

THE HORSE DISEASE.

The Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat has a letter from a well-known and successful veterinary Surgeon, upon the nature and symptoms of the disease now raging among the horses at the East. We copy as follows:

I think it cannot be properly regarded as a new disease. It is clearly a form of influenza that has occurred frequently in the United States, as it has often had in different portions of Europe. Three forms of influenza are spoken of by veterinary authors: The catarrhal, rheumatic, and the gastro-cryspelatus form.

The disease which is now seizing so generally the horses of this city is plainly of a catarrhal character. The first noticeable symptoms will be a flow of tears from the eyes, a watery discharge from the nose and general languor. Next a cough, which, becoming more frequent, will soon occur in paroxysms. In the commencement the membranes of the nose will be found pale or of a leaden color, and those of the eyes presenting a yellowish or reddened appearance. Many cases are ushered on with a chill. All this is soon succeeded by a general feverish condition, manifested by heat of mouth, membranes of the eyes and nose reddened, pulse frequent, though soft and easily compressed, respiration quickened and some times laborious. At this stage the bowels may be sluggish, urinary organs inactive and the discharge from the nose often assuming a yellowish or greenish appearance.

The disease usually runs its course within ten days, and with proper treatment few if any cases ought to prove fatal. Those those that do so are usually complicated with other diseases, as bronchitis or pneumonia.

Treatment—The patient should be excused from all labor and allowed complete rest. The stables should be cleaned and well ventilated. Disinfectants may be useful and in some necessary. Either of the following will answer: Carbolic acid, sulphate of iron, or boro-chloratum. The patient should be properly groomed, and the nose and eyes frequently sponged with water, and the limbs, if cold, bandaged. The drink should have the chill slightly removed, but not enough to make it warm and unpalatable. The diet should be light and of a laxative nature; say spout feed or bran, wetted or scalded, with a little salt added. Hay in limited quantities may be allowed.

In regard to remedies I wish to say that heroic treatment should not be tolerated. Bloodletting, cathartic nauseants, and arterial sedatives, are all of them either injurious or uncalculated for. Next, whatever medicines are administered, should not be given in the form of draughts or drenches, as the animal is sure to be thrown into a paroxysm of coughing, the moment a drench is attempted, and some of the medicine will in such event be almost sure to find its way into the wind-pipe and bronchial tubes, thus inducing fatal bronchitis or pneumonia. Balls should not be given as they will be coughed back or out and the irritability of the throat will be increased in attempting to pass them over with the hands or fingers. Powders are well high useless as when mixed with the food the patient will usually refuse both food and powders. Electuaries, syrups, or pastes are the only forms in which medicine may be safely administered in cases where the throat is tender and irritable and coughing easily induced.

Saline medicines I regard as the most useful in this disease. Either of the following will answer: Chlorate of potash, murate of ammonia or hypophosphite of soda. As an anodyne to relieve the cough, fluid extract of belladonna may be added. The proper dose of either of these medicines may be rubbed up with two or three ounces of honey or molasses and these poured in the mouth from a small bottle or placed on the tongue with a spoon. Given in this way, the medicines will be readily lapped up and easily swallowed. But little trouble is required to give it, and no danger of getting any medicine in the trachea will be incurred by this method. About the throat and over the wind-pipe a sharp, stimulating liniment should be well rubbed in. In cases that prove severe or are complicated with other and more serious diseases, a competent veterinarian should be used.

E. MINK.

The Buffalo Express gives the following in relation to the disease as explained by William Somerville, authority on such subjects:

"The symptoms are, in the early stages, a starting coat, dry or hacking cough, moving with reluctance, and general dullness; nasal membrane at first pale; watery discharge from one or both nostrils; ears and legs cold. As the disease advances the membranes become highly colored; the discharge from the nostrils changes to a mucous of greenish or yellow color; the pulse, which at first was low, is quickened; and the breathing is also quickened, and in some cases

obstructed and labored. Should the animal be kept at work, the disease, which in its early stages is local, with light catarrhal fever, and confined principally to the bronchial tubes, will be extended to the chest; the covering of the lungs (pleura) will be involved, and the symptoms of pleurisy a disease of a more formidable character to contend with, immediately follows.

"The treatment is as follows: First, stop working the animal; when in the stable keep the body warm by clothing; give warm bran mash and chilled water; apply an exciting embrocation on the windpipe from the throat to the breast; in the early stages give stimulants, but when the disease advances and the pulse becomes quickened, sedative medicine will have to be given to arrest the inflammatory symptoms.

"Cathartics and nauseating medicines should not be administered. Bleeding is dangerous and should not be practiced."

The source of the disease was in Canada, where it has raged with peculiar virulence, and its ravages have by no means abated. In Toronto, while the epidemic was at its height, it was almost impossible to secure a horse for any purpose. The street railroads were obliged to suspend operations, and carriages, both public and private, cabs, trucks, and in fact all vehicles moved by horse power were in the same predicament. The disease first made its appearance on this side of the river on Friday, October 11th, at Niagara Falls.

ANTIQUITY OF FERMENTED LIQUIDS.—It is highly creditable to the ingenuity of our ancestors that the peculiar property of fermented liquors, in virtue of which they "make glad the heart of man," seems to have been known in the remotest periods of which we have any record. All savages take to alcoholic fluids as if they were to the manor born. Our Verdier forefathers intoxicated themselves with the juice of the "soma"; Noah, by a not unnatural reaction against a superfluity of water, appears to have taken the earliest practicable opportunity of qualifying that which he was obliged to drink; and the ghosts of the ancient Egyptians were sojaced by pictures of banquets in which the wine-cup passes around, graven on the walls of their tombs. A knowledge of the process of fermentation, therefore, was in all probability possessed by the pre-historic population of the globe; and it must have become a matter of great interest even to primeval wine-bibbers to study the methods by which fermented liquids could be surely manufactured. No doubt, therefore, it was soon discovered that the most certain, as well as the most expeditious, way of making a sweet juice ferment was to add to it a little of the serum or lees of another fermenting juice.—And it can hardly be questioned that this singular excitation of fermentation in one fluid by a sort of infection or inoculation of a little ferment taken from some other fluid, together with the strange swelling, foaming, and hissing of the fermented substance, must have always attracted attention from the more thoughtful. Nevertheless, the commencement of the scientific analysis of the phenomena dates from a period not earlier than the first half of the seventeenth century.—Popular Science Monthly.

VERMONT MERINOS.—One of the largest and most important transactions in Spanish Merinos has been lately effected in Vermont by Messrs. Ripley & Sons of Rutland, through Mr. S. F. Kelly, a well-known breeder of sheep. Eight hundred bucks, selected from among the richest blooded flocks in Rutland and Addison counties, have been purchased for shipment to South Colorado. Three hundred go to the Hon Thos. O. Boggs, of Bent county, to replace the long-wooled bucks from Canada, carefully tested by him for the past two years. Having tried Cotswold, Leicester, South-Downs and Spanish Merino side by side, he pronounced unqualifiedly for the Vermont Merino as the best sheep to cross upon the Mexican. Another three hundred are for Messrs. Ripley & Thomas of Bent county Colorado, and the remainder for the general market. With these sheep will go several Short-Horns to reinforce their herds, some fine fowls, Scotch collies and blood pigs. The stock left Vermont about the first of October.—Lexington Fur, Home Jour.

Coal Formations.

A gentleman of our city sends us a letter in which he desires our opinion in regard to the various coal formations. He also wishes to know if we believe in the vegetable origin of coal.

In the first place, we know that the formation took on the carbon and became coal, in association with water, as the plants of the coal measures are all of them marine and swamp plants; and the complete preservation from decay of all wood forms found in them—the sandstones and clays are all deposited by the action of water, as in the coal beds they are stratified. We do not believe in the peat theory alone, that the coal formation was made up alone of the growing bog plants. At times this growth may have resulted in the formation of a seam or seams of coal, but when we come to consider that drift timber is often found, and also occurs in the clays and rocks or sandstones above the coal—we are led to regard the drift as occupying an important agency in the coal formation of the West. We take it for granted that our correspondent is asking our opinion upon the formation of the coal beds of the great West, as there is a vast difference between the formations in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and the Indian Territory, and those farther eastward, westward, and at the south. We believe the great central western coal fields to have been the shores of a swamp, more than 2,000 miles in extent around it; and in the measures the marine plants predominating.

The finding of very fine, delicate plants, in a state of preservation, in a certain stratum of a coal vein, is evidence that it was not formed by any drift agency, while immediately above it is sure evidence of drift matter having produced the formation of coal.

From the most careful estimates made by Prof. Boussingault and Prof. Le Conte, it has required more than one half million years to produce the coal formation of the Mississippi valley alone.

Near the Canadian river, in the Indian Territory, we collected many specimens showing the beds of coal to be entirely formed of forest trees. In the specimens there are recognized forms of Pinus ponderosa—wood, bark, cone, and foliage, all very perfect and complete.—St. Louis Rural World.

THE WAY TO KEEP SUNDAY.—The Lord's day is a good day in which to learn to love your neighbor as yourself. I do not think it is a great sin if your neighbor has his side door open on the Sabbath day for you to walk across the lawn and sit on his porch, and talk with him of things seemly. I think the Lord likes that. I do not think that if your household is more radiant, and your children wake up and say (as I never did), "Thank God, it is Sunday!" I don't think that if you make it the best day of the week, and your children are good natured, and joyful, that they are any the worse. I believe in making the holes for the buckle a little lower down. Let our Lord's day be a church day in the morning, and a family day the rest of the time. I think that we preach too much. I think that we overteach and overtax in the Sabbath-school. I think we are making the Lord's day laborious. I do not think that we use Sunday enough to make the family finer, sweeter, more homogeneous, more social and so more religious. I see many, many men who come to church stern and still. They would not for all the world ride in a street car on a Sunday—no; nor go over the ferry on Sunday—no; nor do anything at home that made them agreeable—no! I do not hold up their way of keeping the Sabbath as a model. Sunday is a day of household love. It is a day in which the children ought to feel that their father and mother never were so handsome before, and never so good. It is a day in which every part of the household should, at the going down of the sun, be able to say, "Thank God for this open door of heaven which has poured out so many happy hours on us!"—Henry Ward Beecher.

The Roseburg Plaindealer says: The rain storm which for the last week has visited our valley, was the severest we have known for several years at this season. It thoroughly saturated the ground, and while it has rendered the road heavy and retarded the completion of the railroad, it has proven invaluable to our farmers and stock-raisers. The sun, which is now shining bright and warm will start the young grass and enable the farmers to commence their plowing. The breadth of ground to be sown this Fall will far exceed that of any previous year.

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