

In many of the larger training stables in America, night schools, for the stable lads and others, are conducted all through the winter, and the attendance of the boys is compulsory.

If Daimio, the Melbourne steeplechaser, for whom arrangements have been made for his shipment to England by the s.s. Orizaba next month, is reported to be very lame, owing to a splint which he has developed, pressing on the suspensory ligament.

Fishmonger pulled up lame in the Rosehill Steeplechase, and is to be brought back to Auckland by the next direct boat. The old chaser has had nothing but bad luck since his arrival at Sydney, and I regret Mr H. Hayr's enterprise was not more successful.

"There are some things in this world that go without saying," remarked a long-winded individual. "Yes," said the editor, "and there are still more persons in the world who say a good deal without going." This is not intended as a personal par; but it is awfully apropos sometimes.

The ex-Rangitikei cross-country horseman, Jack Cameron, now in Melbourne, seems to be having a turn of luck lately. On St. Patrick's Day he won the Hurdle Race on Lord Bryon—a 5 to 1 chance—at Epsom, and on the 28th ultimo won the Hurdle Race at Sandown Park on the same horse.

J. Goodwin, at Waitara, has Sylvia Park, Flying Fish, Papakura (two-year-old colt by St. Leger—Muskerina), and two two-year-old Vanguard colts (from Flying Fish and Miss Cole) in hand. The latter are engaged in the Taranaki Derby and Egmont Sires' Hack Produce Stakes next season.

The Russian peasants of Volhynia are addicted to sport which takes the form of racing—not of horses, but of snails. The course is a pole about thirty feet long, and the progress of the race is watched with anxiety by the spectators. There are favorites among the runners, and they have their names, just like horses.

The result of the drawing of Tattersall's sweep on the Hawkesbury Handicap, of 25,000 subscribers at 5s each, was as follows:—First (Gaulard), H. J. Rowe, Star Hotel, Beechworth, £2,250; second (Jack o' Lantern), A. and R. Popp, Maryborough, Queensland, £870; third (Pharamond), H. Holinkerat and Company, Milton, N.S.W., £450. The amounts are all nett.

A narrow-minded, bigoted individual, a resident of Birmingham (Eng.), has proposed to the committee of the Free Library that all sporting news appearing in the newspapers, that are sent to the Library, should be blocked or cut out. Strange as it may appear, this is done in a few free libraries in England. The complaint appears to be that the papers are monopolised by readers of sporting news.

A prominent official of the Napier Park Club entered the press room in a half-drowned condition. Questioned about the matter of the weather, he informed those present that some time ago a Chinaman had been buried on the course, and no monument showing his resting place had been erected. The Park, he said, would never have a dry day until the remains had been shifted.

A remarkable case of fruitfulness comes from Germany. A mare known to be 33 years old produced a foal on a farm at Neumark, Silesia, 1890. It was not intended to breed her again, but as she showed freshness at the end of four years, or when 37 years of age, she was bred to an 18-year-old stallion, and produced a very fine and vigorous foal, which is to be exhibited at the Neumark foal show in June.

Owners and trainers are further reminded that acceptances close to-night at 9 o'clock, at the A.R.C. Office, for the Maiden Hurdle Handicap, 1 sov.; Handicap Hurdles, 1 sov.; St. George's Handicap, 2 sovs.; Pony Hurdle Handicap, 1 sov.; Criterion Handicap, 1 sov.; Handicap Steeplechase, 1 sov.; Grandstand Handicap, 1 sov.; and Victoria Handicap, 1 sov. These events will be decided on Saturday.

If birds in their nests agree (says Sydney Truth) it is more than stallions in a paddock do. Avis, Figaro, and Aberdeen, turned out on H. Barnes' Dyraaba Station, Richmond River, evidently had a triangular kicking duel, and Aberdeen succumbed. Found dead with a broken leg, was the verdict. Aberdeen was by Chester—Goldfinch, Morpeth's dam, and was bred at Kirkham. He was not a wonder on the racecourse.

At the maori races held at Morrinsville, there was a "Ladies' Race" on the programme, all horses to be ridden by ladies. A pony, ridden by a maori girl (straddle-leg and without the rational costume), was winning "heashey," but much to the surprise of the "lady jockey" the pony ran off within a few yards of the winning post, and struck out for the adjacent hills. Good old scratch meetings, they always provide "whips" of fun.

"Mazepa" says Gipsy Grand arrived at Dunedin safely. He remarks:—"I do not think there is much wrong with him. When standing at ease his leg is seen to bear marks of the jar—it is just the least bit larger than its companion—but quite cool, and by all signs Gipsy Grand is practically as sound as ever. In order, however, to give the colt every chance, he will be treated to a thorough rest, and will not be asked to gallop till it is time to begin a preparation for his four-year-old season."

The press association man in wiring over the result of Wallace's win in the Sydney Cup says:—"Wallace's win was a disastrous one for the bookies, and at least one member of the ring is said to have found it to his advantage to quit when Wallace's number was hoisted as the winner. The departed 'bookie' left on the spot which knew him no more, a portmanteau bearing the words, 'Gone, but not forgotten.'" The totalisator has no portmanteau to write the above quoted words on. "Pay out" office is plainly seen though, at all totalisator houses on racecourses.

The "Dook" of Portland has been elected a life member of the Victorian Racing Club.

Dunlop, the Melbourne Cup winner, won first prize for blood stallions at the Gundagai (Vic.) Show.

T. Sanders, the well-known Melbourne jockey, who won the Melbourne Cup on Dunlop, has become bankrupt. Liabilities, £1483 10s 11d; assets, £1; deficiency, £1482 1s 11d!

Mr M. O'Shanassy's plan for preventing blocking at the home turn was given a trial at the Apsendale Park races, Melbourne, and worked so well that it is almost sure to be tested at Flemington.

Locarius, the Hack racer, half brother to Morion, is now being looked after by R. Johnston—brother to "Percy"—at Inglewood; which practically means the son of Dauphin is out of work, as there is no galloping ground at Inglewood.

The Dunedin Jockey Club have endorsed the disqualification, for two years, of A. Cowie, of Winton, and the horse Fashion *alias* Redleap, for being "rung in," at the Lumsden Hack Meeting, on 15th May, 1895.

A suggestion has been made to the Wellington Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that the Society should get an Act of Parliament passed to compel saddlers, harness-makers, and shoeing-smiths to pass an examination, so as to prevent horses being injured by faulty work.

At the Ballarat Miners' Race-meeting on the 17th March, Wallace Girl, a four-year-old chestnut mare by Haere (now located at Manaia, Egmont), won the Flying Stakes of four furlongs.

The Aucklanders Fishmonger, 10.12 (S. Ferguson), and Othello, 9.10 (W. Neil), started in the Rosehill Steeplechase on March 26th. The Joker was first and Blacktracker second, no third horse being mentioned. According to the report of the race, Othello missed one fence, but continued in the race, and at the finish was beaten by The Joker by half a length, Blacktracker ten lengths away, followed at long intervals by Bernal and Fishmonger. Time, 5min 20sec. The stewards disqualified Othello, and awarded second money to Blacktracker, and fined Neill (who had the mount on Othello) £5.

James Hayes, whose jockey's license was returned to him last September, was before the V.R.C. on the 26th ultimo, to answer a charge of foul riding. H. G. Dawes, who won the Welter Race at Apsendale on Cobalt on March 10th, alleged that after the horses were being pulled up after the race, Hayes caught him by the neck and threatened him. The V.R.C. Committee gave Hayes a "severe caution" as to his riding in this particular race, and also as to his conduct in general. More "knocked-kneed" cautions. Such "punishment" would only be grinned at by a bully like Hayes. The V.R.C. should have sat on him straight away, and put him up for three months. It is evident Hayes is getting above himself again.

The death of an old and well-known horse-dealer, "Sandy" Imrie, is announced at Dunedin. Mr Imrie was one of the celebrated horse-dealers of Melbourne in the early days of the gold discoveries in Australia, and was, with David Nesbit (Scotch Jock), David Carson, and Thomas Greig, largely engaged in importing draught stock into Victoria from Tasmania. No better judges of that class of horseflesh ever came to the colonies, and Mr Imrie was the last of the quartette to survive. He suffered severely for about a year before his death, and leaves a widow and family of two sons and daughters to mourn their loss. He came to Otago in 1862, and was largely concerned in the horse trade of the colony ever since. He was a man of sterling qualities, and never turned a deaf ear to any case deserving assistance, and will be much missed in Dunedin, where he was held in much esteem.

A contemporary relates the experience of Mr Fisher, who, when in England some years ago, desired to buy a good sire to bring to Australia. Lord Falmouth suggesting he should interview Mat Dawson, and giving him a letter to expedite matters, Mr Fisher journeyed down to Newmarket, and after calling at Dawson's stables and finding him out, went to Newmarket Heath to meet him. The letter of introduction read, and the time of day passed, Dawson said: "Well, Mr Fisher, you say you want a stallion for Australia; how would this fellow I'm riding do you?" "Oh, dear me," replied Fisher, "of course, it's a nice horse, but, sir, I should like something a little better class than that." "Ah!" remarked Dawson, "then I am afraid I can't suit you, because this white-faced chestnut is STOCKWELL." Mr Fisher collapsed; to pooh pooh that mighty sire was too awful. We know this story is true, for the hero—Mr Fisher, not the horse—told us it himself.

Writing about the late J. R. Humphreys, a well-known English trainer, John Corlett in the *Sporting Times*, says:—"Of the residences of all the trainers, Humphreys' was the most princely. That of Marsh is probably the most complete from the trainer's point of view, and Joe Cannon, we hear, has just laid out £10,000 on improving his new place at Lordship Farm. Bedford Lodge is held at a rental of £2,000 per annum; and Melton House, with its beautiful grounds, is a handsome specimen of tea *cottage ornde*. Matthew Dawson, if he had not been a trainer, would have been a second Sir Joseph Paxton as a landscape gardener. Kingsclere, with its "Geheimniss front," built by Lord Stamford after the mare of that name had won the Oaks, is a good specimen of a country residence; but all these places, and Alec Taylor's at Manton as well, are merely villas, more or less of a glorified character. Lamborne Place, on the other hand, is a rich manorial mansion in the Gothic style, venerable in age and stately, full of rich carving and great staircases, and standing in the midst of magnificent grounds—the home of an ancestral nobleman, in fact, rather than a trainer."

HOW TO TREAT STRANGLES

BY CAPT. M. H. HAYES, F.R.C.V.S.

Strangles may be defined as a specific fever, which manifests itself by catarrhal symptoms, and usually by abscess under the jaw.

It principally attacks horses between the ages of two and six years, and rarely affects the same animal twice. In these respects, and from the fact that a large proportion of colts and fillies suffer from it, it may be said to bear the same relation to the horse, as distemper does to the dog; or measles to man. Opinions are divided as to its power of occurring spontaneously, and, also, as to its infectious character. The weight of evidence, however, is in favour of its being capable of being communicated from horse to horse. Even if mild cases are not infectious, there appears to be little doubt but that the severer forms are. There is also some doubt as to its power of being propagated by inoculation. The crowding of young stock certainly favours its spread.

As carefully-reared puppies will, generally, escape distemper; so will young horses, if equally well attended to, and brought up singly or in small numbers, usually, remain free from strangles. Animals reared in the open, are, undoubtedly, less liable to it than those brought up under conditions of crowding.

THE PARASITE.—Dr Schutz, of Berlin, has found the microbe of strangles. This coccus forms rosary-like chains which are deeply stained by gentian violet and methyl-blue. He has made several pure cultivations, in and on different media, and then produced the disease by inoculation. Dr. Raymond, F.R.C.V.S., by independent observations, has confirmed Dr. Schutz in the finding of this strepto-coccus in all pus collected from the abscesses of strangles.

SYMPTOMS.—In ordinary mild cases, the horse is dull, off his feed, and slightly feverish. There is, usually, cough and a discharge from the nostrils, which is watery at first, and thick later on. An abscess forms in the hollow between the branches of the lower jaw, and comes to a head in about ten days. There is, generally, more or less difficulty of breathing on account of the swelling. In some cases, for a month, or even more, before the abscess appears, the animal loses condition; his coat stares; he becomes "hide-bound;" has a cough, and is "out of sorts." This state has sometimes been mistaken for glanders. In simple strangles, there is only one tumour, which, as a rule, is clearly defined.

The abscesses, in all cases of strangles, are connected with glands.

BASTARD, MALIGNANT, OR IRREGULAR STRANGLES is the term applied to a very serious variety of this disease. Several indolent swellings form in various tissues, and do not come to a head, after running a regular course, as does the abscess of simple strangles. As a rule, these swellings appear between the branches of the lower jaw (their typical position), at the base of the neck, at the point of the shoulder, under the shoulder-blade, in the chest, or in the abdomen. When they are under the jaw, they remain hard and indolent, and may, even, diminish in size. "At other times, particularly when affecting the lymph-glands at the point of the shoulder, the abscess is of great extent, and the pus well formed." (Robertson.) The internal glands which are usually affected, are those of the mediastinum and of the mesentery; the former being the partition that divides the cavity of the chest into two parts; while the latter is the membrane that suspends the intestines from the roof of the abdomen. In both cases a fatal termination may be expected. When the mediastinum is involved, there is cough, difficulty of breathing, and dropsical swellings of the chest. When the abscesses occur in the mesentery, "the most prominent and characteristic sign is a total loss of appetite, or an apparent loathing of food associated with occasional colicky pains." (Williams.) The existence of these pains points to interference with the action of the intestines.

In irregular strangles, the febrile symptoms are, generally, better marked than in the simple form; especially, when the internal organs are involved. If the temperature rises to 104 or 105 degrees F., we have good reason for concluding that an internal abscess is in course of formation.

TREATMENT.—If the animal be at grass, he should be taken up and put into a comfortable stall, which should possess every condition necessary for health; such as, proper ventilation, good situation, and freedom from crowding. Give a laxative, though fairly generous diet, which may consist of bran and linseed mashes, gruel, boiled barley, carrots and freshly-cut grass. If there be constipation, administer an enema, and if necessary, give half a pint of licensed oil as a drench. It is advisable that the bowels should be regulated by the nature of the food. Half an ounce of nitre may be mixed daily in the water. Valuable horses, and, especially, those that are suffering from the dangerous form of the disease, may, if the swelling at the throat does not render balling or drenching dangerous, get 2 drachms of quinine twice a day until the bodily temperature (normal, 100.5 degrees F.) is reduced to the usual standard. If difficulty of swallowing exists, 1 ounce of liquor arsenicalis given in the food for a week, may be substituted for the quinine. The swelling under the jaw should be frequently fomented with warm water; while at other times, the part should be kept warm by means of wool or flannel. The abscess should be opened with the knife when it becomes soft and "points." The part should, then, be bathed with warm water, and a small piece of lint inserted in the opening, in order to facilitate the discharge. Professor Williams recommends that, if the tumour delays coming to a head, a fly blister should be applied over it, and, twenty-four hours after, a warm poultice. The part should be shaved before being blistered. Premature lancing of the swelling should be avoided, as it will tend to induce the abscess to re-form.

If the breathing becomes painful, the horse may be made to inhale steam from boiling water mixed with a quarter of a pint or so of oil of

turpentine, the action of which is to accelerate the discharge from the nostrils. If the breathing becomes very difficult—the animal fighting for breath—tracheotomy must be performed.

During the after treatment, the horse should be liberally fed, and may have a couple of quarts of beer a day, with half a drachm of sulphate of iron in his food daily. As there is danger and difficulty in drenching, that operation should be dispensed with, as much as possible. In all cases, the horse should be carefully nursed and his strength kept up.

Roaring, due to alteration of structure of some part of the air passages, and blood-poisoning (pyæmia) are the chief after-effects to be feared from an attack of strangles. The fact of a horse having safely passed through this disease, certainly tends to increase his value.

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