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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SPECIAL BULLETIN

FOR

HORSE BREEDERS IN THE N. W. TERRITORIES

MALADIE DU COIT

(Equine Syphilis)

BY

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MALADIE DU COIT.

This disease of the genital organs of both mares and stallions is only known in North America as an imported disease. It has long been known in Arabia, Northern Africa, France and other Continental countries.

It resembles Syphilis — and has been considered by many to be closely related to that disease.

It appears in two forms : one malignant, the other non-malignant in character.

The former has never been introduced into Canada ; the latter is often met with the world over where horse breeding is carried on.

Malignant *Maladie du Coit* in the mare is attended by constant genital irritation and symptoms of being in heat, swelling of the vulva, often one-sided, distorting the opening. Vessicular eruptions cover the mucus membranes. It is attended by irritation and a frequent discharge of urine of a pink red colour which is thick and adhesive. White spots appear on the skin of the vulva and perineum, emaciation, paralysis, increasing weakness, sterility. In the end she becomes a loathsome object and dies from debility in from a few months to one or two years, during which time she may spread the disease by infecting stallions with which she has copulated.

In the stallion the symptoms are similar but there is usually an eruption of vesicles which coalesce and form deep ulcers with swelling of the sheath, a semi-paralytic condition of both penis and testicles, sores form over the body, weakness of the hind extremities sets in, followed by partial paralysis, and stupidity, ending in death after living in misery for several years.

Partial recovery sometimes occurs but the animal is useless for service of any kind.

The non-malignant form is not so severe in its manifestations in either the mare or stallion—it consists of simple vesicular eruptions on the penis of the stallion and vulva of the mare which are not attended by any severe symptoms, at most, slight irritation and increased sexual desire especially in the mare. It disappears in a week or two by simple cleanliness or mild astringent dressings.

It is also communicable by sexual intercourse.

Inspectors must be very careful not to mistake one for the other. Owners of horse ranches should exercise caution in buying mares or stallions in the Missouri Valley, as the disease is reported to prevail among ranche horses in Nebraska whence there is some risk of it extending.