

VETERINARY NOTES FOR HORSE-OWNERS.

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THE following notes deal briefly with three horse troubles—strangles, nasal catarrh, and influenza—against which farmers, and horse-owners generally, do well to be on guard, more especially at the present time of year as regards the two last-named complaints.

STRANGLES.

This very infectious disease is only found in horses. It is generally seen in young animals, but may attack horses of any age, rarely affecting the same horse twice. Strangles is caused by a germ which is found practically all over the world.

The symptoms are as follows: The animal is first noticed to be dull and off its feed, with a discharge from one or both nostrils. This discharge, which is at first thin and watery, after a few days becomes thick and sticky. Soreness of the throat is generally present; this is shown by the horse having some difficulty in swallowing. The chief symptom is the formation of an abscess in connection with the glands situated between the branches of the lower jaw. This abscess commences as a small hard swelling, which gradually becomes larger and is always very tender. As the swelling increases in size it also becomes softer, until it is ripe. This is shown by a falling-off of the hair at one part, accompanied by a slight sweating at the same point. At this time the abscess is ready to be opened with a sharp, clean knife, taking care to make a good-sized opening.

For treatment, it is advisable to let the animal have a run at grass in a well-sheltered paddock, provided the weather is favourable. The throat should have one dressing with a sweating-blister, in order to hasten the ripening of the abscess; this dressing should be applied from the base of the ears, down both sides of the throat, between the jaws, and a little distance down the throat.

Where medicinal treatment is necessary, 2 drams of extract of belladonna together with 2 oz. of chlorate of potash should be made into a soft paste with 4 oz. each of treacle and sugar, and a piece the size of a walnut smeared on the tongue twice daily.

If the horse is kept in the stable the bowels must be regulated by giving soft feed, such as bran mashes and scalded linseed.

The most important point in curing a case of strangles is to keep the abscess well open until all the discharge has stopped, because if it is allowed to close up too soon the abscess will re-form.