better. I made some excuse about the skin on the nose peeling off, and heard nothing more about the case for a week, when the owner again appeared, bringing with him a strip of skin some 14 to 16 inches long, and from 2 to 6 inches wide. He informed me the beast was doing well, with the exception that all the white hair (the steer being red and white) was coming off, while beneath this shed skin blood and matter were found. Through the white hair, all over the body, he informed me, blood appeared to be penetrating.

Thinking the case rather curious I decided to go and see the steer, so, packing my camera in the trap, I drove out to the farm; I found the animal presenting a curious picture, which I at once proceeded to capture with my camera (Plate IX.).

One of the most remarkable features of the case, was that only the white parts of the skin were affected. Every white patch on the body and legs was involved in the shedding process except a star on the forehead. The skin shed appeared to consist of nothing but the epithelial layer, but with that all the white hairs came away. Some six weeks after the hair over these parts was shed no new hair had arrived, but I have since learned that it is now (September) beginning to grow again. At first when the hair came off thick bloody scabs remained, but with the aid of cold water these soon come away. If forcibly removed bleeding occurred. Cold water may appear a curious application, but no ointment we applied had such a good effect as the cold water. There was no evidence of much irritation, and the steer was in a large thatched building, which had been very cool during all the hot weather.

I am utterly at a loss to comprehend why only the white patches of skin were involved, but some of the readers of this note may offer an explanation.

The parts marked *a* in the photographs (Plate IX.) are areas of skin where the hair was matted with dried blood and exudate; *b*, an area from which all the hair had dropped out.

OPERATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF A SUPER-NUMERARY DIGIT IN A COLT.

By W. H. FLOOK, M.R.C.V.S., Weymouth.

ON the 17th August I operated on a black pedigree hackney one-and-a-half-years-old entire colt with an extra digit on the inside of the off fore leg, as represented in Figs. 3 and 4, Plate X. I went the day before to apply antiseptic bandages, and to make drawings, front and side views of the leg, before operating. Having cast the colt and washed the leg with soap and carbolic solution 1 in 40 (I also kept my instruments and syringes in similar solutions during the operation), I made an incision from above the articulation down to the hoof, in the middle line as the animal lay on his off side. Having laid the flaps back somewhat, I went round the coronet of the extra hoof, and then, cutting through the perforans tendon, disarticulated the digit. After doing this I found one sesamoid only, which I removed. Having dissected away all the connective-tissue I could from the skin, and cut off as much of the latter as was superfluous, I tied two small arteries with silk (the

wound in consequence of a web of skin, like that of a dog's dew claw, was some inches in length), and then sutured with catgut, except at the dependent part of the wound (I used no drainage tube). I then dressed with iodoform and wood-wool and applied a calico bandage; subsequently the dressing was changed daily, using, however, iodoform and boracic acid together.

Nearly the whole wound united by first intention, but just over the joint, for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, a very obstinate place healed by granulation. I used iodine 1, glycerine 8; also painted with mercuric chloride solution, 1 in 1000; then on the 28th I blistered all round the leg, as, do what I would, an obstinate firm gelatinous exudate formed over this small place and prevented healing. On this day, viz., 19th September, I am pleased to say that the wound is quite healed, and there is a good growth of hair under the scaling epidermis and dried exudate. The leg itself is no bigger than its fellow, except over the inferior epiphysis of the small internal metacarpal. The bones of the extra digit are shown in Fig. 5, Plate X. The upper of the two small bones is a sesamoid, and the lower the navicular.

The first phalanx is a little over 2 inches long, the second phalanx is rather more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length, and the third phalanx is 1 inch from the pyramidal process to toe, which, as the illustration will show, is pointed. The navicular bone is $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in length. The inside of the hoof was perfect; outside the frog was rudimentary. Before the operation the point of hoof was $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the ground, and above the coronet the circumference of the digit was 7 inches.

It will be noticed that the photographs represent the extra digit as being on the outside of the limb (off), but that is owing to the figures having been reversed in the process of printing.

IMPERFECT SUPERNUMERARY DIGIT IN A HORSE.

By E. SHAVE, M.R.C.V.S., Royal Veterinary College, London.

IN Plate X., Figs. 1 and 2 represent respectively the back and front views of the metacarpal bones of the right limb of a horse, and show the very unusual size of the internal metacarpal bone (*b*), which is ankylosed to the principal bone (*a*), except at its two extremities. The shaft of this bone measures $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and has an average diameter of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch; the upper extremity measures $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch laterally, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch from before backwards, and it is covered with articular cartilage. The inferior extremity is also covered by articular cartilage, and presents a median ridge, 2 inches from before backwards; this separates two slightly convex condyles, the inner of which is the larger. Articulating with this extremity was a small triangular bone (*c*), the wide superior extremity of which closely resembles the upper end of the ordinary proximal phalanx; it measures $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches from side to side, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch from before backwards, and $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch in length.

The principal and outer small metacarpal bones show no special point of interest.

The specimen was kindly given to me by Mr William Shaw, F.R.C.V.S. Unfortunately we could not obtain the bones of the carpus, nor any history or facts concerning the appearance of the animal during life.