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Miramichi, Monday Evening, March 27, 1843.

Agricultural Journal.

From the London Lancet.

Nature and treatment of Splents in Horses.—In 'The Lancet,' for Nov. 5th, page 223, there is a quotation from the 'Veterinarian,' on the cure of splents in horses; but, lest an injudicious use of the means therein proposed for the cure of splents should occur, I consider it of some importance to your readers, (two thirds of whom are probably interested in that noble, and to us, indispensable animal the horse) to offer you some observations on the nature and treatment of this disease, as it is mis-called.

Nature of the Affection.—If the reader will take the trouble to examine the shank, or cannon bone, of a four year old horse which has done no work, he will find two thin, or splent bones, attached one on each side of the cannon bone, and running parallel with it. Tracing them from their small end upwards, their heads will be found to form a portion of the knee-joint, especially on the inner side for the heap of that splent bone being larger than the other, it offers a more extensive articulating surface for the small bones (analogous to the human carpus) which compose the joint, and therefore 'splents' are usually found on the inner side of the legs.

The natural bond of union between the cannon and splent bones is an elastic membraniform substance, intended to abate the shock which might otherwise be given to the shaft of this bone by the rapid movements of the animal, and consequently, to the sensitive parts of the inferior joints.

I should premise that all young bones, or bones which, from the youth of the animal cannot have received their due form, are much more vascular than adult bones. Let us now imagine the legs of this colt to be over weighted by a rider, to be taken from the turf whereon he was soaled, and made to travel, week after week, at a quick pace, along the turn pike road. What would any reader expect to be the result? An inflammatory action in the vessels of both fore legs; an attempt on the part of the vis medicatrix nature to defend the long canon bone from being injuriously jarred, by strengthening its sides. Periosteal and ossific matter become poured out from and about the elastic intervening material of the cannon and splent bones, and especially the inner one, from its greater share in the formation of the knee joint. The periosteum becomes ossific, uniting the splent and cannon bone together, and forming, in truth, nature's additional splent, attached in a manner to the moveable bones, which laughs to scorn our adjustment of splents on a fracture. Will the reader now discard his horse as unsound, diseased; or will he not rather admire the protecting power of nature which she has so ingeniously employed to defend a dumb animal from the unreasonable treatment of a reasoning and talking one?

If I have succeeded in pointing

out correctly the nature of this so called disease, would it not be better to leave our horse in wiser hands than our own, and take the boon of the splent in lieu of inflammation of the feet and small joints? When the horse has arrived at seven or eight years old, nature has usually done with the old splent, and it becomes absorbed; if not, this deposit may be removed in two or three months by the application of a very simple liniment.

Its Treatment.—Instruct your groom to rub, night and morning, during five minutes, into a circle of two inches from the centre of the splent, enough of the following liniment to thoroughly wet the hair: [R Oil of origanum, oil of turpentine, of each, 1 oz.; rectified spirits of wine, ½ oz., mix. Make a liniment.] In a few days some scurf will be seen amongst the hair of the part; let him then proceed with the liniment, with caution, turning the hair against its course to observe if the skin is giving off a little moisture; if so, discontinue the rubbing until the skin is become dry; recommence and re-omit the infraction according to the state of the skin. The removal of the eye sore called 'splent,' will be effected probably within the above period. I have removed a splent of old standing in a horse aged 14, within three months, by this means. Now it becomes necessary to say, were the treatment by binding on lead, as mentioned in your former number, to be adopted in the supposed case of this colt's splent, inflammation of a more serious character would, in all probability be thereby excited. I have witnessed this disaster in one well marked case, and I have heard of it in others, and it is with the hope of preventing my favourite animal from being unnecessarily tortured by such treatment, and in short, for the cause of philoposity, which induces me to trouble you with this communication.

The splent, or rather, the exostosis, mentioned in the 'Veterinarian,' is a different affection from the above, though easily mistaken for it. In that disease, occasioned by natural malposition of the horse's fore legs, or from bad shoeing, he strikes one or both cannon bones with his hoofs or shoes, and that is the origin of this misnamed splent. Here, again, the above treatment will suffice for its removal, defending the leg during the cure with an India rubber boot.

But the lean compress is a clumsy, useless, and probably dangerous application; still it may be tried when the liniment fails, which will seldom happen.

I have now acquitted myself of my kindly intention towards my equine companions for these twenty years, and in their name I solicit forgiveness for having thus far intruded on your valuable pages.

T. CHIRURGUS.

Worcester, Nov. 12, 1842.

Management of Horses.—Messrs. Gaylor & Tucker—I send you my experience and observations on the treatment and management of Horses. As there is no animal that contributes so largely to the comforts of man, as the horse, it is highly important that

we understand their proper treatment.

With regard to the Colt Distemper, my practice is, whenever they show signs of that disease, to give them tar: which I do by taking a small paddle, and with it putting the tar down about the root of the tongue and back teeth; this done a few days in succession, has always proved an effectual cure.

With regard to Botts, I only say with a writer in the Cultivator keep the Bott nit shaved off your horse, I offer this advice from an experience of 40 years.

One of the most necessary arts in raising horses, is to understand castrating: but before I commence, I must say to my brother farmers, throw away all your traditional customs, such as your iron clamps, hazel stick, searing irons, tallow candles, fat pork, cording twine, and a number of other operations, that only serves to torment and disable the animal. It is astonishing that such practices have continued for so many centuries. Throw the horse in the usual way, and with as little exercise for the horse as possible: after making him secure, without any further preparation, I proceed to extracting the castings precisely in the ordinary way of altering a pig taking care not to cut across the veins, and to be very careful to scrape the cord of the casting off, instead of cutting it square off, this will prevent too much bleeding. I then apply a little salt and lard to the wound, rubbing a little lard upon the loins to prevent cold: but do not know that those precautionary measures are necessary, for I have had them do equally well without using anything but the knife. In this way, horses will stiffen or swell but very little, and will require no further applications and in a few days they are fit for use. If they show too great a disposition to bleed keep them from exercise for 24 hours.

Let me say to all who have skittish horses, cut off your blinds and if your horse, scare at a leaf let them see that it is only a leaf. A horse is a reasonable animal, and if he has a chance to look around him, he is not going to run unless something shows a disposition to hurt him. If drivers would take the precaution to turn a horse's head quick towards the danger from which he cannot be reined, and let the animal see, he would be as ready to shun the danger as his driver. Two years since, I had a pair of horses that ran away at every unnatural touch or noise, until I cut off the blinds of the bridle, and they have never run away since. To test the truth of this, put a blind bridle on a skittish ox, and he will be almost unmanageable. Respectfully your agricultural friend.

CLINTON SHATTUCK.

Galena, Ill. 1842.

A new method of Grafting Apple Trees.—Plant the seed in rows, at a suitable distance from each other, and the hills say five feet apart in each row. But one tree should be suffered to grow in a place. Now when the young tree is sufficiently grown, in the Spring of the second or third

year, any quantity of fruit may be grafted into it in the following manner: First, bend the tree over and obtain for it a firm resting place, either on a block or a board resting on the knee (after it has been divested of its branches) and with a stout sharp pointed knife pierce holes directly through the centre of the tree, about five inches apart, into which the scions are to be introduced—leaving above, two or three buds. A trench is then to be dug, in a direct line between the trees, about four inches deep, and the whole tree bent down and buried—leaving the scions above ground. In this new condition, the scions become, uniformly, thrifty young trees, supported and nourished from the buried tree, from which issue, in due time, roots from its entire length.—The second year from this operation, the whole present tree may be dug up, the new growth sawed apart, and transplanted.

It will thus be seen that if the tree is five feet height, ten or twelve young trees, of whatever quality is chosen, may be obtained in this way, whereas by any ordinary method of grafting, there be but one, provided the graft lived. The young scion will bear fruit, thus transplanted, in the same time it would had it been grafted into a tree fifteen years old.

I know not whether this process is new among your agricultural community in the north; but I have repeatedly witnessed it in Georgia and Alabama, and I have repeatedly been informed by some of the best horticulturists in those States, that it is always successful.

Prevention of Accidents by Fire.

A correspondent of The Courier recommends that after apparel, bed furniture, &c., is washed, it be rinsed in water in which a small quantity of saltpetre has been dissolved. This, he says, improves the appearance of the article, and should it come in contact with the fire, prevents its bursting into flame, so that the fire may be extinguished with ease.

Cement.—In the New England Farmer, vol. xii, No. 3, page 21, we find the following statement:—

"The late conquest of Algiers by the French, has made known a new cement used in the publick works of that city. It is composed of two parts of ashes, three of clay, one of sand; this composition, called by the Moors *Fabbi*, being again mixed with oil, resists the inclemences of the weather better than marble itself."

Mr. Dorr of Roxbury, called upon us a few days ago, to look upon the above articles in our back volumes and stated that he used a cement made according to the above directions, around the window casing of a stone house he was building about the time this article appeared, and it has proved as good as the statement represents. It is as hard as marble, and will stick to wood as well as to stone.—N. E. Farmer.

Water proofing.—A pint of linseed oil, two ounces of bees' wax, two ounces of turpentine, two ounces of good tar, and half an ounce of Burgan-