



Practical observations upon thorn wounds, punctured tendons, and ligamentary lameness, in horses, with experimental instructions for their treatment and cure : illustrated by a recital of cases, interspersed with a variety of useful remarks : to which is added a successful method of treating the canine species, in that destructive disease called the distemper : the whole forming a supplement to The gentleman's stable directory

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V. J. B. 50^{1^{sup}}

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS
UPON
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AND
LIGAMENTARY LAMENESS,
IN
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EXPERIMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS
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ILLUSTRATED BY A RECITAL OF CASES,
INTERSPERSED WITH A VARIETY OF USEFUL REMARKS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
A SUCCESSFUL METHOD OF TREATING
THE CANINE SPECIES,
IN THAT DESTRUCTIVE DISEASE CALLED
THE DISTEMPER;

THE WHOLE FORMING A SUPPLEMENT TO
The Gentleman's Stable Directory.

By WILLIAM TAPLIN, Surgeon.

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S U P P L E M E N T

TO THE

Gentleman's Stable Directory,

OR

Modern System of Farriery.

THE unlimited approbation of an indulgent public having ranked the Directory very high in general estimation, it would display an evident want of gratitude in the author not to render the work as perfect as a constant accumulation of *experimental remarks* will permit, and to farther increase its acknowledged utility, by the addition of every professional improvement that can in the least tend to enlighten a subject so eagerly investigated even

by those who formerly affected to neglect the superintendance of both *stud*s and *stables*, as matters too trifling for *personal* consideration.

Such indifference is no longer to be observed, or complained of, among the most opulent or fashionable; for the wonderful avidity with which the numerous editions of the Stable Directory have been purchased in this, and *repeatedly printed* in a neighbouring kingdom, are demonstrative proofs that the subject has acquired *new life* from such publication, and that the *medical* and *chirurgical* parts of Farriery are immergeing very rapidly from the *rude* and *illiterate* hands in which they were originally placed.

Upon this flattering improvement the author has to gratulate the public, as well as his own sensations, upon a series of such uninterrupted success; for the great purport of his publication may be considered in a certain degree gratified, when the first fortunes and abilities no longer silently and implicitly submit the noblest and most valuable animal on earth to the ignorance and obstinacy of every unenlightened adventurer, but with a generous emulation

emulation condescend to investigate the origin of disease, and comprehend the rational method of cure. This palpable conviction has arisen from the very great number of noblemen and gentlemen of the first eminence who have not only honoured the author with their confidence and correspondence, upon the utility of his Directory, and the great efficacy of his Medicines, but called in his assistance upon cases of the greatest *difficulty* and *danger*, where a strict attention to his instructions has been attended with the *most perfect success*.

In a work of so much extent, involving such variety, and aiming so much at general reformation, perfection, *at first*, was not, *could not*, be expected ; constantly increasing practice and experience, with incessant application and attention, must *perpetually* throw new lights upon many parts of the whole, and render perfectly applicable the communication of such remarks as may tend to make complete as possible, a tract, in which the public at large have proved themselves so immediately interested.

Thus far by way of apology, for introducing under the appendage of a *Supplement*, what became in fact a matter indispensable; for to its *necessity* such a combination of circumstances bear powerful evidence, that it was no longer to be avoided: the *literary* complaints of *some*, and *anonymous* expostulations of *others*, upon the subjects we proceed to treat, as well as the personal superintendance and assistance the author has been required to give, in these very cases, *singular*, *alarming*, and even *fatal*, where nature has been ridiculously checked, or obstinately opposed, render superfluous any farther defence for its introduction.

Although the subject matter of this *addition* is supposed to constitute a mere animadversion upon lameness proceeding from thorn wounds, and punctured or lacerated tendons, yet there are variety of experimental observations (however inferior, individually considered) that become equally necessary to our present design of rendering the work as nearly applicable as possible to the wants or wishes of so very numerous a body of readers.

To justify, in a great measure, the mode of practice to be inculcated, and hereafter laid down; to counteract the malicious or prejudiced remarks of the interested or dissatisfied, as well as to establish, upon an *incontrovertible basis*, the rational, proper, and successful, methods of treatment, *recent cases* in point will be quoted; and however improper it may be to introduce the names of characters too eminent for such publication, yet no kind of secrecy will be at all necessary respecting the parties, whenever those subjects become the professional topics of conversation between the author and his friends.

Such *cases* will be likewise illustrated to demonstrate the consistency, propriety, and success, of *modern practice*, in opposition to the antient system, so repeatedly enlarged upon in the course of the work. A very great number of literary applications having been addressed to the author, from different parts of the kingdom, requiring a farther explanation upon *many subjects*, and a continuation of *others*, it is his earnest desire to elucidate *every passage*, so as to render it perfectly clear, and to descend to such *minutiae*, for the gratification of

inquirers, as did not appear so immediately necessary in the first formation of the Directory.

But the doubts of *some*, and the timidity (added to the inexperience) of *others*, having thrown difficulties in the way of the most simple operations, it becomes a duty incumbent to obviate those complaints, and leave in future (if possible) little room for opposition from the interested or dissatisfied.

These observations are only made to prevent surprise at the occasional introduction of some remarks in the course of this addition, that may, to the more experienced and enlightened reader, seem very much inferior to the magnitude of the subject, not considering how many there are whose infantile judgment must receive *every instruction* from the pages before them.

Under the influence of this consideration it becomes (particularly after the frequent opposition from servants or grooms) perfectly applicable to introduce a few instructions upon the very simple act of *neatly delivering a ball to the horse*,

horse, without a fear of regurgitation ; a circumstance that very frequently happens to those who are little acquainted with the proper mode of operation : and these directions will not (to many) appear so immediately necessary, unless I communicate what will hardly be thought *possible*, but by those who know the circumstance to be well authenticated, in my own neighbourhood, where it very lately occurred.

A valuable horse, the property of Capt. W——, having been under a course of the Pectoral Cordial Balls for a severe cold, eleven had been given without the least difficulty ; but in giving the twelfth and last of the course, the servant not perceiving the ball pass the gullet, erroneously conceived the ball was lodged in the throat, and (ridiculous as it may seem) absolutely set most manfully to work with *half a broom handle* to dislodge the ball, till he had so bruised and lacerated the surrounding parts, that a violent inflammation ensued, and it was not till after the industrious efforts of a fortnight, that the poor animal could be pronounced out of danger from this *new* and very extraordinary mode of operation.

To

To obviate such trouble, and to render unnecessary the use of the farrier's favourite *instrument*, "a balling iron," (only calculated to increase the difficulty) I presume to introduce such instructions for the administration of a ball as will enable the operator to deliver it with the greatest ease to himself and safety to his patient. First holding the ball in the *right hand*, longitudinally and equally surrounded by the fingers and thumb, let the *left* be insinuated on the off side of the mouth, when taking gently hold of the tongue, draw it steadily out between the tusk and the grinders, then grasping it with great firmness, introduce the right hand with the ball, and passing it up with a proper degree of resolution, to the highest possible point, lodge it upon the root of the tongue, instantly pushing it forward with your fingers, and withdrawing your hand, place it under his jaw, let loose the tongue, and raise his head, where, holding it for a very short space, the ball is perceived to pass without the least difficulty; while on the contrary, a horse, either *timid* or *refractory*, is made much more so by the painful use of an iron that, from its very shape, appearance, and method of introduction, is evidently calculated to promote

more or increase the difficulty it was intended to prevent.

These particulars, trifling as they may appear to those expert in the practice, are nevertheless more particularly necessary in the present improving state of medicine, where reformation is making such rapid strides, that the adventurous opinions of rustic farriers, and the dangerous compositions they provide, bid exceedingly fair to encounter a partial oblivion: and as numbers of the first sporting eminence have publicly declared their unalterable determination to commence and continue their *own farriers*, such directions cannot be too clearly explained or universally known.

It will, previous to a continuation upon the subject, be perfectly in point to observe, it was not till after a very rapid sale of the *third edition* of the **STABLE DIRECTORY**, that I entertained the least idea of preparing my most *efficacious medicines* for the accommodation of the public in general; and even then the thought occurred not more from the frequent supplies required by noblemen and gentlemen at remote distances, than an observation of great

weight, made by one of the most opulent sporting characters in the kingdom.

‘ That having repeatedly purchased his Purging Balls ready prepared, he was eternally perplexed and disappointed in their effects; some being exceedingly violent and dangerous, while others under the same name, price, and description, were scarcely perceptible in the operation, and this frequently happened in the same subject; a contrast so opposite, he could no way reconcile but by a supposition that so large a quantity might be made together, as to render impracticable a regular incorporation of the ingredients.’

A remark so perfectly apposite and apparently just, immediately determined me upon the personal preparation of my most powerful prescriptions, under the *seal and signature* of

“ **TAPLIN’S GENUINE HORSE MEDICINES,**”
as a counteraction to the adulteration so fully explained in the preface; and it is no small recommendation to the undertaking, or gratification to the proprietor, that, from the first hour

hour of embarkation, amidst the incredible consumption in the metropolis, and almost every part of England, to the amount of *many hundred dozens*, not a single complaint of the inefficacy of *purgatives, pectorals, diuretics*, or any of the whole list of his advertised medicines, has ever reached the author. On the contrary, innumerable congratulations upon their various good effects are constant in arrival; but as declarations bearing so much the appearance of fashionable attachment to *self-interest*, will not be universally believed, palpable proofs of their general utility, the applicable introduction of a few concise instances of their acknowledged efficacy, cannot be considered obtrusive, when evidently and equally adapted to the promotion of *public good*.

Before I proceed to the investigation and proper treatment of thorn wounds, punctured or lacerated tendons, and their dreadful effects, it becomes absolutely necessary I refer the reader to my conclusive remarks upon **WINDGALLS**, in the class under that head, in the early part of the **STABLE DIRECTORY**, where it will be found how very emphatically I have represented the *hazard, the danger* (not to add the *folly*)

folly) of attempting their cure by perforation, and endeavoured to inculcate, *most forcibly*, the only probability of succeeding in the effort, by ' performing the operation with a *bistury*, and ' the motion of *elevation*.'

After such cautions, so earnestly urged, it is strange to relate, that within the circle of my own practice I have been required to give my assistance in *two cases*, where very fine and valuable horses have been irretrievably lost, and doomed to the hounds they had so nobly followed, by the rash and imprudent officiousness of two of the faculty, who presuming most certainly more on their confidence than their judgment, sacrificed to self-consequence and the destructive lancet, hunters of *figure, fashion, speed, and value*, not to be exceeded in the kingdom, strengthening by their imprudence, the observation of a celebrated writer, ' that ' more have died by the improper use of the ' lancet than the point of the sword.'

To prevent in future (if possible) such contemptible efforts of professional sterility, to guard the unwary from becoming dupes to their own credulity, and the dangerous efforts of

of hazardous experiments, is much more the motive of inducement to recite such cases, than any promised expectation of permanent relief from the mode of treatment most applicable to the predominant symptoms of either, which will nevertheless be accurately explained,

C A S E

OF A

PUNCTURED TENDON.

IN the month of August 1788, I was applied to by a character of the first eminence to give my opinion upon one of the first hunters in England, for which he had been repeatedly offered a hundred and twenty guineas. Upon my arrival I found the horse labouring under the most excruciating and indescribable agony, totally unable to set his off hind foot to the ground, and from the highest possible condition, very much emaciated in a few days with the extremity of pain. Investigating by in-

quiry the cause of complaint, I was informed that a student in surgery, from one of the hospitals, had lately been upon a visit to the family; he was frequently in the stables, and perceiving an enlargement just above the footlock joint, which denominating a *windgall*, he displayed a great desire to obliterate by *perforation*. This being too kindly (too inadvertently) permitted by the owner, he attempted the operation with *a common lancet*, but with so little fortitude and success, that in making his incision, the natural motion and rejecting effort of the animal, fascinated the inexperienced operator in his first attempt, and deprived him of his instrument (which was the next day found in the litter) but not till he had given a destructive proof of his inability, and afforded a most striking corroboration of the remarks before alluded to in "The Directory," upon this unlucky mode of extirpation.

Proceeding to minute inspection, I found the whole joint and surrounding parts in the highest state of tension and inflammation; the orifice of the injury so very trifling as barely to admit the end of a probe, and so exceeding painful as not to bear the least pressure, but by much

much difficulty and perseverance; from every predominant symptom (and they were all equally violent) I could not entertain a momentary doubt, but the *extensor tendon* was as much punctured, lacerated, or divided, as the diminutive size of the instrument used; and the obstructive motion of the horse would admit. This apparent fact I was induced to believe (by the severity of pain, and almost uncommon violence of symptoms), that the point of the lancet was *broken off* in the attempt, and retained in the wound: upon premising this fear to the groom, he assured me that was not the case; for the instrument was perfect *when found*. How that could be, after remaining under a horse in his litter for twenty-four hours (as the lancet was not produced) will never be clearly reconciled to my *own opinion*, who have so constantly such an instrument in my hand.

To return: finding the orifice (small as it was) discharge, *upon pressure*, a bloody ichor, or indigested fancies, and the edges to have acquired a very rigid callosity, I determined (that the digestion might not be a moment retarded, when sufficiently suppurated for separation) to enlarge the orifice, by dividing the

B integument

integument *superficially* with the bistery, to the length of an inch in the whole.

I then proceeded to the immediate use of a fomentation, prepared exceedingly strong from the various aromatic herbs, as rosemary and lavender blended with wormwood and camomile, continuing to foment the whole limb, from above the hough downwards, with a large sponge constantly impregnated with the decoction, hot as it could be applied, without injury, for at least a quarter of an hour, then dressing with a peldorf of very warm yellow digestive, covered the whole *affected part* with a powerful suppurative poultice, and repeated the fomentation, dressing, and poultice, twice every day, till a tolerable discharge was promoted, which was not for some considerable time; and even then, effected by increasing the heat of the fomentation and the strength of the poultice, as much as circumstances would bear.

The general intent of the treatment was in some degree answered; for the pain was greatly mitigated (*except in motion*) and the discharge moderate, but so very *fætid*, and of so cor-

possess a tendency, that it formed *sinuses* in every direction downwards, surrounding the bones to the different depths of two, three, or four inches. A separation of parts in the present complication was absolutely impracticable, without rendering to a certainty the remedy worse than the disease. Thus situated, no hope of cure could be entertained but by a reunion of the divided parts, to promote which, a constant syringing with detergents was adopted at every dressing, the wound was covered with lint, plentifully impregnated with the stable digestive, as warm as could be applied with safety, first insinuating as much as possible within the orifice (in the manner of a tent), and covering all with a common poultice of bread, milk, and oil, as the best bed for so tender a part.

By a perseverance in this mode of treatment the sinuses were perfectly united from the bottom, and the wound completely healed (or cicatrized) in little more than a month from the time of my being called in, with no other *external* inconvenience than a trifling enlargement of the joint, and an apparent callosity of the integument. But, as I had every reason to

believe, from the first moment of inspection, so it terminated in opposition to every humane endeavour of the owner; for, after a run of near twelve months, with no other perceptible advantage than a seeming relief from violent pain, and without the power of walking or using even *gentle motion* with the foot affected, an end was unavoidably put to his existence, amply demonstrating the danger of experiments, and the prudence of sometimes

“ Bearing those ills we have,

“ Rather than fly to others we know not of.”

A case of the same complexion, and produced by the *very same means*, will hereafter come under recital; but, as its termination has been very different from the former, I shall introduce others in the way they occurred.

After all that has been theoretically and practically advanced by different writers (including what has been said upon the same subject in *The Stable Directory*) it will, no doubt, afford the most singular satisfaction to many, that an opportunity has offered to introduce a successful and well authenticated case of the Farcy, where a complete cure has been effected

effected by the rational system already laid down, with no other variations but such as temporary appearances rendered unavoidably necessary.

A S U C C E S S F U L C A S E
O F
T H E F A R C Y.

In the month of September, 1788, I was called to one of the most opulent characters in Windsor-Forest (residing in the neighbourhood of the case before-mentioned), who, having a blood mare labouring under a very severe and uncommon eruption, was told by his groom and stable attendants, that the disease in question was the Farcy, for which *no cure* could be expected.

Having consulted every author in his library (and they were all there) who had written

upon the diseases of horses, he was pleased to say, ‘ he could discover no satisfactory investigation or explanation of the origin, no systematic mode of treatment, or probability of cure, but in the Stable Directory; which had given him so perfect a representation of FARRIERS’ practice in general, that he was determined to entrust no case of consequence to their management, and enjoined me to undertake the superintendance.’ I found, upon inquiry, the mare had been bled in an early stage of the appearance; but, the owner being a long time absent from home, the mare had been continued at full feed, and no medicinal step taken to restrain or counteract the progress of disease.

That I might the better ascertain the present state of the blood, I ordered three pints to be taken away, which, almost immediately after its extravasation, formed a rigid coagulum, producing upon the surface a coat of size more than two inches thick, so *very viscid* that a pen-knife, exceedingly sharp, barely effected its separation, the crassamentum uncommonly livid and adhesive, denoting a great degree of inflammation.

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This was the exact state I had reason to believe I should find it in, from every external appearance and examination; for upon taking off the pellicle from any particular pustule, I observed the discharge to be of glutinous consistence, putrid and offensive, very different from what we sometimes find *an acrimonious ichor*. As a preparatory step to the introduction of medicine, I instantly altered the regimen to warm mashes three times a day, with hay in small quantities, and one ounce of nitre dissolved in both the morning and evening portions of water, making two ounces for every twenty-four hours; during this mode of commencement, I perceived the off leg behind to swell so rapidly, from the footlock joint to the stifle, and throw out such a general fulness, particularly on the inside the thigh, that I could not entertain a momentary doubt but a critical formation of matter would inevitably take place. To promote which, with all possible expedition, I increased the support, by substituting plenty of corn for the mashes, and called in the additional aid of strong and frequent fomentations, hot as could be used without injury (with two large pieces of sponge

alternately) for the threatened suppuration was too extensive to admit the application of poultices by any bandage that could be invented. This crisis was evidently an effort of nature in our favour, and a few days afforded great probability of success, for two small apertures appearing on the inside of the thigh, at about three inches distance (from which flowed matter of the consistence before described), and the probe passing directly through both, forming a complete sinus, I made an entire separation with the bistury, and obtained a discharge almost incredible. I persevered in my fomentation and dressed with warm digestive; but at the second dressing I discovered deep seated sinuses forming in different directions, and surrounding the hough joints where no sharp pointed instruments could be insinuated without danger. In the next four-and-twenty hours another wound appeared on rather the fore part of the inside of the joint, directly upon the *flexor tendon*, bearing all the marks of virulence and inveteracy, continuing to throw out such successions of fungous as not to be conceived by those unacquainted with the practice.

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In this predicament followed a second struggle for superiority between the natural anxiety and impatience of the employer, and the judgment and reputation of the employed ; the former repeatedly dooming the patient to the king's kennel at Ascot, the latter as constantly imploring *her respite* ; which having with much difficulty finally obtained, I immediately formed my medical arrangement, and proceeded without variation or interruption in the following way.—Having two days before begun a course of my (advertised) alterative powders, in the morning and evening feeds of corn, (first sprinkled with water to insure their adhesion and consumption) I now added an ounce of Peruvian bark in powder to be given twice every day, in three quarters of a pint of thin gruel, repeating the ounce of nitre in the water, night and morning, without intermission.

I adopted this plan upon a perfect confidence, that such system would effect all that could be expected from medicines *internally* ; then directing my attention to the complicated wounds and sinuses (that in fact bore a desperate aspect), my great hope and expectation
confisted

consisted in correcting the morbid matter, and supporting nature; as neither strength or appetite seemed yet to fail, nor had constant pain visibly distressed the patient, or reduced the frame.

The almost unprecedented growth of fungous bidding defiance to every consistent *corrosive*, *caustic*, or *escharotic*, I had no alternative to effect my purpose but the edge of the knife; to this never failing resource I daily applied for extirpation, repeating the superficial scarifications longitudinally and transversely, so as not only to excite plentiful discharges of grumous inflammatory blood, but to disunite and destroy the very foundation of this obstruction to cure. After these scarifications the wounds were dressed with the precipitate ointment, and covered with warm digestive, a mode of treatment that soon gave the whole a very healthy appearance, and promised gradual improvement.

As I have before observed, the sinuses were so situated amidst the muscular and ligamentary parts, that instrumental separation was not only dangerous but impossible; a cure could

could therefore only be obtained by a perseverance in the mode of treatment best adapted to the exigency of disease. Availing myself of experimental observation, I continued to cleanse them thoroughly at every dressing with the injection of tincture of myrrh (by means of a long necked ivory syringe), the best *bal-samic detergent* for foul wounds, inveterate ulcers, or deep seated sinuses, I have been able to discover in the whole class of externals, during a long and attentive practice.

Proceeding regularly in this track, with a punctual administration of the internal medicines before recited, and the external applications so minutely described, the mare, in little more than six weeks, was completely cured, perfectly free from every appearance of *eruption, lameness, or disease*, and is now in foal by a celebrated Arabian of the royal stud.

To those who may wish to have farther animadversion upon the distinct and acting properties of the medicines internally applied, I can only observe, such explanation would very far exceed the limits originally prescribed for the extent of this addition; it must therefore suffice

suffice to say, if I had formed a hope of reducing *inflammation*, correcting *acrimony*, and rescuing the whole mass of blood from an inveterate and dangerous state of *morbidity*, by the use of the *alterative powders*, *bark*, and *nitre*, I must consider myself exceedingly fortunate, that they completed *in conjunction*, what, perhaps, might never have been effected by *any part* of the whole.

A S U C C E S S F U L C A S E

o f

LIGAMENTARY LAMENESS.

THE former case was succeeded by a severe ligamentary lameness in the carriage horse of a gentleman, within three miles of my own residence, that had sustained considerable injury in the articulation of the *hip joint*, by a violent fall, in suddenly slipping up when wantonly exerting himself (at liberty) with his companion

companion returning from pasture; the lameness was so very severe that it was with the greatest difficulty he could draw the near hind leg after him, and felt great perceptible pain in being obliged to move it forward, which he did with palpable reluctance, not bearing the least weight upon it, or hardly permitting it to touch the ground.

In four days after the accident I was required to give my assistance, and found, by the external appearance, that the article called *opodeldoc* had been very plentifully used, till the soap it contained had so caked and accumulated upon the surface, (cementing the hair into such a solid mass) as to render the penetration of any spirituous application absolutely impossible. This fact I clearly demonstrated to the owner, and was not at all surprised to hear he had reaped no advantage from his industrious application.

It was unavoidably necessary to adopt a very different mode of proceeding; I therefore recommended the immediate and frequent use (three times a day) of a strong and hot fomentation with a sponge, as before directed, not only

only to thoroughly cleanse the surrounding parts from the *saponaceous obstruction* of corroborants, but to take off the stricture from the part, and relax the porous system, preparatory to the rubbing in of the following stimulants, that their penetrative properties might obtain the readier powers of action upon the internal parts affected.

After the use of the fomentation for full ten minutes, I ordered half a gill (two ounces) of *camphorated spirits* to be gradually rubbed over the whole, immediately following it up with the same quantity of my advertised “*embrocation for lameness or strains*,” rubbing it in with such degree of perseverance, as to leave no doubt of its penetration, and to let these be repeated after each time of using the fomentation.

Having superintended this ceremony at the first operation, I was requested to give my opinion, “ how long I imagined it might be before the horse would be able to bear his (post chaise) part of a journey to Southampton, which the family was under promise to make?”—To which I undoubtedly replied,
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the task of decision was too arduous to undertake, but in less than a month or six weeks was not to be expected.—On the fourth day, however, the servant was dispatched for a supply of camphorated spirits, and another bottle of the embrocation, with information from his master, that “ the horse was mending surprisingly.” In a few days after, having a professional journey to the same neighbourhood, I made inquiry a matter of convenience, and found at the house, that the horse had set out upon his journey, with the family, in about *ten* days after my being called in, from whence he returned as perfectly sound as before the accident.

From the circumstances of this case (amidst many others), I am induced to bring forward an observation I have repeatedly made upon the use of *opodeldoc* in animals, where its most essential parts cannot come into immediate contact with the skin, as is evidently the state of the case with horses, cattle, dogs, &c. where the hair, in greater or less quantities, upon the integument, so entirely absorb the soap in the first operation of rubbing, as to form an adhesive obstruction to porous admission, and a consequent

consequent rejection of the more penetrative ingredients in every future application. And I cannot indulge the shadow of doubt, but those who have tried the experiment, or made the observation, will easily recollect the *saponaceous mass and obstruction* upon the surface I have endeavoured to explain. Under this conviction (and the best of conviction, incontrovertible experience) I will venture to affirm, however applicable and useful it may be universally acknowledged for various complaints of the human frame, I shall never subscribe to any pre-eminence of efficacy in its application to quadrupeds.

C A S E

O F A

Punctured or Lacerated Tendon.

IN the month of November 1789, I received a letter of solicitation from a gentleman very high in a certain royal establishment, requesting my immediate attendance in London to give my opinion upon a horse that, from a mere superficial defect, and *complicated experiments*, was rendered a perfect cripple, without hope or expectation of cure. In such predicament, it became a determined decision with the proprietor, that my personal investigation should conclude the scene of anxiety, by dooming the subject to *immediate death*, or producing a plausible ray of hope for his recovery.

Upon my arrival in Town, and introduction to the owner, I received information, that about three months before, a kind of flatulent

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or

or fluctuating tumour appeared upon the inside of the near hough, displaying great tenderness upon pressure and considerable pain in action; notwithstanding which, it was observed to vary so much in effect, as to be productive of lameness at one time and not at another. These circumstances were communicated by the groom to his master, and by him in casual conversation to one of the faculty, a surgeon of no small eminence, who kindly offering his assistance, a chirurgical inspection took place, which terminated in the daily application of different poultices to promote suppuration; these were continued till the joint opinion of surgeon and groom pronounced the matter “perfectly ripe” for expulsion. Under such consultation, in the absence of the owner, the incision was unluckily made, and still *more unluckily* immediately upon the *flexor tendon*, and directly upon the part where it lay nearest the surface. To the disappointment in this operation, succeeded distrusts, discontent, and cavillings, between the projectors; for no *matter*, no *fanies*, digested or indigested, following the instrument of separation, mutual consternation ensued, and language little short of reproach prevailed with either party. This contrariety

contrariety of opinion (something similar to the frequent opposition between doctor and nurse) soon effected the entire abdication of the superior, and left the groom to an uninterrupted exertion of his own judgment and medical abilities. To prove the extent of which, he prepared an artificial probe, and continued its constant introduction, for two inches or more, directly upon *the tendon*, thereby abrading and rendering more irritable a part already injured, and consequently susceptible of additional pain upon every erroneous application. His master was still absent (in a distant part of the kingdom) and the case became every day more alarming, not only in its constantly increasing enlargement of the joint, but perpetual and incessant pain, from which he had no relief. Nature had, in opposition to the interpositions of art, closed the orifice and healed the wound; notwithstanding which, the lameness was greater than before. This was matter of additional perplexity to the *scientific* superintendent, who was now convinced nothing but a practice *entirely new* could succeed.

The better to establish which (upon a vulgar and generally received opinion, that *mercury* is a

specific for every ill) he procured a pot of *strong mercurial ointment*, and persevered in its constant use by friction, till finding every effort to succeed abortive, he *obliquely* courted the examination and advice of a *popular* farrier, standing very high in public estimation, whose sublimity of explanation certainly entitles him to general confidence.

He most sagaciously *discovered* and *observed*, ' a vein was *lost*, which could only be *recovered* by the application of a *strong blister*.' However strange or ridiculous a proposed remedy, so violent and extraordinary, may appear to the judicious or experienced reader, it met no opposition from the party concerned; for, coming from the high sounding authority of so much eminence, it was *hastily* procured, and as *rashly* applied. I doubt not its effects may be much better conceived than described; external fire upon internal contraction could but add to the excruciating pain, or rather wanton persecution, of a subject suffering under such a succession of cruel and inconsiderate experiments.

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This account having been given me in recital, as well as the present state of the horse, I could not entertain a doubt of the flexor tendons being punctured by the original operator, or lacerated by his successor, in the *daily probings* that were to effect so expeditious a cure. Proceeding, however, to the stables, I found the patient upon *three legs*, in a stall barely five feet wide, in a state of the greatest agony ; his leg in an almost constant contractive motion, absolutely groaning with the extremity of pain, the whole limb perceptibly wasted, the frame emaciated, the joint much enlarged, the cicatrix exceedingly tender, bearing no pressure upon the tendon, and an uncommon stricture upon the surrounding parts, wherever the blister had taken effect ; and, to render the business of inquiry complete, I found circumstances had varied very little for near two months, but that symptoms had continued nearly in the same state.

Every action, every predominant trait tending to corroborate my first opinion upon the case, I could not hesitate a moment to pronounce, that whatever had been the origin of the simple tumour (*perhaps a blow* that had,

however, never been ascertained), the cause of the present distressing scene was absolutely and beyond all possibility of doubt or contradiction, a puncture or laceration of the tendon.

Obscured as the case was, by what is too much the practice, *complicated opinions* and *various experiments*, in addition to the length of time since the injury had been sustained, great or sanguine hope of success was not to be entertained. I nevertheless observed, if the owner wished to adopt such system as alone seemed calculated to alleviate symptoms and afford relief, giving the whole a fair and persevering trial of three weeks or a month, without any perceptible advantage, I should then (however disagreeable the office must be) certainly not hesitate to advise the propriety of passing the only sentence that could extricate the subject from a life of extreme pain and perpetual misery.

My proposal having been instantly and most cheerfully acquiesced in by the great humanity and anxious wish for preservation in the owner, I ordered, *without delay*, a coach-house, or *open stable* to be procured (which was very

luckily obtained in the same yard) and covered with litter, for his immediate reception, a parcel of hay being suspended at each end, to excite his alternate motion from one end to the other when either bundle was consumed.

Ingredients were directly procured for the following decoction:

TAKE rosemary leaves, Roman wormwood, lavender flowers, marshmallow leaves, and camomile flowers, of each four ounces; boil in ten quarts of water till reduced to eight, then strain.

The whole limb was then fomented (with two large pieces of sponge alternately, as hot as the decoction could be brought into use without danger) from the very stifle to the footlock joint, continuing it for a quarter of an hour *at least*, each time of using the fomentation, and repeating it three times a day at equal distances of time, rubbing in after every operation, upon the hough joint and neighbouring parts, a two ounce phial full of the following anodyne solution:

TAKE spirits of wine - - one pint,
 camphire - - - an ounce and a half,
 opium - - - - two drachms.

The camphire and opium were reduced to small pieces, then frequently shaken in the spirits till dissolved, and close stopped for use.

That no part of my plan might be omitted, tending in the least to promote a possibility of success, I continued in town a day extraordinary, to superintend the commencement and regulate the proceeding; was present during the first operation, leaving him at full liberty in the loose stable I had recommended (as the first probable step to improvement), not without some degree of hope, upon seeing him enjoy a seeming temporary suspension from pain, during the warmth of the fomentation, which he absolutely leaned to, and courted the application of, in a very particular manner.

From these applications (however well adapted to predominant symptoms and the exigency of the case) *infallible expectations* could not be formed; nevertheless, I had experimental reason and conviction to believe the properly regulated

regulated heat, and frequency of the fomentation, might not only gradually reduce the rigid callosity of the integument and stricture upon the part where the blister had been applied, but also relax the porous system, giving admission to the anodyne for the reduction of irritability, and the corroborants to excite a degree of warmth and stimulus upon the internal parts,

However well founded any doubts of cure might have been, from the combined severities of the case, I was most agreeably deceived in the suspicious opinion I had formed; for little more than a fortnight brought me a letter of information, that every distressing symptom was alleviated; the horse fed well, and seemed almost free from pain; the stricture upon the joint was greatly subdued, and the local enlargement promised gradual reduction. A second account followed the first in a few days, from which it appeared, the horse lay down and got up with little difficulty, put his foot to the ground, bore a great part of the proportional weight upon it in motion, and even walked several steps in succession without halting. These encouraging appearances powerfully

fully dictated an unremitting perseverance in the mode of treatment already described, without the most trifling variation, which has succeeded so well, that a letter now lies before me from the owner, wherein he says, " The horse has been walked out twice, when he did not appear *the least lame*, and I hope he will be soon enabled to take his journey to Wokingham, there to profit by the winter's run you have kindly provided for him. I am very glad to hear of the Supplement you mention, and hope soon to see it published. I think the *cure* of my own horse *an uncommon one*."

As the introduction and illustration of cases may not be perfectly applicable to the expectation of those who wish to meet little more than a dictatorial arrangement of prescriptive matter, it will be perfectly in point, not only to explain their utility, but the cause of communication for general inspection.

The public having so extensively honoured the Stable Directory with such decided approbation, even in the infancy of its appearance, and before its *theory* could have been universally reduced

reduced to *practice*, it must afford the highest gratification in return, to receive corroborating and well authenticated proofs of the consistency of its reformation, and that the confidence so generously placed in the medical instructions, has suffered no prostitution or disgrace, amidst their numerous trials and critical investigations. However liberal the candid and impartial part of the world may have been in their encomiums upon the original work (or congratulations to the author), its contents could only appear to the public as mere matter of conjecture (upon the propriety of which every reader had a substantial reason to entertain doubts), till such doubts were removed by a repetition of success, and a palpable confirmation of the acknowledged utility of improvement in practice.

Naturally reverting to one or another of the cases already recited, it must be perfectly appropriate to repeat the absurdity, the wonderful inconsistency, of submitting the management of valuable (or indeed any) horses, to the strange and inconsiderate experiments of those who have no one qualification but their unbounded confidence

confidence (or rather impudence) to recommend them, or justify the dreadful havock they constantly make among this most useful part of the creation, if we may be fairly allowed to decide, by the great numbers annually doomed to death, in the penury and credulity of one class, or the invincible obstinacy and ignorance of the other.

The penury and credulity I allude to (and which cannot be too often or emphatically repeated), is that kind of saving knowledge in the employer, inevitably productive of a *double deception*; for (without bestowing even a remote thought upon the defective abilities of the *employed*) his imagination outstripping reflection, rapidly reaches an *ideal cure* at the *least expense*, totally forgetting that self-preservation is a concomitant to low cunning, and consequently more is lavished upon the ignorant, obstinate, confident, or necessitous, for the promotion of mischief and danger, than would amply compensate the enlightened practitioner for his assistance in all cases of emergency. Numerous facts might be adduced to demonstrate the truth of these assertions (notwithstanding

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the cautions so repeatedly advanced in different parts of the Directory), some of which may perhaps appear hereafter.

It becomes, however, immediately applicable to observe (*even here*) how very much depends, in all cases of difficulty and danger, upon drawing that nice and critical line of distinction in the mode of treatment constituting *right or wrong*, consequently destruction or cure. Notwithstanding the palpable necessity for such accurate investigation, time and observation daily demonstrate, in a variety of cases, the number of deaths that frequently happen, where it is absolutely natural to suppose the parties called in to *relieve*, had come with a fixed determination to *destroy*; justifying this idea by the many, who, not paying the least attention to Nature, or her indications, the origin, cause, or symptoms, of disease, proceed to their *predetermined* applications (whether *internals* or *externals*) with no emulation to *inspire*, no reputation to *lose*, no refined sensations to *soften*, consequently no *anxious* desire to prompt a speedy alleviation of pain, or mitigation of sufferings in the animal, unluckily destined

destined to undergo a repetition of rash, cruel, and inconsiderate experiments.

To corroborate the justice of this remark, is it at all necessary to go farther in retrospection than the last case recited?—Can any rational practitioner, whose conduct is regulated by integrity, and a proper attention to the indications of Nature, come forward and explain, what could be expected from the repeated application of *strong mercurial ointment* by one operator, or the meaning of ‘a lost vein, and ‘its intentional recovery by the use of a strong ‘blister,’ in the other?

Whatever may have been the intent or expectation of *either*, the event has fully proved the facts so repeatedly urged beyond the power of contradiction; such unmeaning efforts of sterility can only be the combined effects of vanity and presumptuous impudence in the first, professional ignorance, or the most unlimited confidence and deception in the latter.

Out of these considerations will arise conviction to such as do me the honour of attentive perusal,

perusal, that the major part of such pretenders to patronage merely possess abilities sufficient to proceed in their invariable system of imposition, with views very little beyond a constant and successful depredation upon the property of those who unfortunately require their assistance.

During the superintendance of the cases before recited, many of inferior consequence, but equally successful, intervened.—A gentleman of the first *popular eminence* in Surry, communicated a complete cure of the *grease* in one of his carriage horses by the strong diuretic balls, and a subsequent course of alteratives, after paying a tedious and implicit obedience to the dictates of a neighbouring farrier, without the *least prospect of success*.—Five instances have occurred in my own neighbourhood (exclusive of distant communications) where horses have been almost instantaneously relieved from the excruciating pain of cholic and fret, by the prescribed balls, after failure of the different farriers *potations*, most powerfully impregnated with their favourite specific, *gin and pepper*, to which mistaken remedy, and obstinate attachment, I have known many fall victims, where

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the inflammation has been *by these means* promoted, and nature too much exhausted to admit the least relief.

THORN WOUNDS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the general explanation of the different kinds of wounds, and their distinct modes of treatment, so fully enlarged on, under proper heads, in the Stable Directory, there is a certain class not particularly noticed, that from their severity bear so great an affinity to cases of punctured tendons, as to become (at the request of many respectable correspondents) the immediate subject of animadversion.

The inflammation, tension, pain, suppuration, and wounds, frequently arising from injuries sustained by thorns, nails, stubs, or other pointed substances equally prejudicial, are universally known to become not only exceedingly

ceedingly troublesome, but often productive of great danger. The penetration of such can very seldom take place without the probability of disagreeable or alarming consequence; if in the fore part of either leg, the periosteum, ligamentary parts, or articulation of the knee and and footlock joints, may be severely affected; if the back part of *either*, the tendon, by being punctured or lacerated, may receive irreparable injury. From these various chances, it is not at all surprizing that lameness, originating in causes so trifling in their early appearance, should frequently prove so truly distressing in the event; for it is well known but few of these accidents occur without terminating in suppuration and its tedious effects: and there can be no doubt but very many of those happen, from want of proper attention to circumstances, immediately after discovery of the injury sustained.

Punctures from thorns, in general, are considered merely as a temporary or superficial inconvenience, upon supposition that the integument is alone affected, without the least reference to parts more immediately and materially concerned. From such misconception and

error in judgment arise the disappointments that so frequently ensue in unexpected *formations of matter, ligamentary lameness, or tendinous contractions.*

Although the general mode of treatment has been in a great degree particularly explained in different parts of the original work, and will be still more enlarged on, it is absolutely impossible to descend to every minutiae, without becoming too tedious and desultory; some unforeseen symptoms will occur in all cases (after every possible description) to justify discretionary variations, and render such alterations unavoidable as the predominant appearances may require.

Few perforations are made by substances of the above description but what constitute lameness in a *greater or less* degree, either of *long or short* duration: the examination cannot be made too soon, or the cause (if retained) too expeditiously extracted.

If the injury sustained be merely superficial, not penetrating enough to indicate consequences of the kinds before mentioned, the readiest

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mild astringents become immediately applicable, to close the mouths of the lacerated vessels, and harden the surface. Of this class none can be better adapted than two tea spoonfuls of Goulard's Extract of Saturn, with a large table spoonful of brandy; or, in want of the former, equal parts of vinegar and brandy will become an useful substitute. Two or three gentle bathings with *either* composition will in all slight cases generally effect the purpose, and prevent farther inconvenience.

On the contrary, should appearances not submit to these applications, but by swelling, constantly increasing pain, tension, and inflammation, threaten maturation, it will not admit of a doubt but the tendon has been in some degree punctured or lacerated; the ligamentary parts forming the union at the articulation of the joints injured, or a retention of extraneous matter has taken place from the orifice of the original wound.

In all, or either of these, the great hope of expeditious relief must depend solely upon the *proper and consistent* mode of treatment that is immediately adopted to promote suppuration;

the general error has been productive of inconceivable mischief. It has been the established custom to form a combination of the strongest stimulants human invention could devise, without a single reflection upon (or one moment reverting to) the TIME inevitably necessary for the extravasated contents to become mature for their discharge by a critical effort of nature.

It has been the universal and long standing practice in all tumours or inflammatory swellings threatening a formation of matter, to rely entirely upon the effect of poultices (composed of the most powerful ingredients) calculated to stimulate the parts and excite early digestion. However judicious and approved this practice may have been, it will admit of some improvement, and even that justified by *reason* and *experience*; constantly observing (from the quantity of hair upon many horses, in addition to the thickness of the skin) how difficult it must be for the penetrative power of the poultice to come into immediate contact with the offending and indigested matter, as well as the long time necessary to obtain a discharge by *such means alone*, I in almost every case of tumours, or inflammatory

inflammatory swellings, adopt the use of very *warm* fomentations, for a considerable length of time preceding the application of each poultice (which should be renewed night and morning,) and am perfectly convinced of the advantages gained by the practice. No professional animadversion is required to elucidate or justify this assertion ; the described state of the parts, and corresponding property of the application, sufficiently demonstrate the certainty of success dependent upon the execution : for the good effect of such mode of treatment is not only evident in an early relaxation of the integument and porous system, but in a gradual communication to the seat of inflammation, being indubitably calculated to promote, *most powerfully*, a speedy and plentiful evacuation.

During a perseverance in this practice, it will be found no uncommon circumstance in such formations (more particularly in large inflammatory tumours), for Nature to make her efforts in two or three distinct places at the same time, where oozings may be perceived from the different apertures ; it will now be proper that every attention is paid to the nature

of the discharge, to ascertain the state of maturation, whether it is *partial* or *universal*: if the suppuration is perfect, and evidently ready for evacuation, let a superficial incision be made in length, adapted to the size of the tumour, and that at the lowest or most depending orifice (or situation of the part) that the discharge may become the more spontaneous, and impeded by no obstruction. But such operation should by no means (as is very frequently the case) be attempted till the part is properly prepared, and in need of assistance: over officiousness and eager impatience in counteracting or anticipating the indications of Nature, are often productive of those very disquietudes it is our interest to prevent.

Should the discharge consist of a bloody ichor, or a kind of watery indigested fancies, the maturation may be deemed *partial*, and exceedingly unfavourable. The swelling in such case is generally hard in one place and pliable in another, the wound (or different apertures, as it may be) displaying a fistulous appearance that threatens more consequence and inconvenience than a case of *universal* suppuration.

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These appearances will require an increased perseverance in the repeated use of fomentation and poultice, adding more heat to the former, and emollients to the latter, continuing each twice a day without remission. Increase the circulation and invigorate the system by *an ounce of bark in powder* (given in gruel), or *a pectoral cordial ball* every morning, and correct the acrimony in the blood and juices by one of *the alterative powders* in the feed of corn every evening: these attentions will generally effect a salutary change in the constitution, and produce a promising discharge of healthy matter.

Too much caution cannot be introduced to prevent the opening of tumours or swellings of any kind, before the contents are sufficiently softened (or ripe) for discharge. Such premature operation never fails to give a rigid callosity to the edges of the wound; and they cannot unite so favourably as when the case is more judiciously conducted.

Where *sinuses* are superficial (as for instance, from one aperture to another of those before described), and the integument is becoming putrid by the corrosive quality of the matter,

an immediate separation with the bistury, or *dissecting knife and director*, is the best practice, as the divided parts soon slough off with the dressings, and make way for succeeding incarnation.

Should *sinuses* lead to remote parts, or so surround the joints as to forbid (or render dangerous) the use of an instrument, let them be daily syringed with tincture of myrrh, so long as the wound continues foul and unfavourable; when it is thoroughly cleansed, and assumes a promising aspect, let the injection be altered to half tincture and half warm water, continuing its use at each dressing, which should be regularly persevered in night and morning.

In wounds of this description, the rapid growth of *fungous* (commonly called proud flesh) is almost incredible: this should be carefully attended to in the infancy of its appearance, and, if at all luxuriant, must be repeatedly touched in various directions, with the edge of a lancet, bistury, pen-knife, or any other applicable instrument exceedingly sharp; then dressed with a substantial plegget of the following

ing precipitate ointment, covered with the warm stable digestive, and a bandage best adapted to the part affected :

TAKE red precipitate, finely powdered, half an ounce, yellow basilicon two ounces, and let them be well incorporated upon a marble slab for use.

When the fungous is entirely subdued, and the cure nearly completed, this ointment may be omitted: but I believe it can be very rarely laid aside with propriety; for I find in my general practice, it is almost impossible to relinquish it *totally*, the excrescence continuing to shoot, in many cases, till the wound is *perfectly healed*.

This mode of treatment will also be found most strictly applicable to broken knees of any considerable consequence without distinction, some very remarkable cases of which have fallen under my inspection, that have had their different terminations: of the most singular was the *very horse* whose “ligamentary lameness” in the hip joint is described in the *third case*, that has a very short time since lost his life, after being totally

totally ruined by a broken knee, received upon a projecting flint in the road between Henley and Wargrave, that, separating the ligamentary union of articulation at the joint, not only produced an immediate hourly increasing inflammatory and incredible enlargement of the *whole limb*, but a fixed contraction (without the power of even resting the foot on the ground), in opposition to every attempt to relieve, by three of the most eminent practitioners in the centre of the royal studs, when, after the fairest exertions for some weeks, he was unavoidably doomed to the death it was impossible to prevent.

A second, much more severe in external appearance than the foregoing, was a bred mare (got by an Arabian, late in possession of Sir T. Rumbold, now of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales), the property of the owner of the farcy mare (described in case the second), and was attended with equal success; for although the integument and soft parts of the knee were entirely destroyed, as if taken off with an instrument (by a violent fall upon a very hard gravel road in Windsor Forest) so as almost to destroy every expectation of cure, yet by a daily reduction of
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the *fungous*, and strict attention to the conformation of the edges of the wounds, a cicatrix was formed and cure completed, bidding defiance to the eye or touch of the most judicious investigator; which is the more extraordinary, as the colour of the mare is a delicate grey. This case is only quoted to prove the possibility of preventing these accidents from becoming so perpetually prejudicial, when properly attended to; while on the contrary they become irreparable injuries, in being left to the course of nature; for, suffered to cicatrize with a prominence constituting an *eschar*, they prove an irretrievable blemish, that a very few days proper attention (in most cases) would probably prevent.

Having gone through every necessary instruction that can be possibly advanced for the treatment and cure of the different kinds of lameness proceeding from various causes, one additional remark cannot be too forcibly inculcated, nor too strictly observed. It is the great advantage to be gained in the progress and confirmation of every cure, from the use of an *open stable, bay of a barn*, or such other proper receptacle, in preference to a very absurd custom,

tom, exceedingly common (but more particularly in the metropolis, perhaps from the general want of room) of confining a horse by the head, labouring under a severe and tedious lameness, in a stall so very narrow, that it is *absolutely impossible* for him to enjoy one single extended motion in a state of nature; his situation is in fact so contracted that he is rendered incapable of exerting his powers, or knowing his own strength. He has no room for the most trifling action but in a compulsive position, and can move from *side to side only*, under every restraint and disadvantage.

To establish and render complete the cure of infirmities proceeding from relaxed, punctured, or lacerated tendons, ligamentary lameness, thorn wounds, or indeed almost any other cause, liberty, under certain limits, (as before described) should have equal weight with every other consideration; and this can be effected in no one way so well as the line of mediocrity already pointed out; for in such moderate receptacle they not only acquire a perfect knowledge of their own state and ability, but by gentle efforts, voluntary motion, and gradual use, the relaxed or defective parts recover their former

former tone and elasticity ; while, on the contrary, by turning *invalids* out too soon to open pasture (or with other horses), after severe injuries of this kind, they often forgetting (or not conscious of) their late deficiencies, become full of action and play upon obtaining their liberty, and are not unfrequently returned to the stable in a *worse state* than at the origin of complaint.

Previous to the conclusion of such complicated remarks as have been introduced for the purport of general information (calculated in respect to *minute particulars*, much more for the totally *uninformed* than the very many sportsmen who, possessing a portion of experience, stand in need of no instruction), it becomes a matter of indispensable necessity to add a few words upon the great danger (in fact cruelty) of adhering closely to some parts of ancient practice, that have no one *pléa* but their antiquity, and the invincible obstinacy of their advocates to recommend them.

Of this class none stand in a more conspicuous or ridiculous point of view than those who,

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I have observed in the body of the work, persist ' in a maxim, never to be obliterated, that ' *old laws, old times, and old books, are best.*' Among these, none are more destructive in their perseverance than those who, in opposition to every judicious opinion, every enlightened refinement and experimental conviction of the certain danger (and often fatal consequence) continue to give COLD WATER, during the process of PURGING MEDICINES, under the *contemptible assertion and pretended belief*, that it adds to the *ease and certainty* of the operation.

That this is a deceptive custom, shamefully persevered in by numbers of the illiterate and confident, without the knowledge, and against the decided opinion of their employers, is a fact too notorious *with me* to admit of contradiction; and one of those, upon the ill effects of which has been founded objections to *physic*, though in many instances the danger has been attributed to more remote causes, and *the truth* (from fatal consequences) has never been ascertained.

Cases of this kind have occurred, within my own knowledge, where the *cause* has been confessed, when the effect was unerringly perceptible; both the *pores* and the intestines (already preternaturally relaxed by the administration of medicine, additional clothing, and surrounding warmth) suffer sudden collapse, by the *styptic* power of the *frigid* element producing an almost instantaneous obstruction to every secretion; the perspirative matter thus obstructed, is directly fixed in the extremities, constituting *rheumatic pains*, that frequently terminate in *palsy*; or its effects upon the stomach and intestines, then in the highest state of irritability, are found to produce the most excruciating *cholic*, *spasms*, *convulsions*, *inflammation*, or *mortification*, that in either case generally ends in death; though lingering instances are frequently seen, where eight, ten, or twelve days of dreadful anxiety precede the termination.

These remarks upon so critical a subject are introduced to point out the certain danger, and to suppress, if possible, so absurd, so inconsiderate, and contemptible, a practice, that, it is

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natural to conclude, can be continued but from a motive of inherent obstinacy, determined *not to be convinced*, amidst all its dreadful consequence. I am, however, most earnestly induced to hope, from an anxious and unalterable desire to improve the subject and reform the practice, that the ancient adage of ' Better late than never,' and due reflection, will be productive of a gradual reformation, particularly when it is now universally known, and acknowledged by every impartial observer, that the instructions in the former part of the Directory, for management in PHYSIC, have undergone the ordeal of public investigation, and been honoured with general approbation:

T H E

DISEASE IN THE CANINE SPECIES,

C A L L E D

T H E D I S T E M P E R.

THERE can be no doubt but the inferiority of this subject, to the magnitude of the former, will prove matter of observation to those whose principal inquiries are directed more to the discovery of defects, than the applause of perfections. These few will, however, bear no proportion to the large body of liberal minded *sportsmen* to whom it is principally addressed, and for whose use it is almost solely communicated. Nor would it *even now* have been obtruded, upon public opinion, but at the particular request of gentlemen who, having profited by the instructions, were anxious for the promotion of general utility.

It may, with the strictest justice, be permitted to boast some degree of affinity, to the subject so largely treated on, when it is considered how very common an appendage one animal is to the other; so much so, that in field sports their safety and perfections seem not only to go *hand in hand*, but it is difficult (out of the metropolis) to find the possessor of a horse, or horses, that thinks himself at all equipped without hounds, greyhounds, pointers, spaniels, or terriers in his train also.

Under the influence of this observation, I can possess no fear of its favourable reception among those who fairly investigate the rationality of medical innovation, or condescend to court and patronize experimental improvement; presuming upon the numerous and flattering plaudits bestowed upon my former publications, I can hesitate but little in submitting to inspection the observations I have made upon a disease, whose annual destruction is generally known, in every part of the kingdom, with no other description or definition in origin, cause, or effect, than “THE DISTEMPER;” of which having endeavoured for some years to form an opinion with such accuracy,

curacy, as predominant symptoms and appearances would permit, I shall transmit them, with the mode of treatment that has hitherto (particularly under my own execution) proved successful, without a *single loss*, to justify a doubt of the practice when properly persevered in.

It is now near twenty years since I commenced my observations upon the nature and indications of the disease in question, and found, by my inquiries from others, and my own occasional remarks, the remedies generally adopted and esteemed *infallible specifics*, were calculated so little to counteract or remove the predominant symptoms of distress in the animal, that it produced no surprise, not more than *one in twenty* should recover when attacked with the usual severity.

In my endeavours to form some rational idea of the origin or cause of complaint, I could furnish *from others* not the least assistance; all the information I could collect, even from the most confident and self-sufficient) was, that 'the disorder was in the head, and a green (or seton) in the poll in

‘ the manner of an issue, was the only remedy to be relied on.’—Of this general concise explanation and cure I so far availed myself, as not to omit the inspection of a single subject in my own neighbourhood, where the *received opinion* might be justified or disproved by the event. And I must candidly declare, after months of the strictest attention, I never could perceive a greater proportion than *one in ten* recover from the supposed effect of this *infallible green or seton*; and therefore we may very fairly infer, those that recover under this practice, derive their cure much more from the assistance and efforts of Nature, than the effect of so uncertain and inapplicable a remedy.

Finding so little satisfaction or truth in this part of the general opinion, I became more anxious to discover how far ‘ *the head*,’ as before mentioned, was the seat of disease; but, after every minute attention, and incessant observation (even with my own pointers and spaniels in succession), I could discover no one trait of consequence, to justify the idea, nearer than a tumefaction of the glandular parts on each side the throat, which, in a greater

greater or less degree, affected the different subjects according to the mildness or malignity of disease.

Previous to the more particular description of prevalent symptoms in the animals labouring under the complaint, a few general observations may be introduced without the least digression. I plainly perceived the disease to be much more *epidemic* than *infectious*, and that the time of attack varied in the different kinds; but that the ratios of nineteen in twenty were affected before they were *twelve-months old*. I observed hounds, greyhounds, pointers, and the larger dogs, were usually attacked between eight months old and twelve; while spaniels, terriers, and the smaller kinds, suffered between four months and nine. I also remarked the females were in general much less afflicted than the males, many escaping entirely, and those that did not, were neither so severely affected, nor for so great a duration.

Having, about the exact time of forming my predetermined chain of observations, young pointers and spaniels in my possession, upon

whose breed I had every reason to fix considerable estimation, they not only soon gave me opportunity to become exceedingly accurate in my remarks, but to adopt such remedies as I should find most applicable (in my opinion) to the symptoms of disease.

Of these a pointer, of nearly eight months old, was the first attacked. The earliest symptoms of disease were dulness, loathing of food, frequent sickness, and constant vomitings: these producing in a few days great depression and lassitude, were soon followed by perpetual huskiness in the throat, and difficulty of respiration; the nose remarkably dry, and mouth exceedingly hot, with occasional strainings to evacuate by stool without discharge.

Not having been able to reconcile to myself the least prospect of success from the usual operation of 'burning a green in the poll with a *red hot iron*,' under an idea of the complaints being in the head, and having from hourly attention, as well as the most accurate observation, every reason to believe the disease particularly affected the *throat, stomach, and intestines*, it was natural I should advert

advert to such remedies as were more immediately adapted to those parts. My first intent was to promote evacuation, under a perfect conviction there must be a very violent obstruction in the stomach or some part of the intestines; to remove which, I prepared a small ball with a scruple of *jalap*, four grains of *calomel*, and two of *ginger*; forming it into a proper consistence with *conserve of hips*, then covering it with a small portion of *fresh butter* to facilitate its passage, gave it in that form; where it remained no longer than during its solution in the stomach, almost instantly returning in a state of liquefaction, entirely unaccompanied by any other substance whatever: this I repeated five or six times, in less than three days, with no better success.

As the disease advanced in respect to *time*, the general symptoms became more violent; the animal, from the first attack, having never taken any food but warm milk (and that in the most trifling quantities), was incredibly emaciated: there was a very great contraction and hollowness of the flank, occasioned by a perceptible stricture of the muscles, that, producing an hourly encreasing weakness of

the loins, seemed to indicate the approach of inevitable dissolution ; the *binder parts* had absolutely declined, and could no longer perform their office ; when lifted up he could not stand without support, his hind legs sinking under him ; and by the frequent twitchings and convulsive spasms, he seemed encountering the agonies of *immediate death*.

No refinement of thought, no sublimity of expression, is necessary to convey a description of the present dilemma. Every sportsman, whose mind is embellished by the nicer sensations, and whose heart is instinctively open to alleviate the sufferings of these partners of, and contributors to, our pleasures, these nocturnal protectors of our property ; as well as the many (*though no sportsmen*) who have their favourites of the different species, and are no strangers to their *attachments, fidelity, and gratitude*, have, no doubt, *sometime or other*, stood in a similar predicament.

Convinced by the state of the extended subject, nothing could be expected but *death*, any rational experiment, that could be put into immediate practice, was perfectly justifiable

fiable to promote a further investigation of the cause, or very slender and improbable *chance* of the mitigation or cure of disease. Almost hopeless of even time sufficient to administer the medicine, I prepared a ball, containing three grains of *emetic tartar*, and ten of *jalap*, forming the mass and passing it as before. I also incorporated one ounce of the spirit of hartshorn (by frequent shaking) with a quarter of a pint of olive oil, and bathed all the affected parts of the throat, so as to leave the hair underneath the neck plentifully charged with the composition.

For rather more than half an hour, during the solution of the ball, and its consequent effect upon the stomach, the subject seemed to undergo the most painful sensations; agitating vibrations (or tremblings) of the whole frame were very frequent; his eyes, *nearly closed*, seemed totally fixed, and the foam issuing from both sides of his mouth (as he lay extended at his utmost length), left not the least expectation of ever seeing him *even once more* upon his legs; when suddenly rising (after repeated efforts) a perfect frame or skeleton, and reeling three or four feet from the

the carpet he was laid on, threw up (with very little exertion or straining) near half a pint of viscid limpid coagulum, so tenacious and adhesive that there was not the least possibility of partial separation. After this emotion he could not return to the spot he had arisen from without assistance; to which, being carried and laid down, he appeared somewhat more at ease.

Still convinced no satisfactory termination could be obtained, or even expected, without farther exertions, and not entertaining the least doubt, by symptoms before described, but the intestines were equally the seat of disease, and principally concerned in the origin of complaint, without the power of reaching *that cause* by any other means, I was determined to persevere in my experiments, and proceeded accordingly in the following preparation :

Strong decoction of rue, half a pint ;
 Lenitive electuary, and
 Common salt, of each a quarter of an ounce ;
 Olive oil, two table-spoonfuls.

These

These being properly mixed were administered as a glyster, of warmth sufficient to stimulate the internal parts to action,

This was however expelled almost instantly upon its injection with great rapidity, as having met some obstacle in its course through the intestine, which served only to excite an unremitting perseverance to obtain relief; particularly as I had sufficient reason to believe, by every look and *endeavouring action* of the animal, that he had already found some degree of mitigation by the evacuation from his stomach and the relaxation of the intestine. The glyster was repeated in two hours, with an almost immediate ejection, producing no other advantage than additional alleviation of predominant symptoms; the subject became evidently more at ease, displaying in his looks certain marks of relief; the stricture upon the abdominal muscles was considerably reduced, and I had little doubt but the state of the stomach and intestines were in some degree altered by the salutary discharge from the former, as well as the good effect and warmth of the internal fomentation upon the other.

Appearances

Appearances so highly gratifying (and those produced in a few hours by experiments new and uncertain) afforded me the best encouragement to exert every endeavour that could tend to crown the event with success. In about an hour after the last operation, a plate of bread and milk was offered, boiled well together; supporting the head and fore parts from the ground as he lay, in hopes he might be able to take a small portion of nutriment, that would assist exhausted nature and support the frame; he however, after giving proof of his inclination so to do, failed in the attempt from *absolute weakness*, and was compelled to decline it.

Notwithstanding this failure, every other circumstance tended to convince me the dog was in some degree mending: confirmed, beyond a doubt, where the obstacle lay, and firmly persuaded the *foundation of relief* was already communicated, I, for the first time, became enlivened with a ray of expectation it might be totally removed. To accomplish this very desirable point, I was determined no time, no trouble, on my part, should be omitted, and therefore dedicated the *following night* to a

verification of that excellent motto and excitement to industry, “*Persevere and conquer.*” The subject continued to become much less disquiet, not a symptom but appeared less violent, and he even dozed without extreme pain. In the middle of the night I repeated the glyster, which was then retained a considerable time, and again discharged, as thrown up without the least appearance of, or admixture with, excrement.

After this retention and evacuation of the injection, he tottered, unsupported to his bed, and lay down evidently better. In less than an hour after this effort and emotion he took, with some degree of eagerness, the bread and milk that had been prepared (previously warmed); about eight in the morning I renewed my injection, which, after being retained for at least ten minutes, came away with a large portion of *discoloured crudities*, as if brought from the interstices of the intestines by the repeated washings of the injection.— This produced additional and very striking advantages: he was seemingly relieved in all respects, the stricture of the muscles upon the intestines, and the contraction of the loins, were

were both evidently better, and the violence of every former symptom promised gradually to subside; he soon took, and continued to take, occasional supplies of the bread and milk well boiled, of thin consistence, for the purpose.

The glysters were repeated every four or five hours, without remission, with little variation in advantage and appearance, till ten or eleven had been given, their good effects being plainly perceptible in every repetition; when, after a succession of severe trials and repeated strainings for many minutes, one entire mass was voided, composed of every kind of extraneous substance such animal could have been supposed to swallow with food during its puppyism. It clearly consisted of grass or hay, wonderfully matted or interwoven with hair, and particles of sand or gravel cemented together so *exceedingly hard*, that it might be fairly supposed to have been prepared by art, and passed through a mould by some instrument of powerful pressure.

This extraordinary expulsion occasioned no surprise; on the contrary, it removed every suspense

suspense—confirmed every suspicion—and left no one doubt of the *cause* of complaint or *certainty of cure*. The animal, almost from this moment, became a new subject, demonstrating in every action, his change of situation; notwithstanding which, the operation, in a few hours was *once more repeated*, and in its effect brought away some loose remains exactly corresponding with the substances before described. From this time he suffered no farther inconvenience but what was the result of previous pain, want of nutriment, and bodily debilitation: he continued daily to improve not only in his renewed establishments of health, but, the ensuing season, in his expected qualifications; after which I parted with him, for a very valuable consideration, to a gentleman going to Scotland, who purchased him with an avowed intent to improve the breed, he being perhaps as fine a figure, with *size, bone, speed, and perfection*, as ever entered the field.

To this succeeded, in a very short space of time, the case of a young spaniel, in *every respect the same*, but with much less severity; the symptoms, in fact, were not violent to alarm,

alarm, and being exceedingly slight, were immediately counteracted by the same means with a very slender portion of perseverance.

Perfectly successful in these attempts; and gratified in the effect of experiments planned only upon my own private opinion and observations, with an intent to insure (if possible) the certainty of cause and probability of cure, it will not be thought extraordinary, I wished for, and even courted, opportunities to justify, or render nugatory, the discovery I was so anxious to ascertain.

I soon found it impossible to succeed in my investigation and pursuit with subjects the property of others; there I could only advise or recommend (without the power of absolute dictation), where, probably, various circumstances—the pride, indolence, or peculiarities, of the parties might prevent the performance of either one or the other.

During my encreased desire to proceed in such speculative inquiry, a brace of pointer puppies were brought me by a gentleman from Banbury in Oxfordshire, of so good a breed,
and

and so high in estimation, that the *fire* was sent for from *Newport Pagnel* in *Buckinghamshire*, to the dam at *Banbury* merely for this single act of procreation. These were both attacked in their *seventh month* and within a few days of each other; one being in figure—shape—marks and promising appearance—very much like the dog before described, had already (and perhaps from that very reason,) become a great favourite; and to *this* every attention, every ceremony and operation hitherto explained was rigidly performed (as no two cases could be ever more strictly alike), with no alteration in form, no variation in effect, but exactly corresponding in every particular with the case first recited: the symptoms were all equally violent, the danger as great, the cure as improbable, and the recovery as perfectly complete.

This case occurred in the summer of 1781, and the dog is now in possession of a gentleman at *Binfield* in *Windsor Forest*, who has repeatedly declared he shall *never change his master*; and it may not be inapplicable to add, he even *now* possesses all the perfections of a young dog: and when he was my property,

F a neighbouring

a neighbouring friend repeatedly offered to hunt him in the field, and oppose his good qualities against any *single* pointer in the county for a hundred guineas. Thus were two of the finest dogs in the kingdom preserved by the effect of experiments, that had they not been brought into trial could never have proved successful.

Whatever might have been my predominant wish respecting the other subject of disease, professional engagements totally precluded every possibility of bestowing the same personal attendance upon *both*, had they been equally high in my estimation: this very want of opportunity had nevertheless its convenience, so far as it contributed to establish the practice I had adopted with so much promised success. The usual symptoms continued to increase with the violence so particularly described in the first case, till the fourteenth day, when the slight spasms and twitchings produced convulsions of some duration; from these he sometimes continued perfectly free for four or five hours, when they returned with increasing severity, but frequent intermission; on the eighteenth day they became incessant, render-

ing

ing the sight truly distressing, and closing the scene after a convulsive fit of near four hours without the least deviation or relief.

From the event of this *unassisted* case, (as well as many others among my sporting friends,) in direct contrast to those already recited, I had a very fair and undoubted plea to gratulate myself upon a discovery that had hitherto promised every hope of success upon repetition and justly laid claim to the test of *farther trial*, when *time* should afford opportunity for additional demonstration.

Such proofs have since occurred as leave no room to doubt the propriety of the practice, first in a pointer, son of the dog whose recovery is before mentioned, and now in a gentleman's possession at Binfield, who was attacked when about nine months old ; and, though not affected with the severity of the two pointers whose cases have gone before, (perhaps in consequence of the remedies being brought *very early* into use), yet he suffered so much from the disease, as to render his recovery for some days a matter of great uncertainty. The mode of treatment so particularly explained

was punctually adhered to, in both the emetic ball and repetition of the glysters; the effect proved equally favourable; and although the evacuations were not critically the same, they were nearly similar to those in the cases of recovery before described. This dog proved equally valuable in field qualifications with his sire; and was disposed of at the request of a gentleman of fortune in the neighbourhood, to whose generosity I stand indebted for innumerable instances of his partiality.

If I had the least reason to entertain doubts of the success of my endeavours, and earnestly wished another case to establish the point beyond all cause of controversy, such additional proof soon occurred, leaving every instance in favour of the attempt and practice, without a single counteraction to justify a doubt of its consistency.

The constantly increasing claims upon professional attention to objects of greater importance having induced a *suspension of the gun*, with the disposal of my pointers, an inviolable (or rather *invincible*) attachment to the species, soon procured me an epitome of the fashion, in a brace

a brace of terriers; and such being obtained in preference from *a palace* (rather than the cottage), were equally remarkable for their breed and beauty, soon becoming, as *pointers had been*, objects of adequate attention. Of these the male was attacked under six months old, in every respect as all the others that had been subjects of my observation, and with so much continued severity, and increasing violence of symptoms, that I did not entertain either expectation or idea of his recovery. The same plan of operation was pursued as with all the rest, varying the proportions only to age, size, and strength (by reducing the composition of the ball to two grains of emetic tartar, and eight of jalap, and the glysters to half the quantity given to larger dogs), till his recovery was ascertained to a certainty, and he is now in my possession, with the female, that has never been at all attacked, at least to become perceptible. This was the *fifth* successful trial upon animals under my own inspection, and not to be controverted by the pique or prejudice of those who may conceive the matter too trifling for the press, or the species too insignificant for the process.

Having

Having however (speaking from experimental sensations) every reason to believe there are of all classes great numbers who would most readily encounter not only fatigue, but difficulty and expense, to extricate from disease and threatening death favourites of this species, It is from the flattering hope of their plaudits, that I have gone entirely out of the line of *literary ambition*, and descended to the descriptive minutiae of a subject that may, from the more **SUBLIME** and **DIGNIFIED** practitioner, undergo every possible accusation of professional degradation, from which I court *no exculpation*, solicit *no acquittal*, make *no appeal*, but to the more decisive and honourable opinion of the *sporting world in general*, to whose encouraging partiality it is solely addressed, and to whose consideration and particular use it is most respectfully submitted.

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