

time out of print, and the lapse of time has necessitated considerable revision to bring the matter quite up to date. The revision has been of a very thorough character, and the work has grown considerably, though still not exceeding the limits within which a text-book suitable to the needs of the ordinary student must be confined. Not the least of the improvements is the addition of a considerable number of new illustrations, of which there are now altogether 160.

A strong point in Colonel Smith's work is that it is essentially, and not merely in name, a text-book of *veterinary* physiology. The horse, and not the human being, is taken as the type, but the special physiology of the other domesticated mammals also receives due attention, and everywhere the author appears to have kept in mind that veterinary physiology is the necessary introduction to the study of veterinary pathology.

No veterinary student can afford to be without this manual as a guide and assistance in his physiological work, and practitioners also will find it valuable for keeping themselves in touch with a subject that is too often entirely neglected when once the knowledge of it necessary to pass an examination has served its immediate purpose.

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Specielle Pathologie und Therapie der Haustiere, für Tierärzte, Ärzte und Studierende. II. Abtheilung. Von Dr Georg Schneidemühl, Professor der Tiermedizin und Vergleichenden Pathologie an der Universität Kiel. Berlin: R. Trenkel, 1907.

THIS forms Part II. of Dr Schneidemühl's work on veterinary pathology and therapeutics, which we had occasion to notice when the first part appeared. It deals with the general diseases of the blood and so-called constitutional diseases; diseases of the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive organs; and diseases of the nervous system. A little over 300 pages are devoted to these subjects; and, although the account of the diseases above-mentioned is necessarily not very exhaustive, it is in general well proportioned and accurate.

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## CLINICAL ARTICLE.

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### A CASE OF SPASM OF THE RIMA GLOTTIDIS.

By HENRY TAYLOR, F.R.C.V.S., Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

THE subject of this note was a four-year-old cob, about fourteen hands high, and the circumstances under which I was asked to see him were as follows:—

The groom, who slept in a compartment adjoining the stable in which the cob was kept, was awakened one morning about 2 A.M. by a commotion in the cob's box, and, rushing out, found him lying on the floor apparently dead. Bye and bye, however, he got up, and, though rather seedy, did not seem very much the worse. Nothing further occurred until some time about 9 A.M., whilst the groom was

away at the station. One of the other men, a gardener, then heard a noise, and, on rushing to the stable, found the cob down at full length on the floor. In a short time, however, he got up again.

This was all the history of the case I could gather, except that the cob had been hunted a day or so previously, whereas he was generally kept for harness purposes.

When I saw him he did not present any very definite symptoms. He was partly off his feed, but the groom accounted for this by the fact of his having been hunted, as on the few occasions when so used this had been the consequence. His back was also tender just where the extreme end of the panels of the saddle come upon the loins. I was told he always flinched a little just at that particular part when pressed upon, but now he was worse than usual. On palpating the part I found an area of sensitiveness of the skin, which was undoubtedly due to galling by the saddle, and was, moreover, of recent origin.

The pulse, temperature, and respirations were normal; also the colour of the mucous membranes. Nothing could be deduced from the above to account for the occurrence; but, on further questioning the groom, I elicited the fact that since the day of hunting the cob had had a cough, but without any running at the nose.

Thereupon I gave his throat a pinch to test the soreness, etc. The cough which the pressure caused was not that of a sore throat, but was loud, spasmodic, and dry, and the animal had a regular paroxysm. From the peculiar character of the cough, and from its resemblance to another case of spasm of the rima glottidis, I had little doubt that this was one also.

I happened to have some morphia with me, and I accordingly gave him a dose of that, at the same time deliberating about the advisability of performing tracheotomy. The treatment ordered was steaming the head, fomenting the throat, and the administration of electuary containing extract of belladonna and glycyrrhiza.

Of the latter a few doses had been given, and the cob had had one or two mild coughing fits, when the groom was fortunate enough to witness an attack of spasm. The cob suddenly began to cough, and, after doing so more than a dozen times, he made a loud roaring, or rather screeching, noise, as if he were unable to overcome some obstruction to the free passage of the air, held up his head with the nose poked out and his eyeballs meanwhile standing out from their sockets, opened his mouth wide, gasping for breath, and then fell on the floor as if he had been poleaxed. He lay there still for a second or two, then respiration recommenced, and in a short time he got up.

During the course of the evening he had another attack of spasm, which was simply a repetition of the above. He had a few fits of coughing besides. Next morning he appeared about the same as he did on my first visit.

No more attacks of spasm were observed, and the fits of coughing became less frequent and of shorter duration; but, as a slight cough persisted some few days after, his throat was painted with tincture of iodine. Shortly after, it ceased altogether, and the cob went to work.

The cause of the laryngeal spasm in this case is rather obscure. There was nothing to be made out by an examination through the mouth, and the cob had no "cold." The fact that the spasms had

come on after hunting is rather significant. The cob was probably galloped a little hard on that occasion, and it is just possible he inhaled some irritating particle or particles. Something, at any rate, must have stimulated either the filaments of the recurrent laryngeal nerve which supply the constrictor muscles of the larynx, or else the muscles themselves. Moreover, the stimulus was so strong as to cause for a brief interval an entire suspension of respiration.

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## Abstracts and Reports.

### PROTECTIVE INOCULATION OF CALVES AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

AN important contract, of which the following are the terms, has been made between the Argentine Government and Prof. von Behring:—

(1.) The Argentine Government, desiring to utilise the imported animals which have responded to the tuberculin test and which at present are slaughtered as tuberculous without yielding any profit, agrees to establish, under its direct supervision, a hospital for stalling these animals. All or a number of these are placed at the disposal of Prof. von Behring, who agrees to apply to them his curative method which, experimentally, has proved efficient in guinea-pigs, sheep, and cows.

(2.) Prof. von Behring agrees to send his first assistant, Dr Paul Rømer, to Buenos Ayres to apply his curative treatment to the imported tuberculous cattle. The duration of Dr Rømer's mission will be one year.

(3.) As remuneration Dr Rømer receives, at the time of signing the contract and for travelling expenses to Buenos Ayres, the sum of M. 2000. From the day of his arrival at Buenos Ayres he will receive a monthly salary of 1000 piastres, paper money. After the termination of his mission Dr Rømer will receive 1000 piastres, to defray his return travelling expenses.

(4.) Dr Rømer, acting according to the instructions of Prof. von Behring, will be the sole judge of the nature, the manner, and the intensity of the treatment. He cannot demand the placing at his disposal of all the imported animals reacting to tuberculin, but simply a number of them. The right to control the course and the results of the experiments is vested in a special commission appointed for this purpose by the Minister of Agriculture. In no case has this commission the right to control the manufacture of the remedy, nor can the commission demand that the remedy be put at their disposal.

(5.) When, according to Dr Rømer's opinion, the treated animals are to be considered as practically cured he must furnish the proof to the commission, and if the commission be convinced of it the cured animals will be delivered to their respective owners, and their state of health will be controlled from time to time, under the supervision of the said commission, for a period of three years. A certain number of the treated animals will be killed and autopsies performed before the commission, when Dr Rømer must demonstrate the results of the treatment. Finally, some of the breeding animals will be killed, to serve as controls, without having received any treatment whatever.