

Nimmo's art of horsemanship : bwith general remarks on the management of horses.

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Remarks

ON THE

MANAGEMENT OF HORSES.

ABERDEEN:

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GENERAL REMARKS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HORSES.

The Horse is remarkably sagacious, and susceptible of kindness from those who ride and drive him, and will go through his work pleasantly, and apparently pleased to obey his master under kind treatment; when, on the contrary, if he is ill-treated or badly used, he will either turn spiteful and refractory, or lose his spirit and become dull and stupid, and his work will, if I may use the expression, seem a double burden to him. I, therefore, think it a duty incumbent on all who have the charge of this generous creature, to treat him with gentleness and make him comfortable; and to avoid all causes, as much as possible, that might give him cold, for the trifling cause of allowing him to stand for a few minutes exposed to the inclemency of the weather, while in a high state of perspiration, might give the animal a cold that would be of serious injury to him.

The Horse is the most docile and tractable animal of the brute creation, even when running in the wild state. He is endowed with a natural instinct, and is capable of learning anything when properly managed. The Horse, in its natural state, is quiet and docile; it is bad management that makes a Horse vicious. He has often more instinct than his driver has wit, and when that is the case, he is subject to the worst of treatment, which is always sure to leave him some bad vice or other. I have studied the nature and disposition of the Horse for the last thirty or forty years, so I consider myself quite capable of giving instruction upon the treatment and management of any kind of Horses.

I have travelled extensively through the northern districts of Scotland, and have often been highly gratified to witness the fidelity of servants to their masters, and have generally found them to be much attached, and greatly devoted to their interest. My desire is to give such information as will be generally useful to master and servant, that they may mutually endeavour to preserve and promote the health of the animals under their care.

ANTIMONY is an excellent medicine, but should always be used with caution, and given in small quantities. It is frequently recommended in the following pages, in various proportions, according to the urgency of the case. I have proved its beneficial effects for many years past; and as I believe it is often used and given in improper doses, I will note down a prescription which operates as a purifier of the blood, and which I can warrant as one of the safest and most efficacious compositions which can be

formed out of the *Materia Medica* :—

Nitre in powder	-	-	12 oz.
Antimony in powder	-	-	8 oz.
Flour of Sulphur	-	-	4 oz.

The above should be well mixed and divided into 24 equal parts, one of which should be given night and morning for 12 successive days. It should be given alternately, one day in bran mash, and another in corn damped in water, to cause the powders to adhere to it. The above powders have a wonderful effect in purifying the blood and bringing a horse into condition; and, for a stallion, I would particularly recommend that one series of doses should be given before the covering season, and repeated when it is over.

It is also excellent for any horse that travels much and is high fed, and I have often found it to prove beneficial to horses that were hide-bound, low in condition, and not thriving with their food. The animal may be kept to his usual labour while taking the powders, but should not be exposed to rain or cold, and his drink should be a little warmed if the powders are given in cold weather.

Strains in various parts.

All horses are liable to these accidents, but they more frequently happen to those that are employed in field sports, such as hunting or coursing. The parts of the animal that are commonly affected are the postern, flexor or back tendon, and shoulder; in the hind leg, the fetlock, stifle, and round bone. I have devoted a considerable part of my time and study to these cases, and have always found inflammation to prevail or affect the parts less or more according to the severity of the strain; and I am fully persuaded that reduction of blood, cooling physic with fomentations, and emollient preparations applied to the parts affected, are the most effectual and expeditious mode of cure.

Strains proceed from an unusual or violent extension of the muscles, ligaments, and tendinous fibres that surround or cover the joint, consequently, whatever means are used, time and rest are indispensibly necessary to complete the cure. In whatever part or joint the strain may happen, take from one to two Scotch pints of blood, according to the violence of the strain and strength of the animal, and give the undermentioned medicine—

Barbadoes Aloes in powder	-	-	6 dr.
Rhubarb	do.	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Nitre	-	-	2 oz.
Tincture of Ginger	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

The above should be divided into two parts; one part should be given in a little gruel immediately after the accident is discovered, and the other part should be given in six hours after. The animal should get bran mash and warm water, and be kept as quiet as possible after the first medicine is done operating. One ounce of nitre and two ounces of cream of tartar should be

given in a little gruel every day, for four or five days, to keep the bowels open; the part to be affected should be well rubbed with hog's lard, and the following bath laid on:—Take a considerable quantity of dried camomile flowers, add as much boiling water as possible to swell them, but not more than the flowers can contain, that the juice or strength be not lost, then mix a gill of vinegar to the bath, and apply it to the part affected, as warm as the animal can bear it; this bath should be repeated every day for three or four days, and a little warm water should be added occasionally to the bath, moist. If the accident should happen in a part where the bath cannot be applied, the part affected should be fomented frequently with camomile tea, with some vinegar and sugar of lead mixed in it. After the bath or fomentation has been used as long as it is thought necessary, the following bracing mixture should be used:—

Spirit of Salammoniac	-	2 oz.
Camphorated Spirit of Wine	-	2 oz.
Sugar of Lead	-	2 oz.

The above ingredients to be mixed in a choppin of water, and the part affected should be well rubbed with the mixture twice a-day for several days, and bandaged up middling tight. Observe to shake the mixture well every time it is used.

For a strain in the shoulder, I have found a roll in the chest to prove serviceable; or, if a horse should be strained in the styffe, or in the round bone, I would recommend a rowel to be put in the thigh, and the under means used, as I have directed above. If any hard swelling remains after the inflammation has subsided, and the animal in the way of recovery, blistering will be the most effectual means of removing it.

In all cases of strains, the animal should be put into a roomy place, where he can step about at his own convenience, or as he may feel himself able, as it is better to bring the affected parts gradually into action, for, if the animal be forced on to exertions when he first begins to recover, it will, almost to a certainty, renew the complaint, and retard the progress of the cure probably three times as long as might otherwise be required. I would add a number of receipts for strains which I have tried; but I think it is unnecessary, for the means that I have pointed out are easily obtained, and are what I have proved to be the most successful, and, as I before observed, whatever means are used, time and rest are indispensable.

Strains and hurts in the kidneys occasionally happen to farm horses, and are generally caused by extra exertion in drawing a loaded cart through a boggy place. The injury may be known by the following symptoms:—The animal will be very weak in the back, will yield to the pressure of the hand on his loins, and feel difficulty in making water—the urine being often dark coloured and sometimes mixed with blood. This complaint is often attended with fever and loss of appetite. In this case I would recommend the following medicine to be given every day for four successive days.

For each dose take

Salt of Tartar	-	-	1 oz.
Cream of Tartar	-	-	2 oz.
Nitre	-	-	2 oz.

The above should be given in a bottle of camomile tea with some honey or treacle in it, and a strengthening plaster should be put on the loins; for which, take common pitch and tar an equal quantity of each, to be melted and mixed together, and applied over the loins quite warm. A piece of woollen cloth should be put over it while warm to make it adhere to the part; let the animal get bran mash and water.

Grease.

There are many different opinions regarding the cause and cure of this disease. I believe it commonly proceeds from weakness and general debility of the system. I have always found, in bleeding those that were affected with grease, that their blood contained an unusual quantity of serum, or yellow size, like melted glue. This evidently denotes that the disease originates in the blood, consequently, bleeding and purifying medicine are the principal means to be used for the cure. When a horse is discovered to swell in the hindlegs between the fetlock and hock while standing in the stable, and it partly disappears with exercise, there can be no doubt of his being inclined to grease; for which I would recommend some blood to be taken from the thigh vein. If both legs swell, some blood should be taken from each thigh vein, but not at the same time. There should be three or four days of an interval between each bleeding, and give two of the following purging balls. For each ball take

Barbadoes Aloes	-	-	7 dr.
Rhubarb in powder	-	-	2 dr.
Ginger do.	-	-	1 dr.

The above should be mixed with syrup or castor oil.

Horses that are exposed to go through rivers, or wet marshy ground, and are often allowed to stand with their legs wet and cold, are very liable to crack in the heels, and, sometimes, it will be attended with a considerable degree of inflammation and pain to the animal. In this case, I would recommend a poultice of turnips and bran, with some hog's lard in it, to be applied to the heels for two or three days. It may then be dressed with the following astringent ointment which will soon heal the part:—

Venice Turpentine	-	-	2 oz.
Hog's Lard	-	-	2 oz.
Alum and Sugar of Lead, each	-	-	1 oz.

The hog's lard and turpentine should be melted together, and the powders mixed through it, and applied to the part with lint or cotton caddis. Horses may have cracked or sore heels from various causes, when otherwise they may be quite sound in their constitution, and not at all inclined to

grease. High fed horses, when neglected in getting proper exercise, are very liable to swell and break out or crack in the heels, from which proceed mercurious humours of the system that settle in the part. I have known very bad cases of ulcerated heels from this cause.

In desperate cases of ulcerated sore heels I would recommend the following poultice:—wheat flour one pound, (second flour is best) moistened with new milk to a proper thickness for a poultice, then add three or four spoonfuls of yeast barm; let it stand near the fire till it begins to ferment, and apply it to the part affected. This poultice should be repeated for several days, and the part should be afterwards washed with the following lotion.

Corrosive Sublimate	-	2 dr.
Camphorated Spirit of Wine	-	2 oz.

Dissolve the sublimate in the spirit of wine, and put it into two gills of water; dress the ulcers in a feather dipped in the mixture, apply the astringent medicine, and bandage up as before directed. The lotion and ointment should be applied every day till the ulcers are healed up. In this case also, a purging ball or two should be applied frequently. Strong diuretic, or urine balls, are often used in these cases, but I find that an ounce of nitre powdered, and given in a little bran mash has generally as good an effect, and is better adapted to the constitution of the animal, for strong diuretic balls will weaken a horse to a considerable degree, and if given in too quick succession, there is danger of bringing on inflammation of the kidneys.

In the course of my practice, I have had many instances of horses swelling in the hind legs, from the fetlock to the styfe joint, in the course of one night, when they have gone into the stable at night apparently quite well, and no sign of swelling. This is commonly called a Shot of Grease. The animal, in this case, can scarcely lay a foot to the ground, and feels most acute pain; so much so, that by the pressure of a finger on the vein on the inside of the thigh, he will draw up his leg to such an extent, as to be in danger of falling or throwing himself over in consequence. In these cases, it is evident that the diseased inflammatory matter (that takes its seat in the limb in so short a time), must have existed within the system for a considerable time previous. I will endeavour to make some explanatory remarks on this point in the next section. For a shot of grease as above mentioned, I would recommend the swelled leg to be fomented with warm water as hot as a man can bear his hand in it conveniently, and continue to bathe it for a considerable time. As soon as the vein is perceptible in the thigh, take a good quantity of blood from it, at least two Scotch pints. The leg and thigh should be frequently fomented the first day, and dried with a towel every time it is bathed; at night the swelled parts should be well rubbed with hog's lard, particularly the inside of the thigh. In this case I would also recommend a purging ball, but before the purge

is given, for three successive days give the following powders:—

Crocus of Antimony	-	-	3 oz.
Nitre in powder	-	-	6 oz.

Mix them well together, divide into six parts, and give one at night and morning in a little bran mash or boiled barley. The swelling generally subsides in the course of three days by using the means I hereby prescribe, but I never think the cure complete till the animal has got two or three purges, for if this be neglected, there is a danger of the disease returning again—the second attack being commonly more severe than the first, and more difficult to remove. I, therefore, recommend the following purging ball. For each ball take

Barbadoes Aloes	-	-	6 dr.
Rhubarb in powder	-	-	1 dr.
Calomel	-	-	35 gr.
Ginger in powder	-	-	1 dr.

Surfeits, Hide-bound, and Mange.

These three cases are nearly allied to each other, and proceed from the same or similar causes, and are generally brought on by hard work and bad feeding; or by feeding with such kind of food as has not sufficient nourishment in it for supporting the juices that circulate through the animal, and which are so essentially necessary for invigorating and stimulating the whole system of action. What is termed Surfeit is a disease of the Skin or hide, which consists of small tumours or buds. In some cases they are not unlike fary buds, and in other cases the animal will be full of small scabs, which, when rubbed off, shows little thin acrimonious matter under them; this is termed a wet surfeit. The animal is generally very much hide-bound, the hide being tight to the ribs. This disease is very similar to the mange, only that in the mange the hair commonly comes off from the mane and upper part of the tail, and the animal will be constantly biting and rubbing himself.

The MANGE is partially infectious, and similar to the itch in the human system. Cleanliness and good grooming are the great preventatives against this distemper. Whenever those scorbutic eruptions appear on the skin, I would recommend some blood to be taken from the animal's neck, the quantity to be regulated according to age and strength, and the following powders to be given:—

Nitre in powder	-	-	12 oz.
Antimony in do.	-	-	6 oz.
Flour of Sulphur	-	-	6 oz.

The ingredients to be well mixed, and divided into 24 equal parts, two of which should be divided and given each day, night and morning, for 12 successive days, in bran mash, or boiled barley. If any symptoms of Mange appear, wash the diseased parts with the following mixture:—

Old Urine	-	-	1 Scotch pint.
Alum in powder	-	-	1 oz.
Oil of Vitriol	-	-	1 oz.

Mix the above together, and wash the scabbed parts with the mixture twice a day. If any part of the skin become red and sore and incline to ulcerate, it should be rubbed with a very small quantity of mercurial ointment. The remedies I have pointed out generally succeed in curing Surfeit or Mange, but in desperate cases I would recommend two purging balls to be given, which, if necessary time can be allowed, will prove the most permanent cure, and most likely to establish the animal's health. One ball should be given after the animal has taken one-half of the antimonial powders, and the second when the other half of the powders are finished, as before directed.

Canker, and Wounds in the Mouth.

It is but a too common occurrence that the sides and other parts of the mouth are wounded by the bit, which may be either too acute in its edges, or may not fit. Frequently deep wounds are, in consequence, inflicted in the sides and inner parts, more especially between the grinders and the tushes on which the bit rests. It is no uncommon occurrence for the entire flesh to be removed from between the tushes and grinders, and instances frequently occur of the bone likewise being so injured that portions of it have been torn away. It may well be conceived the very great pain this must occasion the poor animal. Those who have had even a very slight inflammation of the gums will readily have an idea of its sufferings. Every man of feeling will make it his first study that the bit fits the mouth of his horse properly, and that it can in no way injure either the sides of the mouth or palate. Even his own comfort ought to dictate this, for no horse can perform his work pleasantly while he is suffering under this irritating pain in the mouth. When the owner of a horse finds that the bone of the jaw is injured, he should immediately apply to a veterinary surgeon, but wounds and ulcers may be cured without the aid of a practitioner. The most simple remedies are tincture of myrrh diluted in an equal proportion of water. The parts should be frequently washed with this; or dissolve an ounce of alum in a quart of water, and use it as a wash. If the wound has become a settled ulcer and looks foul in the edges, then it should be touched with lunar caustic, or with the liquid nitrate of silver, which will stimulate it and cause it to heal. At the same time the above wash is applied to the parts, it will be proper to give a dose or two of the following medicine:—

Epsom or Rochelle Salts	-	7 oz.
Sulphur	-	2½ oz.

Diseases of the Tongue.—Tongue Bladders.

SYMPTOMS.—A careful groom will occasionally examine the interior of the mouths of the horses under his charge. If he notices any swelling of

the tongue he must ascertain from whence it comes; or his attention may be directed to this organ by a discharge of ropy saliva from the sides of the mouth. This will be found to have its origin in inflammation, caused by one large or many small bladders like swellings, on the under sides of the mouth, frequently extending its whole length.

BITTEN TONGUE.—It often happens that horses bite their tongues. This takes place generally during sleep. If the wound be slight it will heal of its own accord; when of a large extent veterinary aid must be called in, as it would be unsafe for a person not thoroughly acquainted with pathology to attempt a cure.

Diseases of Horses.—Reproductive System.

Very little need be said on this subject. None but fools will breed from animals that are not complete in structure and perfect in health. Mares in high condition should get a dose or two of physic, and lose a little blood, some few weeks before the season of meeting the male; and afterwards they might derive considerable benefit from a few courses of the following powders, one daily and six a course:—

Barbadoes Aloes	-	-	1 oz.
Rhubarb in powder	-	-	1 dr.
Ginger do.	-	-	1 dr.

Mix with syrup or castor oil. These powders purify the blood and keep the system cool; they are also the means of increasing the digestive powers, and altogether are well adapted to the circumstances of breeding mares.

REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF ENTIRE HORSES.—It is pleasant to see them in high condition; but extra fatness does not add to their reproductive powers, but the reverse. The horse possessed of good health, moderately fat, and which has the largest quantity of pure and healthy blood, is the animal best fitted for reproduction; but the largest quantity of good blood and the largest amount of fat are not compatible in the same animals. Large deposits of fat indicate an unhealthy, nerveless, and feeble tone of the animal powers. Such conditions are never met with in animals living free in a state of nature.

Parturition in the Mare.

I shall briefly refer to the most prominent symptoms of foaling, as the act of foaling in the mare should always be performed in the presence of an attendant. Often the act of parturition is so quickly done, that the placenta or after birth, and its membranes enclosing the foal, are expelled with a very few throes, and the foal is ushered into the world still confined from the atmosphere so that it cannot breathe, and if not relieved by human agency, very soon perishes. Hundreds are lost after this manner. The premonitory symptoms of foaling are:—the appearance of milk in the udder; that organ becomes enlarged; hot and tender milk may be pressed

from the paps; the vulva becomes enlarged, pluffy, and protruding; there is a peculiar restlessness about the animal, now lifting one leg then another. There is not much to be gathered from the length of time a mare may have gone with foal, unless you are acquainted with the time a certain animal requires. There is a wide range in their periods, from five weeks before to six weeks after eleven months, but eleven months may be taken as an average. As to the parturition, if the foal is rightly placed, and the mare strong, no help will be required; if the foal is wrong postured, lose not a moment in getting a qualified person to assist. I have known many mares lost through being handled in a bungling and brutal manner by a mere pretender.

For further information, J. Nimmo refers to the subjoined Manual of Farriery.

Worms.

Worms are very troublesome and destructive to horses; there are three different kinds of them, but those that breed in the stomach, termed bolts, are the most mischievous and dangerous. They often adhere to the sensible part of the stomach, and cause ulcerations, which gives excessive pain and uneasiness to the animal. I have heard of instances of horses being so much crippled and pained with bolts in the stomach, that it has been mistaken for a colic, and there are instances recorded of horses having died in consequence of the pernicious effects of these vermin. The principal symptoms which indicate that a horse is troubled with worms, are when he gets dull in spirits, gradually falling in condition, and becomes hide-bound with a rough, unhealthy-looking coat. On the supposition that a horse has worms, his dung should be regularly examined, for, if they prevail to a great degree, some of them frequently come off with the excrements; when this is observed, the sooner means are used for destroying them the better, for which I would recommend one ounce of antimony to be mixed in a mash of ground malt, and given at night, and the following medicine in the morning:—

Castor Oil	-	-	8 oz.
Oil of Turpentine	-	-	2 oz.

To be given in a little gruel for one dose. The malt mash and antimony should be given at night and the medicine in the morning, for two days in succession; the animal should get nothing for three hours after medicine is given in the morning, at which time he may get warm water and bran mash; walking exercise is necessary, but the horse should not be exposed to rain or cold while under the medicine. In desperate cases of worms, and when the constitution of the animal is strong and able to bear it, I have given the medicine three days in succession, but it should never be given less than two. Linseed oil may be given in place of castor oil, if it can be got more conveniently, but rather more in quantity should be given.

I have tried many experiments for killing worms, and have used a great variety of medicines, such as savins, tobacco, the strongest preparations of mercury, and metallic substances; but the means here pointed out I have ever found to be the safest and most effectual for destroying every kind of worms in horses.

Wounds and Bruises.

As wounds and bruises often happen amongst Farm Stock, I will endeavour to point out the means that should be used in various cases.

If a wound be made with a sharp cutting instrument in a fleshy part of the animal, the lips of the wound should be closed together, and sewed with a proper surgical needle and whited brown thread about six fold, or large enough not to cut the wound; each stitch should be separate, and between each rather more than an inch of space should be left; a little lint or cotton caddis should be put upon the wound, and bound up with a flannel bandage. Or, should it be put into a part where a bandage cannot be applied, a sticking plaster should be put over the wound, to shield it from air or dust, or anything that might prove injurious to it. The first dressing should not be removed for three or four days, at which time suppuration takes place, unless it should heal without adhesion, which will often take place if the animal is in good habit of body; but if any matter should appear on the lips of the wound, it should be carefully cleaned with a little lint or soft towel, and a little dry caddis put on and bandaged up as before. After the second dressing, if much matter clogs about the wound, it may be washed with soap and warm water every day for several days, and a little dry caddis put on the wound. The animal should be kept quiet, and his drink made about new milk warm, and two ounces of nitre should be given every day for four successive days—one ounce at night and the other in the morning, and a little bran mash or boiled barley. The above treatment is calculated to heal flesh wounds in less time than any ointment, salve or styptick I ever tried.

Wounds that happen by puncturing or stabbing by paling or other causes should be carefully examined with the finger, to take from out the wound any splits of wood, gravel, or other extraneous matter, and dress it with an equal quantity of hog's lard and Venice turpentine melted together; the mixture to be applied with a feather, and a little dried lint should be put into the mouth of the wound, and bandaged up. The first dressing should remain three days, by which time the wound generally suppurates; it should then be cleaned once or twice a-day by means of a little lint secured on a bit of cane, and passed up the wound to clean away any matter; the wound should be dressed with a feather dipped in a little brandy or tincture of myrrh, and a little lint kept in the mouth of the wound to keep it open till the wound gradually heals up. The animal should get warm water and bran mash, with nitre in it, as before directed. In any case

When the puncture or wound is deep, if in a fleshy part, and the entrance of the wound small, it should be opened or extended with a lancet, otherwise there is a danger of it closing up and confining the matter before the bottom part is healed, which has often been the cause of serious consequences.

Open Joints.

Too often, either riding or driving, the horse comes down. If you have not been thrown or injured you may be thankful. You come down; on getting up you look your pony's knees—they are open. The first thing you are to do is carefully, with warm water and a sponge, to foment the wounds and clean out the gravel. If there is not much of a wound, then apply a large bran poultice for a few days to reduce the inflammation, then use a cold lotion, such as:—

Sugar of Lead	-	-	1 oz.
White Vitriol	-	-	2 scr.
Rain or River Water	-	-	4 gills.

Mix. This will make a capital lotion for cleaning and healing the sore. If the joint is opened it must be closed with the cautery. You must get better skill if you wish to give your beast justice.

Galled Back, &c.

Often riding or cart saddle, or the collar may injure the shoulders, excoriating the skin and leaving a nasty sore; or it may be only fretted, the skin raised hot and tender. When this is the case the animal evinces much uneasiness when newly put to work in the morning. Shoulders of young horses, unaccustomed to the collar, are liable; with such it is dangerous, as it may be the means of inducing them to refuse the draught, and spoil them for life with the vice of setting. When the skin is simply raised, but not opened, spirits of wine and good vinegar is the best application for removing the inflammation. The spirits, by evaporation, produce a great deal of cold; the vinegar remains to keep the place moist, preserving in a good degree the reduced temperature of the part. Sometimes the skin is completely denuded of hair, quite bare, and violently inflamed. Rest ought to be given, and the parts fomented with warm water to cleanse and soften them; then apply the lotion, viz:—

Sugar of Lead	-	-	1 oz.
Sulphate of Zinc	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Water	-	-	1 pt.

Mixed. Sometimes there will be inflicted a bruise on the centre (or nearly so) of the back of the horse; it is very soon a soft tumour on the ridge of the back. Some recommend blistering these. I never make a good job with blistering, but I never failed in effecting a cure if I put a seton in such, with a dependent opening to either side—the most convenient. There

are what are called Sitfasts. These always occur beneath the saddle, and are in reality a part (a circumscribed part) of the natural skin become hard and horny by severe continued pressure. The Sitfast is, when fairly formed, like a bit of old leather sunk in the horny skin. It acts the part of a foreign body. Matter forms below it; still it has a very firm connection with the surrounding skin. The best way of removing it is to rub a little strong blister ointment all round the edges, between the dead and the living. In a very few days it will suppurate and may be lifted out, when the suppurating part which it has left may be dressed with the lotion marked above.

Sore Shoulders.

Farm horses are very liable to be injured on the shoulders or back with collar or cart saddle; in these cases stypticks are commonly used to dry up the wound, which is quite contrary to the nature of this kind of sores. Lime water and linseed oil are what I have found most beneficial in these cases. It may be prepared in the following way:—Put a Scotch pint of water upon two pounds of unslaked lime, let it stand till the ebullition is over, then pour off the liquor for use, and add five gills of linseed oil and two ounces of sugar of lead; mix them well together and keep the solution in a bottle ready for use. When the animal comes in from work at night, the sores should be washed with soap and water, dried with a soft towel, and dressed with a feather dipped in the mixture. This process should be repeated every night until the sores are healed, observing to shake the mixture well every time it is used.

On the Pulse.

It is essentially necessary for those that undertake the management of sick horses to understand their pulsation, for it is from the state of the pulse that bleeding and administering medicine is in a great measure to be regulated. In healthy horses the pulsation varies considerably betwixt youth and age, and temperament of body, and beats from 35 to 45 times in a minute, but the general standard is 40; consequently, the farther the pulsation exceeds the standard, the greater the degree of disease. Whenever it exceeds 50 in a minute the horse may be considered to have a degree of fever, and should be bled and get some cooling physic. If this was attended to when the animal first begins to droop and lose his appetite, it might be the means of saving many valuable horses. The pulse may be distinctly felt in the left side, or in an artery that crosses the under part of the jaw bone.

Rowelling.

This operation is very beneficial in many cases to produce suppuration, and is often used for removing internal inflammation and fever. The

operation is performed by cutting the skins, to admit the introduction of finger or thumb, so as to separate the skin from the flesh for about three inches round them. A piece of leather cut in a round shape, about two inches in diameter, should be covered with a little lint, and dipped in an equal quantity of hog's lard and Venice turpentine melted together, and put into the wound: two or three teats of tow should be dipped in the mixture, and put in with the rowel. Two days afterwards the teats should be taken out, but the rowel should be allowed to remain in, and should be turned every day for three weeks, at which time it should be taken out. If a rowel is used for relieving a horse labouring under any internal fever or inflammation, it should be charged with blistering ointment, which will produce a considerable degree of inflammation externally in a short time, and, consequently, more likely to give the animal relief in any internal disease. It should be observed whenever rowelling is made use of, that the animal should get warm water and bran mash, and not be exposed to cold till the matter discharges freely.

Ring Bones, Splints.

A RING BONE is a hard swelling that grows on the lower part of the postern, near the coronet, and generally extends round the front from heel to heel; or, if only on each side, it may be termed the splinters of the ring bone.

A SPLINT is a substance of superfluous bone that grows on the inside of the fore leg on the shank below the knee bone; but it seldom causes lameness unless it communicates with the joint.

A BONE SPAVIN is a substance of bone that grows on the inside of the hock, and if near by, or on the joint, it causes lameness.

A CURB is a hard swelling on the back part of the hock below the knuckle, or cap of the hock; and the more it interferes with the joint, the more it impedes its motion, or causes lameness.

These four complaints arise from various causes, and are very similar in their nature. The only cure yet discovered for them consists in fireing and blistering, the execution of which should always be entrusted to a professional man. For Thorough-pins, Blood or Bog Spavins, Winds, Galls, &c., it is seldom that any other means are used but blistering.

There are several diseases which the horse is liable to which I have not touched, particularly in the foot—such as Canker, Quittors, &c. In these cases the services of a veterinary surgeon are indispensably necessary, and, as I have not made any new discovery for the cure of these, I shall not enter further on that point. But I particularly recommend the owners of horses, in all cases which they do not understand, to make early application to a professional man, for as the proverb hath it “a stitch in time saves nine.”

I will conclude this part of my work by making a few general remarks with some advice ; but before I commence with that part, I will note down two prescriptions for blisters.

For a paste blister.—Take four ounces of hog's lard and four ounces of Venice turpentine, melt them over a slow fire, and when they are in a liquid state not too hot, mix in the following :—Euphorbium in powder, 1 oz. ; Spanish flies, in powder, 1 oz. ; oil of thyme, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. For a liquid blister—take rape oil, 1 gill ; oil of turpentine, 2 oz. ; oil of thyme, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ; Spanish flies, 1 oz. The above should be mixed when it is used, and if applied for a ring bone or spavin it should be well rubbed into the part affected with a spatula, or the back of a horn spoon, for fifteen or twenty minutes. The first time it is used, the blister may be used for three or four successive days, but after the first dressing a little of the mixture should be rubbed in with the fingers, and the spatula or spoon should be omitted. Blistering is very useful in many cases, and there are vast varieties of mixtures used for it, but I have found the two which I have subscribed to answer the purpose in all cases when blistering is required ; but it is of the greatest importance to have genuine drugs.

Poll Evil.

This disease most commonly happens from hurts and bruises, and some times from violent strains, which may happen by the animal hanging back on his stall collar. These causes produce inflammation between the poll bone and the first vertebrae of the neck, and often ulcerates and spreads a considerable distance round, so as to injure the bones of the neck before it breaks, or any appearance of matter is to be seen. In this case there is no sure mode of cure but by laying the parts fairly open, and cutting away the diseased and rotten parts, which should be performed by an experienced operator, as there is a danger of injuring the ligaments and tendons of the neck. As soon as the operation is performed, the part should be dressed with the following styptick :—

Oil of Vitriol	-	-	1 oz.
Corrosive Sublimate	-	-	2 dr.

The above should be well mixed, and applied to the part after the bleeding subsides. This styptick will check any further progress of putrefaction. The wound should then be brought to suppuration by being dressed with lint or tow dipped in basilicon ointment, and the lips of the wound should be closed with two or three stitches, leaving a space of two inches between each stitch. As soon as a good matter discharges from the wound, it will require nothing but to be kept clean, and washed with a solution of blue vitriol and water. The animal should get an ounce of nitre in a little bran mash for several days after the operation is performed.

Nimmo's Art of Horsemanship.

HAVING practised the following system of Horsemanship upwards of thirty years with the greatest success, I have no doubt it will prove useful to others as well as me. I shall commence my remarks by stating that every foal should be led with a halter made of leather, or some other soft material. Rope should never be used, either to lead or bind a young horse ; because, when a horse tightens the rope its hardness hurts and irritates him, and he immediately plunges and struggles to rid himself of so painful an encumbrance. When you have so far subdued the colt that he will allow himself to be led quietly by the halter, you should then proceed to learn him to stand or walk as you command, always using one particular word when you wish him to go, and another of quite different sound when commanding him to stop. The

sound made by the horsemen in Aberdeen and Banff shires, when starting their horses is exactly the same report as you hear when performing that agreeable feat called kissing. "St" is used when a horse is desired to stand. Now, you will easily perceive that the two are so alike that a horse can scarcely distinguish the one from the other. The consequence is that he very often does the opposite of what the driver wishes him to do, and receives in return a sound beating,—which, I think, would be better bestowed on the horseman than the horse. "Woa" should be used instead of "St."

When the colt is two years old he should be made acquainted with the bit and bridle; but great care is necessary while smoothing the colt, as a rash or sudden check of the rein attached to the bit will give him great pain; and if any one wishes a horse to become a confirmed rearer, there is no method that could answer the purpose better than the cruel jerking and checking to which horses are so often subjected. Before attempting to yoke a young horse, he should have the harness put on and then led gently about until you perceive that he is neither irritated or frightened—this should be repeated several times previous to yoking; then take two pieces of rope, (plough reins will do), and fasten one on each side of the haims, draw them through the circingle or backband, and get some one to take the ropes, one in each hand, and pull gently as the colt moves on—continuing to do so with greater force as the colt gets accustomed to the draught. When turning the horse round the ropes should be pressed against his legs, to imitate the pressure made by the traces when in harness. The general system of horse training adopted by the farmers in this country is very absurd. They keep their young horses in parks and horse boxes until they are considered fit for farm work, and are then driven into a stable and harnessed, which is no sooner done than they are led forth and yoked. Is it to be wondered at that the horse struggles and tries every means in his power to regain his liberty? It is really astonishing that under such treatment so few horses become kickers, setters, biters, or rearers as there actually are. Could it reasonably be supposed that an animal so brave and fearless as the horse would quietly submit to become the slave of man, without a desperate struggle for that liberty which until then no attempt had been made to deprive him of? It might as well be expected of a man who could neither read nor write to translate a Greek or Latin passage into English, as for an untrained horse to go gently in harness. I shall now proceed to give a few effectual cures for vicious horses.

How to cure a Horse of Kicking Persons in the Stable.

Kicking is the chief power which the horse possesses of defending himself when assailed by an enemy; consequently, he has recourse to it when attacked by man or beast. Inquire into the history of any notable kicker, and you will invariably find that the kicking commenced at some time when the horse had been harshly used or frightened. To cure a horse of kicking:—Drive a hook or staple into the roof of the stable, behind the stall where the kicker stands, and having filled a bag or sack with chaff, fasten a plough rein to the mouth of the bag, draw the rein through the hook or staple until the bag is nearly three feet from the ground, and tie up the rein so as to keep the bag firmly in that position. Then fasten a piece of rope about eight feet long to the bottom of the bag; take this rope in your hand, and step back into the next stall. Speak to the horse the same as if you was going up beside him—at the same time pull the rope, and this will bring the bag in contact with his buttocks. He will naturally suppose that it is your "Corpus" pressing against him, and will immediately kick most furiously. But all to no purpose! For every kick the bag receives it always returns the compliment by rebounding back against the horse's buttocks, until, at length, the horse is quite tired out, and finds that he has only come off second best in the combat. The bag should again be pressed against him,

when, perhaps, if he happen to be a very determined kicker, he may give one or two kicks, but that will be the extent of it. Should he not leave off kicking after a trial of the above plan you can easily repeat the process, and, no matter how determined the horse may be, he must eventually succumb. This cure should be put in force at night; for, if the horse saw the bag properly, he would have no difficulty in detecting the deception.

To cure a Horse of kicking in harness.

Fasten a piece of cord round the horse's tail in such a way that it will not slip off. Take it through between his hind and fore legs, and tie it firmly to the breast-strap of the haims, and I have never yet seen a horse that could kick when tied down in this manner.

To cure a Horse of Setting.

One of the best cures for a setter is to strap up one of his fore legs, when after standing for a while on three legs, the animal is generally as willing to start as the person who has him in charge.

Another cure for setting is to fasten a ring on the top of the britchin, get a piece of new, hard, plough rein, pass it through the ring and in below the horse's tail, bring it back again through the ring, then take an end of the rein in each hand and pull, first with one hand and then with the other. Thus, a sawing sort of motion is created, which the horse feels so disagreeable that he starts off at a trot or gallop to leave his tormentor behind.

To cure a Horse of Biting.

Take twenty drops of oil of peil, half an ounce of mustard, two table spoonfuls of vinegar, and thirty drops of creosote; mix them together. Then dip a piece of cloth in the mixture, wrap it round a walking stick, and when a horse opens his mouth to bite you dexterously thrust the stick and cloth into his mouth. The cloth being saturated with the the mixture has such a horrible taste that no horse will attempt to bite, after tasting my celebrated condiment.

To cure a Horse of Rearing.

Get a pretty strong strap of leather with a buckle attached to one end, fasten on two bits of wood, each about three-quarters of an inch thick, the distance between the pieces of wood to be the exact breadth of the bridge of a horse's nose. Then take a piec of cord and fasten it to the strap so as to make a halter, tighten the strap by means of the buckle, and each piece of wood will press slightly above the horse's nostrils; you have now only to fasten a piece of rope to the strap, and tie the other end to the girth of the saddle or circingle. With this contrivance a horse will never succeed in rearing.

For farther particulars regarding the Art of Horsemanship, apply to

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