CLINICAL ARTICLES.

THE OPERATION OF PERONEAL TENOTOMY FOR THE RELIEF OF STRINGHALT.

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IN the *Journal of Comparative Pathology and Therapeutics* for June 1897, Mr William Robb has recorded two instances in which the operation of peroneal tenotomy was performed for the relief of stringhalt, the result in each case being very satisfactory.

Shortly after reading of these cases an opportunity occurred in the College clinique for the trial of the operation. The subject was an aged mare suffering from stringhalt in a very exaggerated form; so much so that lately the owner had been unable to use her for cab work, and even when attempting to trot out of harness it was only with the greatest difficulty that she could make any pace. There was also a spavin on each hock.

The animal was cast, cocaine injected, and the peroneus tendon of each leg cut through. The wounds were afterwards covered with iodoform and collodion (1-12), and they healed rapidly. Upon being trotted immediately after the operation there was no perceptible improvement or alteration in gait, and the actual cautery was applied to each spavin. When returning for re-inspection a week later there were still signs of stringhalt, but the gait was perceptibly improved. The animal was then turned out to grass for about six weeks. Since that time the owner has been able to keep her in regular work, and when seen at the College a few days ago the animal could trot and turn well, only showing the stringhalt in a mild form. As in Mr Robb's two cases, there was not an absolute disappearance of the stringhalt, but the animal was transformed from a state of uselessness into a condition in which it could but put to such a severe test as the everyday work of a London cab horse.

OUTBREAK OF DISEASE OF THE UDDER IN DAIRY COWS (CONTAGIOUS MASTITIS).

By JOHN MALCOLM, F.R.C.V.S., Birmingham.

ON returning here from London on the evening of 16th July last, I found instructions awaiting me to go as soon as possible to a farm in the suburbs and inspect and report upon a herd of cattle said to be suffering from sewage poisoning. I at once proceeded to the farm, and on inquiry was informed that a number of cattle had been poisoned by drinking water from a stream polluted with sewage through an accidental overflow from a contiguous sewer some days previously.

The herd consisted of eight cows and eleven calves, none of which

however had died, but four of the former and one of the latter were shown to me as affected.

Three of the cows were in fair condition, but were slightly fevered and suffering from acute disease of the udder; the other was much emaciated, and had a chronic cough and old standing disease of the udder, one quarter being atrophied and another indurated.

The calf was emaciated and hide bound, and had a husky cough.

I may say here that the fourth cow and the one standing next to her, but not shown to me as one of those affected, both died, the one about a month, the other about two months, after this date.

I wished to see their *post-mortems*, and made a special request to that effect, but unfortunately no opportunity was given me of doing so. It was, however, my opinion that both were suffering from tuberculosis, and I believe both died from that disease.

The calf referred to and one of the others also died about a month after. I did not see either *post-mortem*, but it is admitted that both died from hoose.

The udder disease from which the three cows were suffering was locally manifested by a rash on the base of the teats and on the adjacent gland surface, by tumefaction and induration of the gland structure surrounding the milk sinuses, by pain on pressure on the indurated regions and during milking, and by a marked alteration in the quantity and quality of the milk, which was much reduced in amount and appeared a dirty yellow liquid containing curdled stringy clots.

In each case all the quarters of the udder were affected, but in a varying degree.

There was little or no œdema or enlargement of the udder as in cases of sporadic mastitis seen subsequent to parturition. In each case the disease was evidently in a different stage of evolution; in one it was in the initial stage, in another it was more advanced, and in the third recovery had commenced. This was evidenced by the height of the fever, by the condition of the udder and the milk, and by the supplementary testimony of the herd in attendance as to the order of its appearance.

The appetite was considerably lessened, but there was no sign of any gastro-intestinal disturbance, and the fæces were quite natural.

I failed to trace any connection between this udder affection and sewage poisoning, for although the symptoms of the latter are perhaps imperfectly known, nevertheless there was an entire absence of those naturally to be expected in disease arising from such a cause. On the contrary, I considered the udder affection a local disease, probably contagious in character (which later on was confirmed).

As the matter was of considerable importance I desired another opinion on the subject, and at my request Mr Olver of Tamworth was subsequently called in, and examined the whole herd on 27th July. By this date one of the cows had practically recovered, and the other two were progressing favourably, but in the meantime other two cows were affected.

Mr Olver's report fully corroborated mine. The udder affection he diagnosed as a contagious local disease transmitted by the hands of the milker from cow to cow, the disease affecting the two old cows as tuberculosis, and that of two calves as hoose.

On 28th August I re-examined the cattle in company with Professor Stockman.

In the interval one old cow and the two calves had died. The five cows affected with disease of the udder had all improved in condition, and only two now showed any local indication of the disease. I narrated the whole circumstances to Professor Stockman, and from that, together with the remaining indications of the udder disease, he expressed an opinion in agreement with Mr Olver's and mine.

As soon as marked alteration in the milk was observed its sale was discontinued, and it was subsequently given to the pigs on the farm, none of which ever showed any ill effect from being fed on it.

The Medical Officer of Health was made aware of the outbreak, and naturally was on the *qui vive* for any disease that could be attributed to the milk, but no case in any person supplied with milk was brought under his cognisance.

AN INTERESTING HERMAPHRODITE.

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THE subject of these notes was a piebald waler Galloway, six years old, imported into Bombay by an Australian dealer last cold season.

I only saw the animal on one occasion, when the owner drove into the compound, and I was so struck with the appearance of the genital organs that I made a rough sketch of the hind parts and took a few notes for my case book.

For some of the following particulars I am indebted to Vet.-Lieut.-Col. Anderson, with whom the animal was stabled, and also to Vet.-Lieut. Baldrey, who, with Vet.-Major Mills, Principal of the Parel Veterinary College, photographed the hind quarters.

The drawing shows the animal's buttocks, the anus above, three bulbous-looking bodies below, and the perinæum stretching between.

The perinæum, which resembled that of the horse, shows the outline of the urethra in the median line, till it is lost sight of close to the vulva.

The vulva was small, the labia measuring 1 inch or rather more from the upper to the lower commissure, and, though minus a clitoris, was otherwise perfectly formed. The vagina was immature, and the tube of the vulva ended in a *cul-de-sac*, which may or may not have been an imperforate hymen. The vulva dipped into the upper border of the glans penis, which is seen immediately below and around the vulva. The glans penis resembled that of the stallion, and protruded a little beyond the perinæal skin, the place of the prepuce being taken apparently by some loose connective tissue situated supero-laterally.

The urethra opened immediately below the lower commissure of the vulva, about the centre of the glans, and from this aperture the urine used to dribble.

On examination per rectum, moderate-sized testicles were felt in the lumbar region, and the mammary glands and teats were fully developed, as in the mare.