



With the Colts and Calves at Pasture.

THE HORSE.

Punctured Wounds.

Punctured wounds are produced by penetration into the tissues of a sharp or blunt pointed instrument, usually to a depth disproportionate to the aperture of entrance; that is, the opening made through the skin is usually small in proportion to the extent of the wound to the underlying tissues. Punctured wounds are the most dangerous of all wounds, as from their depth they are liable to implicate arteries, nerves, veins, internal organs, and deep-seated vital parts; the parts which they traverse are stretched and torn, and consequently are prone to inflammation and suppuration, and pus, when formed, often has no free access as the seat of pus formation is on a lower level than the external wound, thus forming a pocket or sac which holds the pus, which is liable to burrow extensively; also, foreign bodies may be carried to great depths without being suspected, and create long-continued irritation; and wounds of this nature are more liable to be followed by serious complications or disease than wounds of other classes.

Treatment.—The treatment of punctured wounds must be conducted in accordance with the gravity and depth of the puncture, and the amount of laceration and contusion. If the wound be shallow, attended with little or no bruising or laceration, and free from foreign matter, treatment is comparatively simple. The patient should be given rest, the usual constitutional treatment given, viz., the administration of a laxative and reduction in the amount of grain given, (provided he has been working and fed grain.) It is wise in most cases, to feed bran in lieu of grain. The wound should be kept clean by washing and flushing it three times daily with an antiseptic, as a five per cent. solution of one of the coal-tar antiseptics, or carbolic acid. Rest and treatment should continue until the parts have healed. In cases where bleeding is profuse it must be checked. If an examination reveals probability of the wounded vessel being secured, the operator is justified in enlarging the external opening to make room, securing the vessel and ligaturing it, as in incised wounds. Where this cannot be done the wound should be firmly packed with absorbent cotton or other clean material that has been soaked in one of the already mentioned antiseptics. The packing must be retained in the wound by a bandage or by suturing. In the course of twelve to eighteen hours the packing should be removed, and the wound explored to as great an extent as possible. A careful search for foreign bodies must be made, and if any be located they must be removed, even though this may necessitate the enlargement of the wound, or the making of another. The operator must determine whether or not the wound in the deep-seated structures has penetrated to a deeper level than the external opening, and if it has he must either enlarge the external wound and that of the deeper structures until there is no pocket left in which pus or serum or both may lodge. If it be found that it would be better practice to make a counter opening through the tissues to the seat of the lowest part of the wound in order to give drainage, of course, this should be done. All tissue that are torn, lacerated, or bruised to such a degree that there is no reasonable prospect of union or repair, should be removed, the wound then flushed out with an antiseptic to remove all blood clots, dirt, sand, etc., and the flushing repeated three times daily until the wound is healed. The patient should be made as comfortable as possible and the usual constitutional treatment given. In rare cases the patient suffers acutely. In such cases pain should be relieved by administering about 1½ ounces each of tincture of belladonna and sweet spirits of nitre in a pint of cold water, or one ounce chloral hydrate in solution. This can be repeated every four or five hours as the symptoms indicate. If the puncture be in such a position as to cause excessive lameness, and inability to lie down, or to rise after he has done so, the patient should be put in a sling.

Fungous protrusions or excessive granulations, commonly called proud flesh on the surface of the wound in most cases are the tissues of the part, swollen and congested, and will disappear when the inflammation subsides; hence, it is unwise to excise them or endeavor to remove them by the application of caustics. If, however, after the inflammation has been subdued, these exuberant granulations continue in the wound, they should be destroyed and the tissues stimulated to healthy action by applying a little butter of antimony once daily with a feather or by being touched once daily with a pencil of the nitrate of silver. In some cases, owing to debility of constitution, these granulations continue as flabby, pale-looking excrescences, notwithstanding efforts to repress them, and discharge a somewhat dirty looking fluid or semi-fluid. In such cases the general constitution should be attended to by administering tonics and alteratives as a dram each of sulphate of iron, gentian and ginger and six grains of arsenic three times daily for a week or ten days, and in the meantime attend to the wound locally, as above. When the general health of the animal is good and the treatment proper, the cause of the continuance of proud flesh depends upon the presence of some foreign body in the wound, which must be located and removed in order to make complete recovery possible. **WHIP.**

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

Fully two months have passed since I last wrote, and in the interval I have again been in the surgeon's hands and undergone a severe operation. That I am now resuming correspondence may be taken as an index of returning health and strength. These two months have been eventful enough. They have witnessed amongst us here several new phases of Food Control, as well as other significant indications of the stringency of the War situation. The call for additional men at once to the number of from 420,000 to 450,000 is in itself a strong reminder that Great Britain is face to face with an unprecedented condition of things. These men are to be found in what have hitherto been regarded as "protected industries," and there is just the fear that Agriculture is one of these. Certain it is that the Food problem is to be a big factor in determining the final issue. A prominent member of the Government addressing English farmers at Chelmsford the other day said the War would be won not by a smashing victory on either side but by those who had the last sack of wheat and the last stone of meat. The Food Controller has also been speaking, and has made it known that while there is a scarcity of essential foodstuffs there is no risk of famine in these islands, provided every one acts patriotically and eats only what he or she needs to eat. It has been made known very generally that in the Munition areas this has not during recent months been

done. On the contrary in these areas there has, during the past months, been an excess consumption of meat. The normal quantities in peace times have been greatly exceeded, and it is melancholy to think this should be so after all and in spite of all the urgency that has been manifested to an opposite effect. It has been said that now that America has come into the war men, money, munitions, moral and time are all in favor of the Allies. The one thing that is doubtful is food, and hence the strenuous appeals addressed to farmers to increase the area of cropping for essential foods like grain, potatoes and milk. Scotland is asked to increase its area under crop by 300,000 acres over the average of 1917. This is a large demand, but right-hearted men will do their best to respond and meet it. There is a section of grumblers and critics who are never satisfied with anything those in authority do. It must be admitted that these persons have made serious blunders, but destructive criticism helps very little. What is wanted is constructive criticism. The actual position regarding meat is that according to the December census there is only about a 50 per cent. supply in the country. Consequently, in order to secure that this quantity may be distributed equally we have a Fat Cattle Control Order which came into force on 27th December, and a Fat Sheep Control Order which came into force on 14th January. The design of both is to share what beef and mutton the country can produce as fairly as possible among all sections of the community. The cattle and sheep presented in the fat markets are graded by committees of three—a butcher, a farmer and an auctioneer. There is a top price of 75s. per live cwt. of 112 lbs. for the cattle placed in the first class, and 70s. for those graded second class. On the whole the scheme has worked fairly well except in Smithfield market, London, where, for some reason or other, there have been almost no supplies to speak of since the grading scheme came into force. Seeing the Committees have power to requisition cattle this is rather inexplicable, and suggests that there has been some breakdown in the scheme.

Feeding Stuffs are now also controlled, but unfortunately the supplies are very short. When Lord Rhondda intimated that this control would be enforced he indicated that while everything would be done to secure an equitable distribution he could not guarantee supplies. He does not control shipping, and whatever else may fail, it is absolutely essential that tonnage should be utilized to the best advantage to win the war. Happily the 1917 crop of roots was abundant, and there is also plenty of straw in the country. Roots and straw alone will not make cattle prime fat, but they will keep them thriving, and in these days, as one has put it, the farmer must endeavor to utilize what he can get to the best advantage rather than cry out for what he was accustomed to have.

Meantime live stock of all kinds are making unprecedented prices. In these winter months the practice has grown among breeders of Ayrshire cattle of selling their young bulls, i. e., the bulls calved during the past season. These sales are held at the homesteads and have proved to be highly popular. The most successful of all so far was held at the farm of Netherton, Newton-Mearns, near to Glasgow, in the last week of December. This farm is owned by Messrs. T. & A. Clement, the well-known produce brokers who have many friends in Canada. They have always been keen admirers of the Ayrshire breed, and have built up a Milk-Record herd of unusual excellence. They have held sales for several years past, and have always been keen buyers at other sales of animals possessing superior individual merit and of milk record descent that should insure continuity. At their recent sale they reaped their reward, securing individual prices and an average overhead which fairly broke all previous records in the Ayrshire breed. They sold 21 bull calves or stirks, i. e., calved in 1917, at an average of £115 13s. 0d. each. They had individual prices like 430 guineas or £451 10s., 300 guineas or £315, 255 guineas or £267 15s., and 200 guineas or £210. The previous best average for Ayrshire bull calves was made at the Bargenoch sale in Ayrshire in the late winter of 1916, when 17 head made an average of £91 10s. 3d. Other two sales have been held since I last wrote. At Finlayston in Ochiltree parish Mr. Wilson had an average of £36 16s. 3d. for 17 head, and on Thursday last at Dunlop Place, Mrs. Howison-Crawford had an average of £57 2s. for 21 head. A very notable sale yet to come is that of James Howie, at Hillhouse, Kilmarnock. It takes place in a



A Type that Is in Demand in Britain.