George MacLeod
The Treatment of Horses by Homoeopathy

Reading excerpt
The Treatment of Horses by Homoeopathy
of George MacLeod
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XXV Lameness of the Hind Limb

1. Iliac Thrombosis. Damage by strongyle worms may arise in the posterior aorta and the iliac artery, leading to an arteritis. The resulting thrombosis leads to circulatory interference causing lameness.

SYMPTOMS
Lameness usually supervenes after a short period of exercise and the severity depends on the size of the thrombus. Severe cases may show lameness when walking. Anxiety, pain and sweating accompany the lameness, but sweating is absent over the affected area. The affected limb loses some of its warm feeling. Lameness is intermittent, disappearing on rest and appearing again on exercise.

TREATMENT
Bothrops 30c Condition accompanied by nervous trembling, with possible bowel haemorrhage. Dose: three hourly for three doses. Litchesis 30c Rectal straining, with pain over the sacral region.
Dose: two hourly for four doses. Calcarea flourica 30c This remedy will hasten dissolution of the thrombus and resolution of the aneurysm. Dose: once a week for four weeks. Vipera 6c Associated cramping of muscles of the limb, with possibly an accompanying jaundice. Dose: three times daily for four days.

2. Bursitis of the Tendon of the Middle Gluteus Muscle.
This inflammation arises when the bursa is affected as the
tendon passes over the greater trochanter of the femur. Falling on this area or strain of the tendon can bring it about.

**SYMPTOMS**
Pain becomes evident over the greater trochanter if pressure is applied. Flexion of the limb is common at rest while weight is placed on the inside of the foot when the animal moves. This causes the inside wall to wear more than the outside and movement tends to go towards the sound limb.

**TREATMENT**
*Apis 30c* Synovitis. Oedema of the bursa. Dose: two hourly for four doses.
*Bryonia 30c* Relief from pressure. Symptoms worse on movement. Dose: two hourly for four doses.
*Ruta graveolens 200c* Tendency to periostitis. Dose: night and morning for three days.

3. **Crural Paralysis. Paralysis of Femoral Nerve.** The quadriceps group of muscles is involved in this paralysis being made up of the rectus femoris, the vastus lateralis, the vastus medialis and the vastus intermedius. It covers the area of the front of the femur and both sides. Azoturia has been listed as a cause of this paralysis which also arises from injury.

**SYMPTOMS**
When standing, all joints become flexed and no weight is put on the leg. There is difficulty in advancing the limb.

**TREATMENT**
*Arnica 30c* Always if injury is suspected. Two doses three hours apart. *Gehemium 200c* Accompanying weakness and lassitude. Dose:
  - night and morning for four days. *Cot linn iOc* Tendency for paralysis to ascend, affecting areas further up the limb. Dose: night and morning for one week.
*Plumbum inetallicum 30c* Difficulty in extending the limb. Reflexes are lost and the foot may be swollen. Dose: night and morning for one week.
4. **Gonitis.** This term is used to denote inflammation of the stifle joint and leads to arthritis. It may be caused by injuries to the bones forming the joint and associated cartilages and ligaments. Infective agents can produce arthritis of this joint.

**SYMPTOMS**
Lameness varies according to the severity of the injury. If the joint cartilages are involved, lameness can be severe. The joint capsule becomes swollen and hot and pain is evident when the animal moves the leg forward. Flexion of the limb is usual to avoid putting the foot on the ground as this aggravates the pain.

**TREATMENT**
- *Apis 30c* Inflammation is accompanied by oedema of the joint capsule. Dose: two hourly for four doses.
- *Bryonia 30c* Joint swollen, pressure relieves, symptoms worse on movement. Dose: two hourly for four doses.
- *Ruta gmveolens 200c* Periostitis round the joint. Dose: night and morning for four days.
- *Rhus toxicodendron 1M* Arthritis of joint developing. Dose: once daily for one week.
- *Streptococcus nosode 30c* Navel-ill infection suspected to have led to the condition. Dose: once daily for three days.

5. **Stringhalt.** This is an involuntary flexion of the hock during the stride, affecting one or both hind limbs. It has been suggested that a pasture-derived neurotoxin may be important in the development of the disease. Adhesions may form as the tendon crosses the lateral surface of the hock joint.

**SYMPTOMS**
These vary from mild flexion to a severe involuntary movement which brings the leg up almost to the abdomen. The condition is exaggerated when the animal is made to turn round sharply. Symptoms can improve as the animal warms up.

**TREATMENT**
- *Strychninum 200c* This remedy will help reduce the spasmodic flexion. Dose: once daily for five days.
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