosphere has some predisposing influence. At this period of the year the atmosphere is frequently moist and relaxing; and under its influence the muscles, and with them the heart and arteries, lose power and tone; the textures also become relaxed, and the perspiration which accumulates in the long close hair of farm horses during work perpetuating the relaxation. In this state, the stomach and intestines also participate in the loss of tone; and hence disease perhaps so often occurs at this season on very slight errors of diet.

There are a few simple rules, founded on the experience of some of our best practical farmers, on the management of horses that may be introduced here with advantage.

1. The earlier the horses are watered and fed in the morning, and the longer the intervals between that time and yoking, the greater chance is there of the food undergoing perfect digestion. Ordinary farm-work is not likely to interfere with the digestive process; but active exercise or severe cart-work are likely to do so, and should always be avoided soon after a meal.

2. The mid-day meal and full one hour's rest should never be interfered with. The practice of accomplishing a day's work in one yoking, by keeping the horses at work for eight or nine