thickened, and also showed patches of ecchymoses and peritonitis externally. The greater part of the epithelial covering of the cuticular portion of the mucous membrane had been removed, much as if it had been dissolved away. The deep mucosa was intensely congested, and the submucous connective-tissue œdematous. A large portion of the villous mucous membrane adjoining the cuticular was intensely congested. Corrosion of small patches of the cuticular layer could be seen progressing; the membrane as a whole was of a bluish slate colour. The contents of the stomach evolved an intensely acid odour.

From the conditions presented I was forced to the conclusion that the horse had been poisoned by some powerful corrosive agent, and naturally my thoughts reverted to one of two acids, viz., sulphuric or oxalic. On drawing the attention of my colleague, Dr Aitken, to the matter, he at once had an analysis made of the contents of the stomach, and found that not only were they not acid in reaction, but also that neither of the two acids mentioned was present therein.

Reviewing the whole circumstances of the case, I ultimately decided in my own mind that some mineral agent had been administered with the object of improving the condition of the horse. Subsequent inquiry showed that the driver had been giving powders of Antim. Nigr., Nit. Pot., and Aromatics, but no further information tending to elucidate the nature of the case could be obtained.

FRACTURE OF THE CERVICAL VERTEBRÆ IN A HORSE.

By PERCIVAL SNAITH, M.R.C.V.S., Bishop Auckland.

ON Monday 6th February 1893, I was asked to go down a local colliery to see a horse that had a swelling on the neck. On arriving I found a 16-hands horse standing in a loose-box, with his head somewhat depressed and twisted to the off side, and with a swelling on the near side about one-third down the neck. On inquiry I learnt that the horse had worked up to and on Friday the 4th. When he returned to the stable that night he was noticed to be somewhat stiff, but otherwise quite right, and the swelling on the neck had first been noticed the day I was called in. On manipulating the neck I found the swelling to be very hard and directly over the bones. I directed the horse-keeper to take hold of the bridle, and to pull the head straight upwards and forwards, while at the same time I pressed on the swelling. This caused the horse to groan, and sent him off round the box, apparently in great pain. My diagnosis was unfavourable, as I came to the conclusion that there was partial dislocation, and necessarily fracture, of the vertebræ. However, when the horse settled down again the swelling appeared to be less, and as he was eating fairly well I determined to try him for a few days. After administering a dose of physic (to do which it was necessary for me to go down on my knees), I left him with instructions that he was to be kept as quiet as possible until my next visit.

Late on Wednesday night (the 8th) a messenger came to say that the horse was down and could not rise, and before he got back home the horse was dead.

I made a *post-mortem* examination on the following day at the knacker's. There was no wound or mark of injury about the head or body. The swelling had disappeared, there was no superficial extravasation into the muscles, and I had difficulty in finding the seat of the fracture, there being no perceptible excess of motion; in fact, it was so difficult to localise the lesion that in sawing through the bones a small part of the rim of the cavity on the posterior part of the body was inadvertently sawn off, but I believe this was also due to that part being displaced.

As will be seen from the photograph (an amateur production) the head of the 4th bone has been forcibly driven into the cavity on the hinder end of the 3rd, fracturing that, splitting up the body, and detaching pieces from the infero-posterior part of the bone (Plate IX.). There was a good deal of extravasation and congestion around the spinal cord.

After the certificate of death had been sent in the manager wrote to know how it was possible that a horse could live with a broken neck, and saying that, as inquiries had failed to bring to light any history of an accident, it must have occurred in the stable. That the horse did work after the primary injury took place is proved by the fact that an attempt at repair had already begun on several parts of the bone, and even on the oblique process of the 4th. Besides, time had elapsed sufficient to remove all extravasation and marks of violence on the head or body of the horse. Displacement and pressure on the cord must have taken place some time after the first injury.

I noticed that in the *Veterinary Record*, No. 321, Mr Hobday describes a case in which there were signs of a callus forming three weeks after fracture. Fracture of the vertebræ has been frequently written about in the Journals lately, and, although somewhat late, I thought that an account of this case might not be without interest.

CURIOUS SKIN ERUPTION IN A STEER.

By J. WILSON-BARKER, M.R.C.V.S., Salisbury.

THE following peculiar case came under my observation during the past summer while assisting Mr G. Parr, M.R.C.V.S., of Salisbury :—

The subject, a bull, some fourteen months' old, had had one testicle removed when about six months' old; the other could not then be found, but on the 5th May last I cast the animal, and found the testicle beneath the skin, towards the off flank. I removed it with an ecraseur, dressed the wound with carbolised oil, and according to subsequent accounts the beast did well for about twelve days; he was then noticed to be off his feed and somewhat swollen at the seat of the recent operation. On visiting the farm I found the beast feverish, and the wound nearly closed. This was opened at once, and after a considerable quantity of dirty yellow fibrinous material had been removed the wound was dressed with carbolised oil, and kept open with a plug of tow. Some medicine was also administered (chlorodye chiefly). About a week afterwards I saw the owner, and he then remarked "That was strong medicine you gave the steer; it made the skin on his nose peel off," but he added that the steer was now much