

A
T R E A T I S E
ON THE
INOCULATION OF HORSES,
FOR THE
S T R A N G L E S ;

IN WHICH IS CLEARLY LAID DOWN,
THE MANNER AND TIME OF THE OPERATION;
T H E
PREPARATION NECESSARY PREVIOUS THERETO;
AND THE MODE OF TREATMENT
DURING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE DISORDER;
T H E W H O L E B E I N G T H E
Result of long and repeated Experience.

By RICHARD FORD,
OF BIRMINGHAM;

WHO HAS MADE THE COMPLAINTS OF HORSES HIS STUDY
FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS PAST.

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TO HIS GRACE THE MOST NOBLE
THE DUKE OF MONTAGUE,
MASTER OF THE HORSE TO HIS MAJESTY;
THIS SMALL TREATISE,
WHICH HIS GRACE,
WITH A CONDESCENSION, AND PUBLIC SPIRIT,
BECOMING
HIS ILLUSTRIOUS FAMILY AND EXALTED STATION,
HAS BEEN PLEASED TO HONOUR
WITH
HIS GENEROUS COUNTENANCE AND SUPPORT,
IS DEDICATED,
WITH ALL POSSIBLE HUMILITY,
AND THE SINCEREST GRATITUDE,
BY HIS GRACE'S MOST DEVOTED,
AND MOST OBLIGED HUMBLE SERVANT,
THE AUTHOR.

Rich^d. Ford

P R E F A C E.

EVERY endeavour to become useful to society, to whatever branch of those arts which constitute its chiefest comforts and happiness, our pursuits have been directed, should, if it does not raise us to any public testimony of approbation, at least secure us from uncandid and ill-natured criticism.

The great utility of the practice recommended in the following pages, and the advantages which may be derived from it, is the best, and I hope, will be deemed a sufficient apology, for my offering them to the attention of the public. No wish to acquire credit for originality, or novelty of thought, could have determined me, independent of the above consideration

vi. P R E F A C E.

consideration, to have commenced author.

A little reflection will be sufficient to make us sensible, how many and great blessings we derive from that most serviceable of all brute animals, the Horse: and at the same time will, I hope, persuade to a just valuation of them: for in whatever view we consider his services, whether in time of war or of peace, as securing to us those two essentials to all human felicity, Liberty and Health, they are equally apparent, and demand in return our support and care, and a humane attention to all his sufferings.

It is much to be lamented, that the practice of Farriery has so generally been hitherto confined to the
most

most ignorant and illiterate part of mankind; yet custom has thrown a stumbling-block in the way of removing it from such professors, by annexing something degrading to the study of it.

In England this is particularly the case; nor is the encouragement here given to it, such as is likely to make it become a subject of attention to persons better adapted by education to increase its advantages.

This neglect and contempt of a study so highly beneficial to the community at large, and to every individual belonging to it, appears the more strange in being shewn by the inhabitants of that soil and climate which produce horses of more real value and excellence. than that of
any

any other in the world. And this pre-eminence which nature has given us to boast of, would, one might imagine, make us the more anxious to preserve and cherish the indulgence.

Our neighbours, the French, are far from treating the art of Farriery with disregard. They have erected public schools, for the purpose of instructing pupils in this art, to which lecturers are appointed by government to attend; where dissections are frequently made, and the diseases of horses, with their methods of cure, properly taught. If such encouragement was given to it in England, it is not to be doubted but it would turn to good account, as well on the score of humanity, as of national interest.

T R E A T I S E, &c.

THE Strangles is a disorder too well known to need any very particular description. It is marked by an inflammation and suppuration of the sub-maxillary glands, attended with more or less general fever, cough, running at the nose, &c. It is highly contagious, and communicable by the same means as other infectious distempers.

Mr. Soleyfell has supposed it analogous to the small pox in the human species, by observing, that no horse

A

is

is subject to take the infection more than once. The power of transmitting it by inoculation, which I have invariably experienced, draws a still nearer parallel between the two disorders; yet the very dissimilar appearances they make in the two species, the constant locality of the one, and the general diffusion of the other, will not allow us to think them different modifications of the same disease.

The Strangles has for its cause, a specific poison, which seems either to enter into the original constitution of all horses, or which they are predisposed to generate, when exposed to certain situations and treatment, favourable to its formation. Whichever is the case, the poison is certainly destroyed, or the disposition to generate it is removed by the appearance of the disorder; since no horse

can

can be affected twice by it. It is a distemper that all horses are disposed to, and there are few that escape it. The common, as well as most dangerous time for their having it, is during the breaking of them; and it always proves most obstinate when it happens at this time, or to horses of an advanced age, than in younger horses, especially such as have not been broke. This I think may be easily accounted for, by considering the treatment they are then subjected to; the excessive heats and fatigue they are made to suffer; their being allowed to become cool suddenly; the unnatural position in which the head is confined (especially of colts on the bit) by affecting the mass of humours in general, and the glands of the head and neck in particular, are sufficient to explain the cause of the different degrees of danger attending this disorder before, and during, or

A 2

after

after breaking. It cannot be doubted but that horses suffer much injury by the violent treatment offered them during this process, since many diseases are the visible and immediate consequences of it; such as the farcin, grease, &c. In no case can it ever be necessary; and in general, encouragement will do more than severity. Nor are their tempers less affected by this treatment than their natural constitutions; and both may be truly said to be broke, many being rendered dull and dispirited by it, that would otherwise have made active and valuable horses.

The most desirable time, therefore, at which horses can have the Strangles, is, whilst they are young, and before the breaking of them; and this consideration induced me to endeavour to find out
some

some safe and effectual method of communicating the distemper to them at this time. There were also other motives I had for wishing to accomplish it, independent of the less degree of danger attending this disorder in young colts; which were, to prevent the great inconvenience of having horses attacked by it whilst on a journey (which I have more than once experienced) from considering likewise that no time is lost, nor any expence incurred, by colts having it at an age when they are of no use to us. And again, that should it ever prove fatal, it is better to happen before the expence of three or four years useles keep is bestowed upon them.

I am happy in having it in my power to say, that I have been successful beyond my expectation; for as well as

Being able to communicate the disorder whenever I have wished, the means which I have used for doing it, have constantly produced it in a much slighter degree, than when it is caught in the natural way; and this I have effected by Inoculation.

All horses in health are proper subjects for Inoculation; but foals or colts are the most so; and many advantages will attend the performing the operation at an early age, as well as the important one of securing them from taking infection by the natural means.

I have inoculated horses at all ages; from two days old, to seven years, and have always observed that the younger the subject was (provided it was healthy)
the

the more favourable every symptom of the disorder appeared. Out of two hundred colts on which I have performed this operation, not one has died; and I am encouraged by this to hope, that the practice which I here recommend, will, when known, be generally adopted.

For the reasons before given, I would advise the operation to be done at an early age, and would prefer inoculating the foal whilst it sucks of the mare, to any other time; and in this case, the earlier the infection is given the better: which may be safely done at a month or six weeks old. For towards the latter end of the year, the quantity of the mare's milk is lessened, and during this disorder the foal may not take to grazing; or if it should, the grass does not afford that nourishment at this season.

son which it does in the spring and summer.

It frequently happens too, that foals, especially those which thrive apace, grow lean about the time they leave the mare and take to grazing, when inoculation would not be adviseable, and had better be deferred till the following spring. Another reason why I would recommend the operation to be performed at an early age, is, the thinness of the skin ; for as the disorder is more naturally and effectually carried off by the formation and breaking of an abscess, less difficulty is likely to occur at this time, than when the skin by becoming thicker, is capable of giving greater resistance to the matter to be evacuated : by which the cure may be protracted.

The

The higher in health the colt is, the sooner matter is formed, and the disorder terminated ; as a certain degree of inflammation is necessary for that purpose, which sickly and weak colts are not disposed to. Foals and colts which are healthy and at grass, require no preparation previous to giving them the infection ; but horses which have been long kept in the stable, and are intended to remain there during their having the disorder, it may be necessary to prepare, and this will chiefly consist in emptying the stomach and intestines of any foulness which may have been generated there.

To answer this purpose, I have usually given half a drachm of calomel well levigated with double the quantity of prepared chalk, and made up into a ball, with conserve of hipps in the evening ;
and

and a solution of a pound of Epsom salts on the following morning. This is the usual dose, but must be varied according to the strength and habit of body of the horse it is intended for. It should be repeated three times within the fortnight preceding inoculation, and the last dose given on the same day the operation is performed.

Having determined the most proper and advantageous time for inoculating, and the preparatory treatment of such horses as may require it, the next thing to be considered, is, the place and method of performing the operation. These I have frequently varied, and have found none so convenient and successful, as the following, which I now constantly practise.

I make

I make an incision on the inside of the upper lip, about an inch from its junction with the lower one, and at equal distances from its outer edge, and where it attaches itself to the gum. This incision is best made with a lancet, such as is generally used in bleeding of horses, which is to be introduced at the place before directed, immediately under the skin, and which may be easily done by inverting the lip, and holding it tightly turned with the left thumb and finger over the under part of the same hand. When the lancet is introduced to about the depth of half or three quarters of an inch, the point of it is to be moved on each side, in such a manner as to make the bottom of the wound wider than its orifice, which latter needs not be larger than the lancet requires for its insertion. When the incision is thus made, I take a small piece
of

of lint, or fine tow, impregnated with the infectious matter, and with a probe introduce it into the wound beyond its edges, so that no part of it be suffered to hang out, otherwise it may be thrown out again immediately, by the action of the lip against the teeth and gum. The lint I suffer to remain in the wound till it is discharged either by accident or by suppuration. I have preferred the upper lip to the lower one for making the incision in, on account of the dependant situation of the wound, thereby preventing any future mischiefs which might arise from a lodgment of the lint or matter.

In one of the colts which I inoculated in the under lip, an abscess was formed, which discharged itself exteriorly, leaving a hole quite through the lip; but no accident of this kind has happened

happened when the incision was made in the upper one. The right side of the lip will be found more convenient than the left.

There are many methods of applying the infectious matter.

It may be done by charging a lancet with it, and simply puncturing the inside of the lip; or the matter may be inserted into the wound (in the manner before directed for the lint) in a concentrated state; and is procured by catching it from the glands of a distempered horse, in a glazed basin or glass vessel, and suffering it to inspissate without heat into a gluey or horney consistence, in which state it will remain active, if well secured from the air, many months,

months. But the way I would recommend, as being the most sure and effectual, is by means of prepared lint, as I have before directed.

The matter that is made use of for charging this lint, should be taken from the Strangles of some young horse, in which the disorder has not been of long standing; for it is to be observed, that the matter is efficacious in proportion to the early state of suppuration in the abscess from which it is taken. In this matter the lint is to be dipped, and should be kept for use in a well corked phial in a damp place, where it will remain good a long time. After some time keeping it will loose its moisture, and become dry, when, if occasion offers for using it, it may be held over the steam of warm water for about a minute
before

before it is applied; yet this is not absolutely necessary to be observed, as the warm blood from the wound will answer the intent of the steam in setting at liberty the active particles of the matter.

In two or three days after inoculation, the lip will begin to inflame and swell; and in seven or eight days more, the glands under the jaw will be affected in like manner. These will continue swelling for about a week, and will generally be attended with fever, cough, and a difficulty of swallowing. In about three weeks from the operation, matter will begin to be formed under the lower jaw, and most frequently on the same side as the lip inoculated. In less than a week more, suppuration will have fully taken place, as will be evident by the looseness of the hair covering the swelling,

ling, the oozing of matter through the skin, and the fluctuation to be felt on touching it.

In this state it may be suffered to remain for two or three days, but if a disposition to break should not be observed, and the skin covering it should still remain thick, it will be proper to open it. This opening should be made lengthways with a small knife, or lancet, the whole extent of the abscess; the contents of which are to be pressed out, and the wound is to be dressed with yellow basilican, or a digestive composed of equal parts of olive oil, horse turpentine, bees-wax, and honey, boiled together, spread upon soft tow, and inserted down to the bottom of the wound, which is to be kept open, by this manner of dressing till the discharge begins

to

to abate; for if it is suffered to heal too soon, other abscesses will be formed in the adjacent glands, and sometimes in different parts of the body. A running at the nose too, which is a disagreeable, and frequently a dangerous symptom, may be prevented by this treatment.

Though I have recommended an opening of the abscess to be made, yet care is to be taken that this is not done before the matter is compleatly formed in it, otherwise the lips of the wound, as well as the glands themselves will become hard and callous, and require perhaps a second operation before it can be healed. On the other hand, the matter should not be suffered to remain too long confined, for in this case, by insinuating itself among the glands, and between the interstices of the muscles, it will form

B

snuffles

sinusses which may afterwards prove tedious and troublesome to cure, or by making its way down to the bone may render that foul and carious.

If any very great degree of swelling should occur, attended with much difficulty in breathing or swallowing, yet no disposition to suppurate should appear, a poultice made of a strong decoction of linseed and marsh-mallows, boiled up with oatmeal, to a proper consistence, to which a little ointment of elder is added, may be applied to the throat every night and morning, will in general procure relief, by hastening the formation of the abscess, and when that breaks, the difficulty of breathing, &c. will be removed, and nothing more will be required than good feeding and a dry situation.

Horses

Horses which are suffered to remain in the field after Inoculation, and during the progress of infection, do much better than those which are confined in the stable; and here they require very seldom either medicine or assistance.

Nothing is more likely to procure a favourable termination of the disorder, than the preserving the temperament of the body during the inflammatory stage, in as near a state to that of health as may be. And nothing conduces more to this, than grafts, and a constant exposure to the air: nor do I know any disorder in which their good effects are more visible than in the Strangles; so that I would wish particularly to recommend their being always allowed to remain in the field, except the extreme

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coldness

coldness or inclemency of the weather should forbid it.

Bleeding, in any stage of this disorder, should be always if possible, avoided. I have had many occasions of witnessing the danger attending it; and it will certainly be found that wherever it is practised, the recovery will at least always prove tedious. It should therefore never be thought of, but when there is fear of suffocation; which is an accident not likely to happen to those horses which are kept out of doors.

The fever which is raised by the introduction of the virulent matter, if it should be too immoderate, is best restrained by small and repeated doses of
James's

James's antimonial powder; to which if there should be much cough, an opiate may occasionally be added. After the abscess is healed, two or three doses of purging physic will be advisable,

The directions before given, will be found sufficient for inoculated horses in general, and will be all that are necessary in most cases.

There are, however, some other symptoms besides those I have mentioned, that may appear; but as they do not specifically belong to the Strangles, but to many other disorders in common with it, I have not thought it worth while to encrease these few pages by an enumeration of them; especially as the treatment of them may be learned bet-

ter from a study of diseases in general, than of any one in particular. My chief plan has been to ascertain the undoubted safety of inoculating colts, and to put it into the power of every person to perform that operation himself.

When I first thought of giving an account of the experiments which I had made, with my sentiments of the disorder, I did not foresee the many causes of delay and disappointment, that have attended it. An almost constant engagement in business, has precluded me the power of paying all that attention which the subject so well merits.

At some future day, I hope to have it in my power to add much to it; but should any thing occur to prevent

vent this, I shall nevertheless be happy in thinking, that I may have been the means of procuring it the attention of men of more leisure and greater capacity.

The desire I have for not withholding longer a secret of such importance from the public, and the haste which this prompts me to, will I hope, apologize for my brevity, but had time permitted me to swell this pamphlet out to what some men would call a reasonable number of pages, it might perhaps, at last, have not proved of more real value or utility.

F I N I S.

