

SHYING IN THE HORSE, CAUSED BY DISPLACEMENT OF A CORPUS NIGRUM.

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IT is generally admitted that shying in the horse, in the majority of instances, is due to defective vision. Of the ocular irregularities found existing in horses addicted to this habit, "an excess of pigment in those peculiar bodies known as the 'corpora nigra'" (Pallin) and malformations of the eyeball have been mentioned.

As the above condition, viz. "displacement of a corpus nigrum," has not, so far as I am acquainted, been described, I am induced to send the notes of this case for publication.

The subject, a half-bred bay mare, was bought at a repository in Newcastle-on-Tyne in March last year. On account of the dreadful habit she had of shying, rendering her totally useless to the owner, my advice was requested.

I could not learn anything respecting her previous history, except that she had recently broken her knees. Having had the mare harnessed to a gig, I drove out for about a mile. During the drive she shyed at almost every object met with on the road, and always towards the right side, either stopping suddenly and after a few minutes quietly proceeding on her journey, or making a sudden bound towards the right side of the road, followed by a frantic effort to turn round, nearly throwing herself down in the attempt. A stumble of this kind was doubtless the cause of the injured knees.

On making a careful inspection of the eyes, the cornea showed neither abnormal convexity nor flatness. In the anterior chamber of the left eye, however, lay a black or dark brown spherical body, about the size of a pea. Further examination proved this to be a *corpus nigrum*, which had become entirely displaced from its usual seat of attachment.

When the head was in a quiescent state, the black body lay in the inferior part of the chamber, but whenever the mare was made to perform some movement which occasioned a motion of the head, it would shift its position and float about in the aqueous humour.

I acquainted the owner with the nature of the case; and as the mare was of no use in her present condition, he requested me to do whatever I thought necessary to render her safe for work. Two different operations presented themselves to my mind, viz. (1) to destroy the sight by perforating the lens, thereby bringing about milky opacity, or (2) to extract the body. I decided to attempt the latter.

The mare having been cast and secured, with the assistance of Mr. G. Craik, I succeeded—by a most patient manipulation of the head—in causing the displaced body to move its position from the lower to the upper portion of the anterior chamber at its inner border.

The cornea and conjunctiva were then repeatedly painted with a four per cent. solution of cocaine hydrochlorate. This application was attended with excellent results, anæsthesia being complete in fifteen minutes.

Having fixed the eyelids by means of a stop spring speculum, I passed a Beer's cataract knife through the cornea at its upper and

inner part, passing horizontally in front of the iris until the whole length of the cutting edge had penetrated the anterior chamber.

The withdrawal of the knife was followed by a gush of the aqueous humour; and this assisted me materially by washing the *corpus nigrum* into the incision. With a pair of iris forceps I then commenced the removal of the body (which, from its most delicate texture, required the greatest care), extracting it in shreds.

A minute portion, however, remained in connection with the incision, effectually blocking up the orifice; but as this was not likely to do harm, I decided to leave it alone. The mare was afterwards tied up to the stall posts in a darkened stable, and free fomentations and atropine collyrium were applied. There was slight opacity of the cornea for a few days, but the wound quickly healed, and the aqueous humour was soon re-secreted. Having remained in the stable for ten days, she was sent to work, the eye being protected from the light and wind by a black bandage.

The operation yielded the most satisfactory results. On an examination three weeks afterwards, the corneal opacity had entirely disappeared, and there was complete restoration of vision. The small portion of the body left behind appeared to have disposed itself over the surface of the iris. All that remained to mark the seat of operation was a linear cicatrix, partly hidden by the eyelid.

Since the operation, nine months ago, during which time the animal has been under my observation, she has not shown the least disposition to return to her former practice.

AN UNUSUAL CASE OF BLACK-QUARTER.

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OWING to the recent publication of the experiments in connection with the prevention of anthrax and black-quarter by the late Professor Robertson and Professor Penberthy, an account of an unusual case of the latter disease—symptomatic anthrax—may prove interesting.

On the 29th December last I was called to Bridgefoot, Monymusk, to see an eight months' old heifer calf that had been observed to be off its food and looking dull the night before. They had then given it a dose of Epsom salts, but without any apparent effect, and it seemed to be still getting worse. It was now dull and depressed-looking, head drooping, unwilling to move, and walking stiffly and with evident pain, especially on its fore legs. Pulse 112, and weak; temperature 102.8° F.; respiration quiet, and very little accelerated. On examination, I found an œdematous swelling on the lower part of the neck, in front of the dewlap on the left side, and a crepitating swelling over the pectoral muscles, a little behind and to the inner side of the right elbow; but these were so little noticeable as to have escaped observation. I told the owner that the calf had black-quarter, and held out no hope of recovery, but said he might try it with stimulants in the form of whisky, with small doses of common and Epsom salts. I afterwards learned that it got very little of either.

Dec. 30th.—Passing the farm, I called to ask about the calf, and