SALIVATION CAUSED BY NUX VOMICA.

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A remarkable case occurred lately in my experience, and it may prove of some interest to record it. Nowhere in any work on therapeutics have I read of *nux vomica* producing salivation, and in all cases where it is the cause of poisoning universal experience goes to show, that so far from salivation being one of the symptoms, the action of the poison has the very opposite tendency.

The case referred to, was that of a brown Clydesdale mare, thirteen years old, suffering from intestinal obstruction, the primary symptoms of which were those of ordinary colic. The treatment was on the ordinary lines; a dose of physic was given in the first instance, which was repeated three days afterwards, with anodyne draughts and hypodermic injections of morphia and atropine when the pain was severe. Enemata of soap and water were administered at intervals. On the fourth day, I decided to give *nux vomica*, in drachm doses of the powder night and morning in beer, as the mare was unable to give it in bolus. After the mare had got the sixth powder in the evening, I noticed a slight frothing at the mouth, but did not at the time attribute this to the *nux vomica*, and told the man to give another in the morning, as the bowels were then beginning to operate slightly. On the following day I was surprised to find the mare very much salivated, the man declaring that she was "salivating by the quart." The mare had during the night passed a large quantity of fæces.

I was now convinced that the *nux vomica* was the cause of the salivation, as I had given no other medicine, and at once gave a mixture of milk and eggs, shortly after which the salivation ceased. Another interesting fact in connection with the case is that the mare, which was within two months of parturition, foaled all right, and afterwards did well.

I send a notice of this case, as, so far as I have been able to learn by reading or enquiry, it is quite unique in the physiological action of *nux vomica*. It may be that some of the readers of this Journal know of a parallel case; if so, in the interests of medical science, it would be well that they should make it known.

CASE OF FIBROMA IN THE PREPUCE.

By F. HOBDAY, M.R.C.V.S., Hospital Surgeon, Royal Veterinary College, London.

AMONGST the animals waiting for the College Cheap Practice on the 6th of September was an aged entire pony with a large tumour pendant within the sheath of the penis. The only history obtainable was that the owner had bought the animal as a speculation some three weeks before, with the intention of having the tumour removed if possible. During the time the pony had been in his possession no alteration in size had taken place, and the animal evinced no difficulty in urinating although the extremity of the penis was

protruding. As the pony was in poor condition, the owner was advised not to have it operated on at present, but he expressed a willingness to take all risks, and wished it done at once.

On the 7th the animal was cast and placed on its back. Manual examination revealed the tumour to be hard, with a distinctly defined rounded border, and surrounded by areolar tissue. It was situated in the prepuce, below and partly surrounding the penis, but not in any way attached to the latter, as the fingers could readily be made to meet underneath it. The penis had lost the power of retraction, but otherwise to all external appearances the organ was not diseased.

A longitudinal incision was made in the prepuce, the areolar tissue was dissected away with the fingers aided by a scalpel, and the whole mass was removed entire. At its deepest portion the tissue was very tough and fibrous. Only a very little hæmorrhage occurred, and no blood-vessels of sufficient size to cause alarm were noticed; there were several veins around the growth, but none could be detected as entering the substance of the tumour itself.

The wound was dressed antiseptically, and the animal was allowed to get up. The slight hæmorrhage which ensued almost entirely ceased on the application of cold water, but about half an hour afterwards the wound was noticed to be bleeding again, the blood being very thin and watery, of a dull red colour, apparently venous, and trickling away in a continuous stream.

The pony was again cast, and the wound was plugged with styptics and afterwards sutured. Cold water was applied locally and to the lumbar region, cold enemas being administered per rectum, and a large dose of tincture of opium given. As the animal began to show symptoms of weakness, and as there was no sign of a coagulum being formed or of cessation of the hæmorrhage, the owner decided to have it destroyed.

Accordingly, at 3.30 P.M. eighty minims of hydrocyanic acid (Scheele's) were injected subcutaneously in the flank; at 3.40, as no apparent effect was perceptible, the same quantity was injected directly into the thorax; this commenced to act at 3.42, and the animal was dead at 3.45.

Post-Mortem Examination revealed nothing abnormal, except that there was not the slightest sign of the formation of a coagulum in the wound.

The tumour weighed 3lbs. 2½oz., measured 7½ inches in length, and was 15 inches in circumference at its thickest part. It was very clearly defined, and surrounded by areolar tissue, the outer surface feeling hard, and being smooth and glistening. In shape, it was oblong. On section it appeared very white, and only very slightly vascular, the few blood-vessels in it being exceedingly small, and only perceptible when the tissue was submitted to strong pressure.

Examination with the microscope proved it to be a fibroma.

The unusually large size to which the tumour had attained, and the hæmorrhage that followed its removal, make it worthy of recording.