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From the author

ON HYSTERIA IN THE MARE,

WITH

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES.

BY

W. HAYCOCK, V.S. & M.R.C.V.S.

&c.

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ON HYSTERIA IN THE MARE,

WITH

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES.

CASE I.

JUNE 27, 1849.—I was requested, about 12 o'clock, A.M., to attend upon a mare, the property of John Mallinson, Esq., late of Thick Hollins, Meltham, near Huddersfield.

HISTORY, &c.—The mare I am requested to see is of a bright bay colour, 6 years of age, thorough bred, and stands 15 hands $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. She is of a nervous temperament, and highly excitable; her labour in a general way is not severe. She is showy in her actions, and one that perspires very readily. She is so extremely excitable that the mere act of saddling her at any time will increase her respiration, and cause her to frequently dung and urinate. She performs her labour at first with great spirit; but, after being ridden for a few miles, her appetite in consequence becomes impaired, and general depression of the system ensues. During the last six or seven days the mare has not been out of the stable. This morning the groom put her into harness, and drove her from his master's residence into this town, a distance of about five miles. She was driven slowly,* but she was very excitable on

* Of this there can be no doubt from the following fact. The groom brought in the gig a large basket of eggs which were not packed at all, and upon arriving in the town not a single egg was found to be broken. The day was hot and oppressive.

the road, and perspired profusely. When near the town she manifested symptoms of abdominal pain, and faltered a little in her gait. With some difficulty she was got into a loose box, and my attendance was immediately sought.

PRESENT SYMPTOMS.

1. The mare is laid fully extended upon her right side ; the surface of the body generally is hot, and she is covered with a steaming perspiration.

2. Every now and then she struggles violently, and dashes her head wildly about.

3. Pulse 62, and respiration 63, per minute.

4. Occasionally she strains with great violence, as though she would force the bowels out ; and during the act of straining she voids large quantities of dark coffee-coloured urine.

5. The gluteal muscles of both hind quarters are in a tetanic state of hardness ; the same with the muscles of the back.

6. Sometimes she will turn her nose towards her left side, and regard it for a few moments with a look of anxiety. She attempts to rise, and she struggles principally with the fore limbs.

TREATMENT.—At the time the above case was placed under my care, I was practising for the most part upon the old system, so that the mare was treated allopathically. The abdomen was repeatedly fomented with warm water, and medicine of a sedative and antispasmodic character was freely administered. For several hours she lay quiet, comparatively speaking ; but in spite of all attempts made use of to produce permanent good, she became worse. She began to struggle more violently than at the commencement ; in which state she continued until the day following, when she died a little before eleven o'clock, A.M.

EXAMINATION THREE HOURS AFTER DEATH.

The result of the examination may be stated in a very few words. On removing the skin I found the areolar and aponeurotic tissues of the back and hind quarters to be filled and surrounded with a serous deposit ; but, with this exception, I could not detect the least trace of disease throughout the whole

organism. I examined, with the most scrupulous care, the following organs and structures; viz., the thoracic and the abdominal viscera, including the urinary and generative organs. Also the brain and the spinal cord. Also the organs of circulation, and the muscular system; and every portion of these various organs and structures was perfectly normal in all respects. The weight of the heart was exactly 6 pounds 6 ounces avoirdupois.

CASE II.

July the 31st, 1849.—I was requested, about 3 o'clock, P.M., to attend upon a mare, the property of Messrs. Reid and Hayley, livery stable keepers in this town.

HISTORY, &c.—The mare I am called to attend is nearly thorough bred, of a bright bay colour, 6 years of age, and stands 15 hands 1 inch in height. She is of a nervous temperament, and highly excitable. Since she came into the possession of the firm (which is about a month ago) she has only been used upon two or three occasions. She has been kept in a loose box, to improve her general condition and appearance, for the purpose of sale. She was used on the 12th of the present month, and again on the 21st; since which latter date she has not been used at all until to-day, when the son of one of the partners, thinking she would be better with exercise, took her out, and rode her a distance of about three miles. On the road she was very ungovernable; she pranced and jumped about a great deal; and this, together with the heat of the day, caused her to perspire considerably. On returning home, and when about two miles from the town, the rider found a strange difference in her movements. She began to perspire more profusely, and to foam a good deal between the fore and hind limbs. She became sluggish, and faltering in her gait. The rider dismounted, and led the animal to a public-house near at hand, where he had her well scraped and wiped down; after which he led her home. He had no sooner arrived at the stable, but she threw herself down, and began to roll violently, and to strain with great force; at the same time parting with large quantities of dark-coloured urine. At this stage of the malady I was requested to attend.

PRESENT SYMPTOMS.

1. I cannot count the pulse from her uneasy movements ; the respirations are 46 per minute.

2. The eyes of the animal have a peculiar bright appearance, and their mucous membranes are highly congested.

3. Patches of perspiration are present upon various parts of the body ; viz., over the breast, the head, the side, and between the hind limbs.

4. The gluteal muscles are drawn into a lumpy state, and they manifest a strange degree of hardness.

5. The mare trembles violently, particularly over the muscles of the fore limbs and shoulders.

6. She lays herself down ; and when down the abdominal muscles, muscles of the back, and hind limbs are powerfully contracted. She strains violently ; and, during the act of straining, she ejects urine of a dark coffee colour. The quantity of urine thus thrown out is really surprising.

7. After straining several times, and ejecting urine each time, at intervals of 5 or 6 minutes, she will suddenly attempt to jump upon her feet ; and, upon some occasions, after a desperate struggle, she is unable to accomplish her desire. The hind limbs are powerless, or nearly so ; and the fetlock joints double under her as she stands.

8. She occasionally turns her head towards her left side, and regards it most anxiously.

9. The respirations frequently vary to a considerable extent. Sometimes she will breathe as low as 26 per minute ; then the muscles of the chest become, as it were, suddenly tightened, and the respirations will rise to 48 or 50 in the same time, and be extremely limited in character.

TREATMENT.—The treatment adopted in this case was also allopathic. The mare had given to her large doses of spirits of Ammonia, tincture of Camphor, Belladonna, tincture of Opium, injections, and stimulating embrocations to the spine. The symptoms varied in their character considerably. At one time she would become cool, the excessive sweating would cease, and the pulse fall in the number of its beats per minute. The irri

tation going on within the urinary organs disappeared in about 6 hours after the commencement, and did not again return. The spasm of the gluteal muscles however never for a moment relaxed, and the patient soon became perfectly powerless in the hind limbs. She continued until the day but one following, when she became worse, and the owners insisted upon having her destroyed, which I was reluctantly compelled to assent to.

EXAMINATION THREE HOURS AFTER DEATH.

The aponeurotic and areolar tissues in the regions of the lumbar and the gluteal muscles were filled with effused blood and bloody serum. The outer surface of the *uterus* presented a faint pink-like tinge.

THE HEART, within its left ventricle, presented large patches of a dark purple colour. Some of these patches were round, others elongated. The purple stain passed deep into the muscular substance of the organ, but the serous membrane was not at all tender when stripped from its attachments. The weight of the heart was exactly 5 pounds 13 ounces avoirdupois.

THE BLADDER contained about half a pint of dark brown yeasty-looking urine. The mucous membrane of the organ was covered with small blood spots. The substance of the bladder was firm. I carefully examined the brain, spinal cord, digestive organs, and, in short, every structure in the body, but failed to detect the slightest change, save in those parts I have named above.

CASE III.*

October the 27th, 1851.—I was requested, about nine o'clock, A.M., to attend upon a mare, the property of Messrs. J. W. and H. Shaw, woollen manufacturers and merchants, in this town.

HISTORY, &c.—The mare in question has been the property of the above-named firm about three months, during which

* The third case of this singular disease which came under my care I have already published in my "Elements of Veterinary Homœopathy," page 286, but as the work may not be in the possession of the reader, and as I wish to furnish as complete an account of the malady as I possibly can, I republish it for the sake of such completeness.

period she has been a very healthy animal. She is about half bred, stands 15 hands 3 inches high, is rising 5 years of age, of a bright bay colour, and is used for teaming purposes. The mare has stood at rest in the stable from Saturday morning until this morning, when she was taken to her usual labour, that of loading coals from a pit, situated about one mile and a half from where she is kept. In travelling to the pit she was observed by the driver to be more lively than usual, and keener of labour; but, when near the pit, she began to stagger and move about in a very peculiar manner. The driver, however, went forwards, and loaded his cart with coal; and, when near home, in returning, he experienced great difficulty in getting her along. He arrived at the stable about a quarter to nine o'clock, and I was immediately sent for.

PRESENT STATE.

1. Pulse 70 and full.
2. Respirations 15 per minute.
3. Large patches of perspiration are present upon various parts of the skin, upon the sides of the neck, the head, the trunk, and the hind extremities; the perspiration is hot and profuse. This sweating broke out a little before she arrived at the stable.
4. If I cause the animal to turn or move from one side of the stall to the other, she does so with a peculiar kind of unsteadiness; the limbs refuse to act in obedience to the will, she staggers in her movements, and is swayed slightly from side to side.
5. A trembling motion is present amongst the muscles in the region of the femur, and this trembling is not observable in any other part of the body.
6. The gluteal muscles of both hind quarters are excessively hard, but more especially those of the left quarter. They present a degree of hardness which is really surprising; they feel as though I was pressing upon a board.
7. The muscles of the right shoulder are also much harder than they should be.
8. The mare is restless; she presents a peculiar wild look,

stares a good deal, and bites keenly at the wood work of her stall, a practice to which she is not in the least given when in health.

TREATMENT.—To have Belladonna $\frac{10}{1}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{ij}$, then to be wisped down, if possible, until she is perfectly dry.

11 o'clock (2 hours afterwards).—The mare is better. The man could not wisp her dry, but he had covered her with a woollen rug, and she soon afterwards became so. The skin is now completely dry, the wild appearance which I spoke of is better, but the gluteal muscles still retain their rigid hardness. At twelve o'clock, the mare to have Belladonna $\frac{10}{3}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{ij}$, and at five o'clock, P.M., to have Belladonna $\frac{5}{1}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{ij}$. From this time she gradually improved. No other remedy but Belladonna was used; and she went to her usual labour on the morning of the 29th, perfectly restored.

CASE IV.

April the 26th, 1852.—I was requested, about twelve o'clock, A.M., to attend upon a mare, the property of Mr. J. Oxley, cab proprietor, in this town.

HISTORY, &c.—The mare I am called to is now 6 years of age. She is of a black colour, half bred, and stands about 15 hands 3 inches high. She has been the property of the present owner about six months, during which time she has never suffered from disease. She is used as a cab mare, and the animal is in excellent condition. Three or four days ago she manifested symptoms of being in *use for the horse*. This morning she was driven about a mile and a half out of the town. She was noticed to be more lively than usual at starting. She went well and freely to the place, but when near home, upon her return, she became restless, neighed a good deal, she hung in the breech of the harness, and staggered considerably in her gait. She was got home with some difficulty, and soon afterwards brought to my stables.

PRESENT STATE.

1. The mare is laid upon her right side, with the limbs fully extended.

2. Pulse 70, and somewhat hard, and respirations 25 per minute.

3. She has been straining violently, and has urinated a considerable quantity of urine, of a dark coffee colour.

4. The surface of the body presents several patches of perspiration. These patches are present upon the sides of the neck, upon the shoulders, the body, upon the haunches, and between the hind limbs.

4. I had the animal lifted upon her legs, a feat which was difficult to accomplish. She walks with great exertion; the back is arched, and she trembles; the trembling is considerable amongst the muscles in the region of the patella.

6. The gluteal muscles of both hind quarters are severely cramped. The muscles of the left limb present a very peculiar appearance. They are smaller and elevated, as though out of their place; the skin is raised as if bolstered underneath; and this smaller mass is excessively hard.

7. The eye presents a most dejected aspect, and its mucous membrane is highly injected. The animal is also very restless and irritable.

TREATMENT.—To have Belladonna $\frac{10}{1}$, in aquæ ζ ij, and this to be repeated every half hour.

3 o'clock, P.M.—The restlessness has subsided considerably, and the surface of the body is dry. Pulse 60, and respirations still increased. The hardness of the muscles is much the same, only more diffused; at first the hardness was limited to three or four inches above and below the transverse process of the ilium; now it is extended over the whole of the gluteal muscles. The mare moves better, and she has again urinated a large quantity of the coffee coloured urine.

To continue the medicine as before.

5 o'clock, P.M.—Much the same; she has just laid her down, and she lies perfectly quiet. The respirations are sometimes greatly hurried, and again become calm; these alternate fits or changes occur about every half hour.

To have Belladonna $\frac{10}{3}$, in aquæ ζ ij.

8 o'clock, P.M.—The mare remains lying; pulse 63, and the respirations of the same variable character as above described.

She again perspires, but not profusely so ; the hardness of the muscles remains the same ; it is the most severe upon the right quarter. Occasionally she is uneasy ; and at seven o'clock she made two or three attempts to rise upon her feet, but was unable to do so. The hind limbs, from the joints of the hock to the feet, are very cold. Upon the whole the animal is very patient ; the skin, where the perspiration is present, is very hot.

To have Aconite $\frac{5}{10}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{4}$ ij ; to be repeated every hour until a change is deemed necessary.

11 o'clock, P.M.—Mare remains lying ; pulse 60, and respirations still variable, but not so much so as they were. Matters, I think, are slowly improving. The Aconite has been given every hour, in the quantity specified. She is again a little uneasy ; and thinking she might be better upon her feet if able to stand, I placed a number of men to lift at her fore and hind quarters ; and, with hard work and a little management, she was got up. The gluteal muscles remain much as they were, but the skin generally is much cooler. I set three or four men to hand-rub her briskly. She parted with a quantity of urine, resembling barrel grounds, or not unlike a mixture consisting of porter and yeast. Specific gravity of urine, 1.39 ; and, on applying the usual tests, I found it to contain a large amount of albumen.

To have Belladonna $\frac{5}{1}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{4}$ ij ; also Aconite $\frac{5}{1}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{4}$ ij ; to be given alternately every two hours. To have also a change of clothing, and a quantity of fresh straw.

27th, 3 o'clock, A.M.—She is very greatly improved ; she walks about the box ; the muscles of the hind quarters are relaxing of their hardness : she is becoming lively, and she seems desirous of food. A mash was given to her, which she partook of with great relish. She has just dunged for the first time since she became ill. She has also urinated another large quantity of the brown coloured urine.*

* *Further particulars respecting the urine.*—The first specimen of urine, or that which was caught at 11 o'clock on the night of the 26th, was of the colour of cocoa, or perhaps a shade darker ; its specific gravity was 1.39. I poured 4 ounces of it into a glass measure ; and after allowing it to stand for 9 hours, I found it much the same as when I left it—the fluid was so thick and gummy as to prevent any precipitation from taking place. I added it to

To have Mercurius, 2 grains of the first trituration, which was mixed with a little flour, and made into a paste, and wiped upon the tongue, to be repeated every two hours.

9 o'clock, A.M.—She is most wonderfully improved; the hardness of the muscles is diminishing generally; the muscles of the right side still remain the most rigid; pulse 43, and respirations 12 per minute. She walks about the box with the greatest ease, and turns herself round with perfect freedom. She has partaken freely of a mixture of boiled oats and bran; the urine is turbid. Specific gravity 1-25. She has dunged three or four times since three o'clock.

The same medicine in half the quantity, to be given at the same intervals, in the same manner.

5 o'clock, P.M.—The improvement continues steady; the pulse, the appetite, and the respirations are all normal. Another portion of urine was caught; it still remains thick, but this appearance is fast changing.

To continue the Mercurius as last stated.

28th.—This morning the mare was removed to the stable of her owner. The gluteal muscles were all restored to their normal state. The respiration was normal, and the pulse was 44 per minute, slow, full, and round in its beat. She walked away with the greatest ease, but the appetite was not so good. She will eat mashes, but not hay. A portion of her urine was handed to me; its colour was normal, being that of a dull lemon like colour; its specific gravity was 1-20. Upon applying the usual tests for albumen, the liquor remained free from any precipitation.

4 ounces by measure of distilled water, stirred the whole well together, and after allowing it to stand for other 6 hours, I found a deposit within the measure of 12 drachms of albumen. By heating a portion of this mixed urine in a test tube, and applying Nitric acid, a still further deposit of albumen was the result.

The second specimen, or that caught at 3 o'clock, presented characters different from the first—it was not so brown in colour, it was more of a yellow cast—its specific gravity was 1.30. An excess of Nitric acid caused a slight effervescence, and immediately afterwards a precipitate of albumen, but the quantity was not near so great as with the former specimen—not so much I should say by one half.

To have Nux Vomica $\frac{6}{1}$, in aquæ \bar{z} ij; a dose to be given morning, noon, and night.

29th.—This morning the mare, to all outward appearance, is just as well as ever. She was taken to a funeral job, and performed it very well. The improvement, however, did not long remain at that time. The mare lost flesh, and lost her vivacity; and, in spite of the most judicious treatment, continued to do so. She had upon various occasions Iodine, Arsenicum, Sulphur, China, Carbo vegetabilis, and other remedies, but only with temporary benefit. At last I ordered her a run at grass, and she was turned out for a month, at the end of which time she came up perfectly restored. The owner put her again to cab work, at which she continued for about four months. She was then purchased by my friend, Dr. Ramsbotham, of this town, and he used her for his carriage for a considerable time, when she was sold into the neighbourhood of Halifax, where I believe she now is, or was until very recently.

CASE V.

Sunday, February the 27th, 1853.—I was requested, about two o'clock, P.M., to attend upon a mare, the property of Mr. Adam Aldroyd, wholesale and retail grocer in this town.

HISTORY, &c.—The mare I am called to is of an iron grey colour, rising five years of age, well bred, and of a nervous temperament. She is irritable in disposition; and quickly perspires upon very moderate exertion. She has been the property of Mr. Aldroyd for about eight months, during which time she has not suffered from disease. During the last ten or twelve days the weather has been frosty, and much snow has fallen; and for more than a week the mare in question has not been out of the stable. The groom, however, thinking that a little exercise would do her good, led her out to water. She was taken out of the stable at half-past twelve o'clock, and was in the stable again at a quarter before one. She was very lively and playful while out; she reared, kicked, and leaped about most violently; and when near home, at the time she was returning, she suddenly began to falter in her walk, and it was with great difficulty she was got into the stable, and my attendance was soon afterwards requested.

PRESENT STATE.

1. Pulse 48 per minute, and of a strangely oppressed character.
2. Respirations 30 per minute; short, and of a convulsive character.
3. The nostrils are dilated, and the eyes of the animal present a strange wild look.
4. Patches of perspiration exist on various parts of the body; viz., in the region of the neck, the flanks, and between the hind limbs.
5. The right hind limb is powerless, it is held in a flexed position, and it is incapable of bearing the least weight. If she attempts to use it the hind quarters nearly drop to the ground; the limb, in fact, seems as though it was broken.
6. The muscles of the affected limb are not the least rigid; but the temperature of the quarter altogether is lower than the other.
7. The mare is very fretful, and manifests great alarm at her own state.

TREATMENT, &c.—To have Belladonna $\frac{5}{\text{ss}}$,* in aquæ \mathfrak{z} ij, to be given immediately, and repeated every half-hour. To be covered with a light rug, and to be kept as quiet as possible.

3 o'clock P.M.—Worse; pulse much the same as before; beating in the same oppressed manner. The mare is literally bathed in perspiration, which is hot and steaming; respirations 40 per minute and of a more convulsive character.

To have Belladonna $\frac{10}{\text{ss}}$ in aquæ \mathfrak{z} ij to be repeated every 15 minutes.

5 o'clock P.M.—It is really amazing to perceive the change which has taken place in my patient since 3 o'clock. She has ceased to perspire and the respirations have fallen from 40 to 26 per minute; the skin is perfectly dry, and the animal has lost that wild and frightened appearance before spoken of. She is not a quarter so restless, but the right hind limb remains as powerless as ever.

To have Belladonna $\frac{5}{\text{i}}$ in aquæ \mathfrak{z} ij, and this to be repeated in 2 hours.

* *i. e.* Five drops of the pure Tincture.

7 o'clock P.M.—Not so well. She again perspires a little; pulse 72 and full; she is more uneasy. About an hour ago the right hind limb became suddenly right, but the fore limb of the same side became powerless, and remained so for 10 or 15 minutes; then the left hind limb, after which the right became again affected as before, and it is now in much the same state as first described. She has partaken freely of bran mash, and the respiration is not much disturbed.

To have Belladonna $\frac{10}{1}$ in aquæ \bar{z} ij.

11 o'clock P.M.—Since 7 o'clock the mare has been twice laid down; she was down for about an hour each time; she is now upon her feet and standing quiet; the right hind limb remains much the same. Pulse 60 and respirations 23 per minute. She is free from perspiration.

Repeat medicine, and to continue it at intervals of every 2 hours until otherwise directed.

28th, 9 o'clock A.M.—The mare has rested well since about 1 o'clock. The man in attendance informs me that she has now been free from perspiration for many hours. A dose of medicine was given to her this morning at 6 o'clock. Pulse 46 per minute, and respiration 11. She is perfectly cool and appears at ease in every respect. The inability to stand upon or use the right hind limb still remains, although I am of opinion that it is stronger than it was last night. It is still maintained in a flexed position, and now and then she endeavours to stand upon it, and failing to do so, it is amusing to witness her astonishment. When the animal is perfectly quiet I observe frequent twitchings of the muscles of the affected limb; these twitchings have only a momentary existence; the same effect is visible amongst the muscles of the shoulders and fore extremities. Sometimes the act is limited to the panniculus muscle, at other times it is seen amongst the deeper seated muscles.

To have Pulsatilla $\frac{10}{1}$ in aquæ \bar{z} ij. Also Nux vom $\frac{10}{3}$ in aquæ \bar{z} ij, to be given in alternation every 4 hours. The animal to be fed upon bran mashes, boiled corn, and a portion of good hay.

9 o'clock P.M.—The mare to-day has steadily progressed for

the better in spite of one or two manifestations to the contrary. Pulse 46 per minute and respirations 14. From 11 o'clock this forenoon to 3 this afternoon, she appeared to suffer from spasm of the bowels; she occasionally pawed the ground, and also lay down frequently, but when down rested quiet. She has eat very well and dunged twice; she dunged about 10 o'clock this morning for the first time since the affection set in, and she also urinated for the first time this morning since the attack. To-night she uses the affected limb a little; I have seen her stand upon it several times. The medicine which I prescribed in the morning has been regularly given at the intervals stated. To discontinue all medicine until morning.

March 1st.—My patient is steadily improving; the right hind limb is slowly gaining strength, but is far from well, and strange to say, as the limb improves the muscular twitchings become more frequent and more violent. Appetite good, pulse normal and respirations normal. To continue medicine, and to be given in alternation morning, noon and night.

3rd.—All right in every respect; the normal power is fully restored to the right hind limb; the mare is as lively as a kitten. To have a dose or two of Sulphur of the first trituration. Discharged cured.

CASE VI.

Monday, March the 21st, 1853.—I was requested about 8 o'clock A. M. to attend upon a mare, the property of Mr. John Kirk, building contractor, carpenter, &c. in this town.

HISTORY, &c.—The mare in question is rising 5 years of age; she is half-bred; stands 14 hands 2 inches high; and she has always been a very healthy animal. During the last four days she has remained altogether in the stable. This morning Mr. Kirk rode her about a mile from home; at starting she was very gay, but after being out about a quarter of an hour she suddenly began to falter in her movements; she perspired a great deal; became all but incapable of walking; and it was with the greatest difficulty that she was led home, and from thence to my place, which is situated contiguous to the premises of Mr. Kirk.

PRESENT STATE.

1. Pulse 46 per minute and suppressed.
2. Respirations 23 ditto and short.
3. The abdominal muscles are severely cramped.
4. The mare is perspiring excessively ; a quantity of foam is present between the hind limbs and under the breast.
5. The hind limbs are moved stiffly ; the gluteal muscles are cramped, or in a state of spasm. She also paddles a good deal with the hind feet.
6. The muscles of the right shoulder are also in a state of spasm, but not severely so.
7. She trembles violently ; the trembling is confined to the hind limbs and to the right shoulder.

TREATMENT.—To have Belladonna $\frac{10}{1}$ in aquæ $\bar{3}$ ij, to be repeated every hour.

10 o'clock, A. M.—During the last hour she has stood very quiet ; she has ceased to perspire ; pulse and respiration much the same. To continue medicine.

11 o'clock.—She is worse ; she is lying down, and making desperate efforts to regain her feet ; she stands upon her fore feet and sits upon her hind quarters, and in this manner trails herself about the box ; the cramp of the gluteal muscles has increased three fold at least, they have become like a board in hardness ; the same with the adductor tibialis muscles of both limbs ; the hind quarters are also lower in temperature ; pulse 60, and respirations 33 per minute.

To have Cuprum aceticum $\frac{10}{\text{e}}$ in aquæ $\bar{3}$ ij, also Belladonna $\frac{5}{\text{e}}$ in ditto ; to be given in alternation every half-hour.

1 o'clock.—Better upon the whole ; she has laid very quiet during the last hour ; the sweating has ceased, and the spasm generally of the muscles is not so violent ; she also moves her hind limbs with more freedom ; respirations 16 per minute ; pulse as before.

To continue medicine, and to be alternated every hour.

8 o'clock, P. M.—Since the last report the mare upon the whole has gone on very well ; she has attempted two or three times to rise upon her feet, but failed to do so ; the gluteal muscles are a little softer ; pulse 48 per minute, and respirations

13 ditto. Between 6 and 7 o'clock she partook of chilled water, and afterwards of some mash; she is free from sweating; and she lies very composedly; she has not yet dunged or urinated. To continue the medicine in alternate periods of every two hours.

22nd, 2 o'clock, A. M.—Still down and unable to rise; the fore limbs are weaker than they were; pulse 50 per minute and firm; and respirations 13 ditto; she lies very quiet; she has not yet dunged nor urinated.

To have Cantharides $\frac{5}{3}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{ij}$, also Belladonna $\frac{5}{\text{e}}$ in ditto. To be given in alternation every two hours.

7 o'clock, A. M.—Her general appearance is that of improvement; the affected muscles are softer, but she is still unable to rise, although her efforts to do so have been numerous. About 5 o'clock this morning she parted with a very large quantity of urine; she has drank freely of water, and she also eats very well.

To have Pulsatilla $\frac{5}{i}$ in aquæ $\frac{3}{ij}$, also Belladonna $\frac{5}{\text{e}}$ in ditto, to be given alternately every two hours.

10 o'clock, P. M.—Much the same; still down and unable to rise; pulse 46 per minute and firm, and respirations 16 ditto; she has not parted with any urine since 5 o'clock this morning, but has dunged regularly; appetite good.

To have Cantharis $\frac{5}{3}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{ij}$, and to be repeated every two hours until otherwise directed.

23rd, 9 o'clock, A. M.—Still unable to rise, but going on favourably in other respects; the mare is very desirous to rise; I determined to see what could be done, so I procured a number of men and had her lifted upon her feet, but the moment she was left to herself she dropped powerless; pulse and respiration the same as last report; she has not yet been observed to part with any urine, but right in other respects.

To have Cantharis $\frac{5}{3}$, in aquæ $\frac{3}{ij}$, also Rhus tox. $\frac{5}{i}$, in ditto. To be given alternately every two hours.

I also directed a large woollen cloth to be soaked in hot water, the loose water to be wrung out of it, and while hot to be applied to the course of the spine; the application of the wet

cloth to be continued for about half-an-hour, and repeated three or four times a-day.

24th.—During the whole of the day the mare has remained much the same as stated in the report of yesterday; she is still down and unable to rise; pulse normal; but the respirations have varied a little, at one time as low as 12 per minute, and at other times reaching as high as 20 and 24. The medicines last prescribed have been regularly given, and to-day she has parted with a great abundance of clear urine. The cloths dipped in hot water and applied to the course of the spine, I have ordered to be discontinued, not having found the least benefit from their use.

To discontinue the *Cantharis*., but to continue the *Rhus tox.* as last prescribed.

25th, 10 o'clock, A.M.—Much the same, with the exception of the gluteal muscles, which are firmer than they were yesterday. I again procured a number of men, who lifted her upon her feet as before, and kept her in that position for about twenty minutes, during which time friction was actively applied to the limbs, but without any apparent benefit; in fact it was the reverse if anything, as the general spasm was increased.

To have *Strychnine*, 2 grains of the first trituration, to be mixed with a small portion of flour into a paste, and wiped upon the tongue; the medicine to be repeated every four hours until otherwise directed.

26th, 9 o'clock, A.M.—Going on well; she arose upon her feet this morning about three o'clock, and stood some fifteen or twenty minutes, since which time she has been up four or five times; the hind limbs are weak, and the gluteal muscles are still more tense than proper, but when the mare is down, this hardness disappears; she can rise upon her feet without difficulty.

To have grain doses of the first trituration of *Strychnine* every five hours.

11 o'clock, P.M.—Since 9 o'clock this morning she has been upon her feet at least a dozen times; she rises with ease, but when standing she paddles with the hind feet continually; the muscles of both hind limbs present the appearance as though they were stretched or extended considerably; she is also restless—restless,

not from any acute pain, but more from a state of general uneasiness; the pulse and the respirations have varied. She had a dose of the Strychnine at nine o'clock this morning, another at two, and a third between six and seven. I have also given her in addition two or three doses of Aconite 1.

The Aconite to be repeated and the mare left for the night.

27th, 9 o'clock, A.M.—The restlessness is subsided, still she does not improve as I desire; this morning she makes frequent attempts to urinate, and the urine she parts with is loaded with mucus; I observed yesterday that she urinated more frequently than ordinary; appetite not so good; pulse when lying, 42 per minute; respirations varying from 16 to 22, and even more.

To have Cantharis $\frac{5}{3}$, in aquæ \bar{z} ij; also Nux vom. $\frac{5}{3}$, in do. To be given in alternation, morning, noon and night.

11 o'clock, P.M.—The irritation of the urinary organs has disappeared; she remains weak in the hind limbs, and is still unable to stand for any length of time.

To have Cantharis $\frac{5}{6}$, in aquæ \bar{z} ij, and left for the night.

28th.—To-day the pulse has remained at 38 per minute, but the respirations have varied considerably; the hind limbs appear as though they were dislocated at the hip-joints; the muscles around the joints are smaller outwards, and the limbs are almost straight from the hips to the feet; the hind feet are paddled continually when she is standing; the gluteal muscles are again firmer than ordinary.

To have Strychnine, 2 grains of the first trituration, to be given as before.

31st.—I cannot tell what to make of my patient, one day she is better, another day worse; upon the whole I cannot affirm that she is either gaining ground or losing it. When she stands upon her feet she paddles incessantly; she is greatly reduced in bulk, and she perspires considerably; the state of the dung she parts with varies considerably; at one time hard and lumpy, and at another time as soft as cow's dung; when made to walk she does it in a crouching position; the left hind limb is the weakest, and she drops the most to the left side;

the appetite is good, and the mucous membrane of the mouth is clean.

To have Causticum $\frac{5}{3}$, in aquæ \bar{z} ij, to be given once a day. The hind quarters to be hand-rubbed, a man to each limb; and the process to be continued for one hour at a time, and to be repeated three times a day.

May the 16th.—To-day the mare was removed from my premises and turned to grass. She is very far from well; her appetite is good, and the secretions from the bowels and kidneys are regular; the left hind quarter is wasted considerably, and when she walks she drops at every step, exactly like a person with one leg shorter than the other; the right hind limb is as firm and as strong as ever. At times she manifests great tenderness along the course of the spine. I have had recourse to many remedies, but without any apparent benefit to my patient, and to-day she is turned out to take her chance. I gave it as my opinion, that a long run at grass would restore her; and in this I proved correct. She was placed under the treatment of another practitioner, who treated it as a local affection; but in spite of all his allopathic embrocations, and blisters, and stimulants, she obstinately remained in the old state, until the owner becoming wearied of "doctoring," left her alone, and from that time she has slowly recovered until now; she is to all appearance as well as ever, she is daily at work and perfectly sound.

REMARKS.—I have now presented to the reader an account of six cases of a most singular malady. The cases here given are the whole of the kind which have ever come under my notice. I have detailed the facts of each case exactly in the order in which they occurred, and for their accuracy and truthfulness I vouch in every essential. In the treatise on Veterinary Homœopathy which I published some time ago,* I gave the first account of this affection ever presented to the veterinary surgeons of this kingdom. Since the appearance of the treatise in question, other cases of the same kind have come under my

* See my Elements of Veterinary Homœopathy, p. 285. London: Aylott & Co.

care, which have enabled me to more fully comprehend the general character of the disease; and I now submit to the reader every fact which I am in possession of with regard to it. To the enquiring veterinarian, I trust these facts will prove of value, inasmuch as they may enable him to diagnose a disease, the existence of which has hitherto been entirely overlooked by our best and most observant writers upon equine pathology.

I have named this disease *HYSTERIA* from the very close resemblance which it bears to the malady in women, and also from the fact of its constant occurrence in the *mare*. To prove this more fully, and, in fact, I may say beyond dispute, I will quote from Watson, Copland, and others who have written upon hysteria, and thus enable the reader to judge as to whether I am right in the conclusions I seek to establish. "I need not tell you," remarks Watson,* "that hysteria is almost, though not exclusively, confined to women. It occurs under a great variety of forms, but they may all be reduced for convenience of description to two. In the first of these the trunk and limbs of the patient are agitated with strong convulsive movements; she struggles violently, like a person contending; rises into a sitting posture, and then throws herself back again; forcibly retracts and extends her legs, while her body is twisted from side to side; and so powerful are these muscular contortions that it often is all that three or four strong persons can do to restrain a slight girl, and prevent her from injuring herself and others. The head is generally thrown backwards, and the throat projects; the face is flushed; the eyelids are closed and tremulous; the nostrils distended; the jaws often firmly shut. If the hands are left at liberty she will strike her breast repeatedly and quickly, or carry her fingers to her throat, as if to move some oppression there; or she will sometimes tear her hair, or rend her clothes, or attempt to bite those about her. With all this her breathing is deep, labouring, irregular, and the heart palpitates. After a short time this violent agitation is calmed; but the patient lies panting and trembling, and starting at the slightest noise or the gentlest touch; or sometimes she remains motionless during the

* See "Watson on the Principles and Practice of Physic," vol. i, page 683.

remissions, with a fixed eye; till all at once the convulsive movements are renewed; and this alternation of spasm and quiet will go on for a space of time that varies considerably in different cases."

In the same lecture Dr. Watson again observes, "The symptoms I have been enumerating belong to the nervous system, and indicate great derangement in the functions of animal life. In the other of the two forms to which all the various modifications of the attack may be reduced, the principal marks of disturbance are referrible to some of the viscera. The patient experiences a sense of uneasiness in some parts of the abdomen, frequently towards the left flank.

* * * * *

the abdomen becomes distended with wind; loud rumblings and sudden eructations take place, and there is much palpitation of the heart.

"After the paroxysms these patients commonly void a large quantity of limpid pale urine, looking almost like water, and this is sometimes expelled during the fit."

The account furnished by Dr. Copland, in his Medical Dictionary, article "Hysteria," of the convulsive form of the disease is so clear and so closely allied in many respects to the cases which I furnish, that I shall also quote what he says with regard to this matter.

"When hysteria," says the doctor, "assumes a truly convulsive form, the trunk of the body is writhed to and fro, and the limbs are variously agitated."

* * * * *

"Sometimes the trunk remains stiff, whilst the arms and limbs are tossed in every direction. The muscles of respiration participate in the struggle, and the breathing is effected slowly, laboriously or deeply and spasmodically, often with deep sobs and constriction in the situation of the diaphragm. During the struggle the patient sometimes bites her arms or hands, or even the bystanders. The abdominal muscles are tense or irregularly constricted; the belly, especially about the naval, is often drawn inwards, and the sphincters are firmly constricted. The action of the heart is increased with the severity of the convulsions.

In some cases, however, it is not much, if at all, accelerated; in others, it is very irregular and unequal; and in all, *the temperature is usually reduced, especially in the extremities, at the commencement of the attack.*"

* * * * *

"Upon recovery from these states, the patient often experiences *catchings, spasmodic contractions of the extremities*, shuddering, or convulsions of short duration, accompanied by *forced or irregular respiration.*"

Again, the same writer observes, "Hysteria may simulate paralytic affections."

* * * * *

"The paralytic form of hysteria *is sometimes connected with spasm*, inability to move being attributable rather to this than to loss of power. This affection may occur in a single limb or in both; it may even closely imitate paraplegia."

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"*Pain in the dorsal or lumbar vertebræ with tenderness upon pressure of the spinous processes* is often complained of by females of a delicate constitution; and although it may exist independently of hysteria, yet it is frequently associated either with it or with uterine irritation."

* * * * *

"Hysteria may be manifested by pain in various parts of the abdomen, or in the abdomen generally. When it extends over the abdomen, it is sometimes accompanied with excessive tenderness, and great inflation of the bowels. It may then be mistaken for peritonitis."*

Such are the facts upon which I have my opinion with regard to the identity of my cases with the disease "hysteria" in woman. To me the similarity appears so close as to warrant my concluding that this identity is satisfactorily established. The similarity, I contend, is as close as that of any other equine affection to that of its prototype in man. To prove this more fully, however, I will compare the more prominent symptoms of each case with the quotations which I have selected. The prin-

* Copland's Medical Dictionary, article Hysteria.

cipal symptoms in case I, were, *violent convulsive or spasmodic movements of the limbs; excessive perspiration; hot skin; difficulty of breathing; the ejection of large quantities of bloody urine; tonic spasm of the gluteal muscles, and muscles of the back; clonic spasm of the diaphragm; pain in the left side, with inability to rise upon the feet.* In case II, in addition to the above, we have a *constricted state of the abdominal muscles*, together with a more marked state of *clonic spasm* of the costal and diaphragmatic muscles. In case III, the disease was not of so violent a character, but still we find the general symptoms present, together with wildness of look, and a propensity *to bite the wood work of the stable*, and other articles contiguous to where the animal stood. In case IV, the eye presents a dejected look, with *coldness* of the posterior limbs at the time when the skin in other parts was hot, and perspiring in patches. In case V, we find the pulse at the onset of the attack to be suppressed; the respirations of a convulsive or spasmodic character; the nostrils dilated; the look wild and anxious, with loss of motive power in the right hind limb; together with the entire absence of spasm of any of the voluntary muscles. Also *reduction of temperature* in the affected limb; and suppression of urine; then, as convalescence becomes established, we observe the "*muscular catchings and spasmodic contractions,*" with "*irregular respiration,*" which is so clearly alluded to by Dr. Copland. Indeed, throughout the identity of the two diseases is so remarkably close, that to me it appears a superfluous labour to insist further upon it.

One of the principal points of difference however between hysteria, as manifested in the human being and the mare, is, with regard to the state of the urinary organs. In the former, according to the authorities which I have quoted (for I make no pretence to a practical acquaintance with human disease myself,) it appears the disease usually commences with an abundant secretion of limpid urine; while, in the latter, the secretion of urine is very abundant, but is loaded with blood, seemingly venous, and which, as a matter of course, causes the secretion to be dark or coffee coloured; nevertheless, more extended observation

may lead us to the knowledge that this abundant secretion of limpid urine may be one of its attendant states ; in fact, it cannot be expected that six cases of so important, a disease will furnish us with all its pathognomonic phenomena.

PATHOLOGY OF HYSTERIA.

Hysteria without doubt is a nervous disease. The most careful examination of the two animals which died, failed to detect any lesion in their organism of sufficient importance to account for the result. In both of them, layers of effused serum and lymph, were present beneath the skin in immediate relation to the muscles so powerfully affected with spasm ; but such effusion in itself amounts to little or nothing if regarded as a cause of death ; in fact, I regard this effusion as a mere effect of the spasm upon the smaller blood vessels so intimately associated with the muscular tissue. It is difficult however to say precisely from whence came the venous blood so abundantly intermixed with the urine. I cannot say whether it came from the kidneys, or from the bladder, or from both. In Case II, it appears to have come from the mucous membrane of the bladder ; as this membrane was in a state of ecchymosis, and the viscus itself in addition contained a portion of the bloody fluid. From the entire absence then of all inflammatory action in the principal organs of life, I am bound to conclude that the seat of the malady is in the centres of the great nervous masses, arising most probably from a change of state having reference merely to functional manifestation.

DIAGNOSIS OF HYSTERIA.

The true diagnosis of this disease is a matter of importance, inasmuch as the life of the patient may depend upon it. One or other of the diseases with which Hysteria may possibly be confounded will be either *Colic—Inflammation of the Bowels—Paralysis of the hind limbs—*or *Disease of the Kidneys ;—* but a careful attention to the symptoms generally, together with the sex of the animal, and the treatment for a few days

prior to the attack, will prevent in all probability such a mistake from taking place. If the pulse be at all exalted, or greatly depressed—if the gluteal muscles be in a state of spasm—or if there be absence of spasm, but loss of motive power in one or both of the hind limbs—or if there be spasm with loss of motive power in combination—if the animal looks wild and anxious; and more especially if the patient be down and straining violently, and parting with the dark, bloody, or coffee coloured urine; the true nature of the malady will be easily recognized, as the above symptoms are for the most part pathognomonic of hysteria.

CAUSES OF HYSTERIA.

The causes which produce hysteria are not of a character easily defined; rest it appears predisposes mares to an attack. The subject of Case I, had rested for near a week, and the first time she was taken out the disease manifested itself. The subject of Case II, had been kept in a loose box for a month previously. The subject of Case III, was at rest three nights and two days. The subject of Case IV, had not rested more than usual, but the animal at the time she was attacked was in *use*. The subject of Case V, had rested some 10 or 12 days; and the subject of Case VI, had rested four days.

Beyond the fact however of every animal having rested for some time before the attack in each case, I am unable at the present to assign any cause which is at all adequate to the production of the disease. It is probable that mares in use are predisposed at such times to attacks of hysteria. And it is probable also that hot weather may be in some way connected with it, as it will be seen by reference to the cases themselves, that the most severe and violent of such, occurred in the months of April, June, and July; while the milder cases occurred in the months of February, March, and November.

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