

The Farmer as a Veterinarian.

H. N. Rhodes.

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Since the beginning of the world, animals have been slaves to men. The horse, oxen, sheep, dog, and other domesticated animals, have always been held in high estimation by the human race, because of their use as food, and their power of performing work. But the animal is not like a machine, that can work at all times without giving up, or becoming sick. The animal will, in course of time, wear itself out, and, if not given rest and proper treatment, it will die. If animals do become sick, then there must be some means to cure them.

With this end in view the Veterinary Surgeon has come into the world, and since his coming, the amount of animal suffering has been greatly lessened. These Veterinary Doctors are not very numerous at present, and in places where there are

no doctors, the animals must either be left to die, or given such little aid, as is possible to be given, by persons knowing little about the sick.

When the wants of sick animals were at first recognized, the House Doctors of the Dark Ages administered to their wants. And thus arose Veterinary Science, which is that branch of Science, that deals with diseases of all the lower animals, and their treatment when sick, and also the alteration of animals, making them better for man.

When we talk of the diseases of animals, we mean an abnormal or unnatural condition of a vital principle. Veterinary Science has been known to man for a considerable time, and is becoming, year after year, of more use to the general public. As all animals are subject to attacks

of diseases of some sort, hence the need of a Veterinary doctor.

People are unwilling to pay a very high price for the cure of their sick animals; for sometimes the prices charged by Veterinary Surgeons, often exceed the value of the sick animal, and the owner would rather death would result, than pay too high a price for the animal's recovery. When the ordinary person finds he has to pay a very high price for the cure of his sick, he will either look around for a cheaper cure, or else will attempt to cure the animal himself, and will, in a good many cases succeed. If such persons can cure their sick animals, why can not the farmer?

The object of this thesis is to point out the advantages the farmer will derive from being his own Veterinarian. In the first place he will

be better able to select his farm animals, and secondly, to care for them after he has them selected. The farmer can have a small private library of Veterinary Science books, and by diligent study, can, in a little time, learn all that is necessary for the practical Veterinarian to know. All that is necessary is that he have a thorough knowledge of all the common diseases to which his animals are subject. He should be so familiar with his books, that, when a certain animal is taken suddenly sick, he will be able to immediately find the cause and the treatment of that disease.

Besides having a thorough knowledge of the diseases of animals, he should have a medicine chest in which are the following medicines.

I give their abbreviations and
 attenuation of each. Acon., 1X;
 Ammon. Carb., 1X; Ammon.
 Caust., 1X; Arn., 3X; Bell., 1X; Bry., 1X;
 Canth., 1X; Lig., 1X; Hep.-S., 1X; Merc.
 -U., 1; Nux-U., 1X and 3X; Phos., 3X;
 Sulph., 3; Tereb., 1X. The follow-
 ing another tinctures for ex-
 ternal use. Arn., Calend.,
 Ham., Rhus; each bottle contain-
 ing at least two drachms. Each
 bottle should be labeled, and
 the required amount in case
 of sickness, should be known.
 In order that the farmer be
 successful, he must have good
 animals with which to do his
 work, and we will now en-
 deavor to point out what an-
 imals are best adapted to the
 farmer, the stock raiser, and
 the liveryman.

In years past animals have been
 selected from a group of worth-
 less stock, with little regard for
 their intended use; the only

object being to secure a young and comparatively good animal. Animals, like men, are adapted to fill certain places, and an animal out of place, is like "a fish out of water." The horse being the most common is the first we will consider.

The farm horse must be well built, but not too clumsy. He should be about 15 hands high, and should weigh about ten-hundred pounds. Be careful, when buying a horse, that you examine him carefully. The stock raiser should have cattle that can stand the weather easily, and can live on as little grass and water as possible, when necessary. The liveryman must select his animals, with regard to their power to stand work. He must have horses that can travel fast, and also ones that can pull heavy loads. The race horse has a rather light

body, legs rather long, and with hips a little higher than the withers. The horse buyer must be careful and watch that a wind-broken horse, or a horse with leaves, is not thrust upon him.

The good and bad points of an animal will be given further on, but at present we must discuss the diseases common to farm animals. In all cases of sickness, good nursing is an essential point, that will, in many cases, produce complete recovery, without the aid of medicines. The sick animal must be kept as quiet as possible, and their wants attended to promptly. To care for the sick, medicines, blankets, bandages, and good food, must be kept on hand, in case of an emergency, when their absence would be sorely felt.

Medicines can be given in three forms. The liquid ranks first, then the powder, and lastly the

bolle. Never give too much medicine, or in giving a drench, do not hold the animal's tongue, or try to force the medicine down the animal's nose. When he shows signs of strangling, then stop giving the medicines. Medicines can be given by means of the drenching bottle or in the form of a powder or pill. Counter Irritants are medicines producing inflammation of a part, and are very often used. In using a Counter Irritant be careful not to blister too much, or make the inflammation too great.

In animals the Horse is taken as the type, and in the following pages what is said about the Horse, will, in most cases, apply to all kinds of animals. Perhaps the most common of animal diseases is lameness in some form or other. Laminitis or founder, and Nodular Arthritis, are common diseases.

In "founder" the inflammation is in the laminae, or soft structures of the foot. It is caused by injuries to the feet or irritation of some sort. The symptoms are a temperature of 102° — 105° . Intense pain in the feet, with a full, throbbing, quick, and hard pulse. In the treatment take off the horse's shoes, if he is shod, and poultice the feet. If the animal has a high fever, give:—

Tr. Belladonna $\mathfrak{f}\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$
Tr. Aconite 15 M.M.

Keep horse quiet. In chronic laminitis, trade off the animal.

In Navicular Anthritis the disease lies in the the Coffin joint of the front feet. It is caused by hard and fast work. Horse goes lame. In treating, poultice the foot, and give rest. Neurotomy is practiced in chronic cases.

It consists in cutting the nerve above or below, on both

sides of the fetlock joint. The grain is thereby removed.

I will not attempt to describe all the diseases to which animals are subject, but will simply enumerate a few of the commonest, and will give the treatment, where possible; it being supposed that the ordinary person is familiar enough with the disease to recognize it, without a description.

Blindness — Ophthalmia. Little hope; trade off animal. Bronchitis — keep the animal in a very clean stable, and give bran-mashes, gruel, and fresh water. Keep horse out of draughts. Capped Elbow — Lock — or knee. Open freely and treat as a wound. Castration — don't attempt to castrate a ridgeeling.

Choking — remove cause. Colic — of two kinds; Spasmodic — place hot blankets on stomach. In Flatulent Colic, "top" the animal,

and let the gas escape. Consumption — kill the animal. Decayed teeth — extract. Farcy and glanders — keep the animal separated from other healthy animals, and when the sick ones die, burn their bodies.

Heaves — give horse better, but less food. Gynpantitis — "top" the animal. Lamppas — give soft food. Mange — rub off the sores, and apply some good ointment. Pneumonia — about the same treatment as for bronchitis. Spavin — fire, blister, and turn out to grass. Tetanus or lock jaw — horse may probably recover, but seldom. Thoroughpin — leave alone if not too large. Wind Broken — trade off the animal. Fistulous Withers — open freely, first remove the cause of the disease. Wounds — wash out

freely, and place on "Court Plaster", bringing the edges of the wound together. Don't disturb a wound that is doing nicely. In all cases of disease, the animal should be treated as soon as possible; first determine the trouble, and then take active measures to prevent the further progress of the disease.

In all cases of disease, keep the animal as quiet as is possible. If you know the animal has an incurable disease, then the best way to do is to kill the animal immediately, and thus end its suffering.

Of what practical advantage is Veterinary Science to the Farmer?

In the first place the farmer should be a good judge

of animals, and we will now give the noticeable points of a horse, that he should be examined on, when bought by a stranger. The best color is black. The forehead should be broad and flat, in front, and the muzzle should be small and firm. Eyes full and bright. Neck clean cut and arched. A rather short, moderately straight back. Arms well developed, and fine. Thighs sloping moderately, and a broad, thick, fine, and well directed lock.

The Canon bones in both legs must be straight up and down. A sound horse is one with no disease, deformity, or vice, interfering with its intended usefulness. In examining a horse, first see that the membranes of the nose are all right. The tongue should not be cut, and the teeth, lymphatic glands, and

the throat, should be in good condition. See that the salivary duct is not broken. The eye should not be too bulging. See that the animal is not blind, by placing the hand over the eye then suddenly remove. The pupil should dilate and contract rapidly. Look for poll evil, fistulous withers, and see that the brands IC and ED are not on the animal.

The horse should be free from collar boils, sweeny, or copped elbows. The knees should be free from scars. Splints, ringbones, spavins, scars of neurotomy, and wind puffs should not appear on the sound horse. Look for laminitis, and the whole foot should be in a good condition. Hernia, ruptures, and tumors, should be absent. See that the animal is not a ridgeling, and has no bad

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effects of castration.

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The hip should not be down.
The hind legs should be free
from curb, thrust, spavin,
copped lock, and scratches.
See that the animal stands
squarely. He should not have
the heaves, noticed by the double
expiratory movements, when
given a drink of water. Test
his gait and his wind, seeing
that he is not wind-broken,
and is not a roarer. Lastly,
but not least, have some
one lead him around in a
circle, and notice that the
animal is not lame. Finally,
be prepared for deceptions that
are sometimes practiced by
experienced horse traders. Among
the deceptions practiced are,
burning black cavities in the
teeth, to make the animal
seem younger. When a match-
ed team is being sold, it
sometimes happens that one

of the horses has had certain spots on him colored, which will, in time, come out, and the purchaser will no longer have a matched team.

The farmer, like the business man, must always keep an eye open if he expects to get any of this world's goods; especially is this the case in the matter of horse dealing. Here, among all places, is deception most likely to be practiced, and it takes an expert sometimes, to keep out of the clutches of the wily horse trader. By being a Veterinarian as well as a farmer he can be able to select the best stock, and furthermore he can keep his stock in better condition, than can his neighbor, who is not a Veterinarian. In case of sickness of any farm animal there would

be no need of going, perhaps twenty miles, in search of a Horse Doctor, the animal perhaps dying before assistance could be brought, but the doctor would have to be paid anyway. But immediate help is necessary and it would take a Veterinarian to give the necessary aid.

What obstacles lie in the way of making the future farmer a Veterinarian likewise? None whatever, that I can see, and my desire is that, in the near future, the farmer will obtain the knowledge and skill of a Veterinary Surgeon.

H. M. Rhodes.

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