QUITTOR

Is an ulcer formed between the hair and hoof, running down and often destroying the lateral cartilage of the coffin-bone, the lamina, and even the bone of the foot itself, which is of so soft and spongy a consistence, that it soon becomes carious, and consequently troublesome to cure.

A quittor proceeds from a tread, particularly in those horses that are shod with long kaukers to their shoes, or by a blow that bruises the coronary ring, which produces inflammation, and is often attended with suppuration, and all the mischief incident to the disease.

The cure depends greatly on the damage done to the foot. If the case be recent, and only superficial, it may be cured with bathing the foot and coronet in warm water, and dressing the sore with a digestive ointment, wrapping the foot well in a large poultice of bran every night.

But if the matter, by its confinement, has already produced an abscess, and that abscess has injured the coronary ring, the lateral cartilage, the lamina, or the coffin-bone, it will be necessary to rasp the quarter to the quick, and then to make a large opening with the knife.
in order to cut away the spongy flesh, and the lateral cartilage itself, if it be found loose, and affected with the disease; every rotten part being removed, and every sinuse open, we must apply the actual cautery to the carious parts, dressing the sore afterwards with tow dipped in spirits of turpentine, or tincture of myrrh; the foot being dressed, it must be kept in a common emollient poultice, of boiled turnips, bran, &c.

If this operation and treatment be performed with dexterity and judgment, the cure will be effected sooner, and with less pain than when it is attempted by a caustic. This every one will allow; since the operation by the knife is the effect of a moment only, while the pain produced by caustics continues for several hours, or perhaps days, with the greatest violence. Another inconvenience also attends the potential cautery; the impossibility of confining its effect to the diseased parts only, on which account it often produces much mischief; such as casting off the whole hoof, fever, loss of appetite, emaciation of the body, and even death itself.

I have performed the operation with the knife, as described above, on many horses affected with what is deemed incurable quittor, and never been disappointed in one instance of
making a complete and permanent cure. The operation by the knife can never be objected to, but by those who are timid, or ignorant of the structure of the foot; yet, as there are some that will persist in their method of treating a quittor by caustics, it may be found necessary to mention the best remedies of this kind, which are, sublimate corrosive made into pills of different sizes, with a little flour and water, introduced into the sinuous parts. The wound afterwards to be dressed with common digestive ointment, and emollient poultices. The caustics must be repeated, and fomentations and poultices continued as long as it appears necessary.

Remarkable case of Quittor, cured by the Knife.

A horse, the property of Colonel Hamilton, in Scotland, was sent to me as a present during the time I attended the four regiments of fencible cavalry, encamped near Dunbar, in Scotland, to dispose of him as I pleased, or rather to try experiments upon him, as the animal was considered incurable by every farrier in the country.

He had lost more than half of his hoof by the disease and improper treatment; the lateral cartilage, and the lamina on the side affected, was ulcerated and destroyed, and the coffin-
bone carious in several places, and the horse in
the greatest agony possible.

I began the treatment by poulticing and
fomenting the leg and foot for three or four
days, previous to an operation, in order to alle-
viate the pain, and prevent an increase of fever
after the operation. The animal so prepared,
I commenced my operation by cutting away the
lateral cartilage and every diseased part about the
foot; and after removing the sensible laminae, I
cauterized with the hot iron every sinuous and
carious part of the coffin-bone; the operation
finished, I washed the parts well with a mix-
ture of warm vinegar and brandy, equal quantity
of each, and then covered them with pledge
dipped in oil of cloves and spirits of turpen-
tine; the whole properly bandaged up, and
well supported with a large emollient poultice
of boiled turnips and bran.

The first dressing was allowed to remain two
days after the operation, nothing but the poult-
tice being removed every twelve hours, and a
fresh one put on.

The third day the quittor was dressed as be-
fore, and afterwards continued every twenty-
four hours; first, by washing it well with tincture
of myrrh, and afterwards, dressing with pledge
doil of turpentine, and then covering with
an emollient poultice as usual, taking care at
RHEUMATISM.

every dressing to prevent the rising of fungus or proud flesh. This treatment was continued ten weeks; at the expiration of that time, I had the satisfaction of returning the horse again to the owner perfectly sound.

I have described this case of quittor, being one of the worst I ever saw, to shew that the operation by the knife is perfectly safe, and indeed the surest method to cure the disease in the state above described. But the operation requires great judgment and dexterity in the performance, in order to avoid wounding with the instrument the tendons or ligaments of the coronet and coffin-joints.

RHEUMATISM.

Rheumatism is certainly a very common complaint in the human subject; but whether this disease ought, or ought not to be considered, in a modern veterinary work, as a genus of disorder belonging to the brute species, is not yet sufficiently determined, nor proved by experience and observation.

We know that many horses become lame without any apparent cause; yet this does not sufficiently warrant us to pronounce with certainty, that it is positively produced by rheumatism: because his lameness may arise