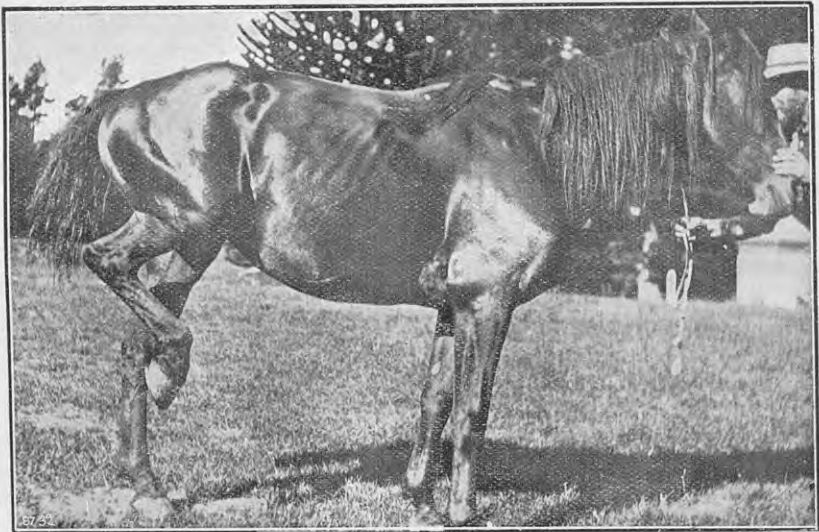


differing from this opinion. The cause is evidently some toxic (poisonous) agent which acts directly upon the nervous system by causing a lack of control and co-ordination of muscular movements, and does not affect the appetite or the general functions of the digestive and urinary systems. It may, however, cause disturbance of the respiratory functions, affected animals, when forced to quick exertion for a little time, sometimes showing distressed and stertorous breathing.

A careful investigation is being carried out in an endeavour to determine how this toxic agent is produced, and it is already evident



HORSE SHOWING CHARACTERISTIC EXAGGERATED FORM OF STRINGHALT.

that this is going to be a difficult matter, calling for very thorough and systematic work. In Australia, according to latest advices, the cause, though not yet definitely determined, is believed to be of dietetic origin, and it is especially noticeable that there the trouble is most common in the driest seasons. No form of treatment has yet been found which will bring about quick recovery, but in all but acute cases, where death may occur within a few days, recovery takes place after the expiration of a long period, often as much as twelve months. We are at present experimenting with various forms of medicinal treatment, and any owners of affected horses should apply to the Department for the services of a Veterinary Officer in advising and assisting in the treatment of the animals