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### Methods to Control Blind Staggers, Which is Causing the Death of Thousands of Horses.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—In past years horses have died by the thousands in Texas, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska from a disease affecting the nervous system, popularly known as blind staggers or forage poisoning. The Department of Agriculture has received urgent requests for help against this disease from 16 different States, and as a result it is now publishing a bulletin containing definite instructions for combating this disease.

The States that appealed to the Department of Agriculture for assistance include the following:

Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia.

This shows the universality of the disease. Kansas and Nebraska bore the brunt of the affliction during the past year but other States have also suffered seriously. Kansas has had more than her share. Severe outbreaks extended over almost the entire State in 1911 and since that time have recurred with equal severity on two occasions in various portions of the State.

The bulletin takes notice of the fact that additional deaths have undoubtedly been due to the use of fake "cures" sold by unscrupulous persons. It is reported that in Nebraska "black-leg vaccine" was used on at least 1,600 unaffected horses, nearly 1,500 of which are said to have died as a direct result.

Investigators have practically established that this horse disease can be controlled effectively only by a total change of feed and forage. It is quite obvious that there is a direct connection between the green forage, exposed pasturage and newly-cut hay or fodder which the horses eat, and this Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, as the disease is known to scientists. In fact, eating of such forage when contaminated is undoubtedly the most important cause. Over 95 per cent of cases of this disease in Kansas and Nebraska during the outbreak of 1912 were maintained under such conditions.

Great care must be taken that horses do not obtain the dangerous forage unknown to their owners. The owner of one farm informed the department's investigator that his dead horses had eaten nothing but old hay and grain.

"But what about the closely-cropped grass in this pasture?" remarked the investigator, noticing the adjacent field.

"Oh!" answered the farmer innocently, "I always turn the work-horses into pasture over night."

Many horses have died from blind staggers caused by eating moldy baled hay. As soon as the hay was eliminated the disease ceased. Other horses in the vicinity not fed upon this hay failed to contract this disease. Later some of the moldy bales were opened and exposed to the sun for three or four weeks. After this the hay was fed to horses without producing any ill effect. Forage poisoning, therefore, seems not to be an infection but rather what is called "auto-intoxication"—that is, it is due

to certain chemical poisons or toxins formed by the activity of internal organisms. These poisons may be present when the forage is taken into the body or may be formed in the stomach. The nature of this poison is still unknown.

#### Characteristic Symptoms of This Disease.

When the horse is taken with the blind staggers it usually exhibits a disturbance of the appetite, depression and weakness, while there is trouble in swallowing, drooping of the head and sleepiness which may give way to excitement and attacks of dizziness. The vision is impaired, which results in the staggering gait that gives the disease its popular name. Certain muscles of the neck and flanks are cramped and there is a grinding of the teeth. Sometimes the animal has pains as though it were afflicted with colic. The animal will walk strangely if in an open space and will try to push through any obstacle it encounters. In the stable he will press his head against the stall or rest it on the manger. Sometimes he will crowd into a corner. The temperature at the beginning of the disease ranges from 103 to 107 degrees F. but within 24 hours the temperature falls and eventually becomes subnormal. The animal is often down on the second or third day and may or may not get up when urged. Death usually occurs in from four to eight days, although death may follow within ten hours of the first symptoms, while chronic cases have been known to last for three weeks. About 90 per cent of the affected animals die.

#### Medical Treatment Generally Unsatisfactory.

While medical treatment in the vast majority of cases has not brought results, nevertheless if it is used at all it must be prompt and before the disease has had time to run. The digestive tract should be cleaned out thoroughly at once. Active and concentrated remedies should be given. Afflicted animals, however, have great difficulty in swallowing immediately after being taken, so that these remedies must generally be given by injection. Arecolin in one-half grain doses, subcutaneously, has given good results as a purgative. Early in the disease urotropin in doses of 25 grains dissolved in water and given by the mouth every two hours, appears to have been responsible for the recovery of some cases of the malady.

After the animal has been purged, the treatment varies according to the symptoms. The following measures have been recommended:

The first and most important: Feed only clean well-cured forage and grain, and pure water.

Calomel, salol, and salicylic acid, to disintestinate.

Mild antiseptic mouth-washes are advisable.

Copious cold-water injections, if the temperature is high, give better results than antipyretics.

An ice pack applied to the head is beneficial in the case of marked nervous disorder.

One-ounce doses of chloral hydrate per rectum should be given if the patient is violent or muscular spasms are severe.

If the temperature becomes subnormal, the animal should be warmly blanketed.

If much weakness is shown this should be combated with stimulants, such as strychnine, camphor, alcohol, atropin, or aromatic spirits of ammonia.

During convalescence the usual tonic treatment is recommended. The Department of Agriculture's bulletin (No. 65) is entitled "Cerebro-spinal Meningitis (Forage Poisoning)," and may be had on application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

#### COMFORTING WORDS.

Many a Louisburg Household Will Find Them So.

To have the pains and aches of a bad back removed—to be entirely free from annoying, dangerous urinary disorders, is enough to make any kidney sufferer grateful. The following advice of one who has suffered will prove comforting words to hundreds of Louisburg readers.

O. P. Wortham, Garnett St., Henderson, N. C., says "My kidneys troubled me a great deal and the kidney secretions were too frequent in passage. Doan's Kidney Pills relieved me of the aches and pains. I have told a number of people what this remedy has done for me. I am willing to confirm the statement I gave some years ago, telling of my experience with Doan's Kidney Pills."

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#### Mike Hits Back.

"Where's that bulldog you had last summer?" asked the motorist, as he drove into the yard.

"Oh, the poor baste swallered a tape measure," replied Mike, "an' he died, sorr."

"Indeed!" exclaimed the man. "He died by inches, I suppose," he continued waggishly.

"Oh, no, sorr," said Mike; "he went around th' back of th' house, sorr, an' died by th' yard."

#### THROW AWAY CALOMEL.

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