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VETERINARY SCIENCE

Edited by Dr. H. J. Frederick,
State Agricultural College.

Common Unsoundnesses and Blem-
ishes of Animals.

Written for the Deseret Farmer.

There are quite a number of blem-
ishes and unsoundnesses of horses
that all farmers, and those handling
animals should know something about
if it is nothing more than the location
of such a condition. Probably the
most common of these conditions are
found on the legs in the form of bone
diseases.

We find in the inner side of the hind
legs, at the hock, enlargements of the
bones at the joint called bone spavin,
which very often causes lameness of
the animal more commonly on start-
ing to work and finally disappearing
more or less as the animal becomes
warmed up by exercise. This is con-
sidered an unsoundness.

Ringbone may be found anywhere
below the fetlock, any enlargement of
the pastern bones is thus named and
it is not necessary for the bony
growth to surround the limb as many
suppose. Where it is near the fet-
lock we call it a high ring-bone, the
other is low ring-bone, located at or
near the crown of the hoof.

This unsoundness usually causes
lameness with more or less stiffness
of the animal.

Side Bones.

This is an abnormal condition of
the lateral cartilages or wings of the
foot inside or above the hoof. They
are detected as bone-like structures
on the lateral sides and crown of the
hoof beneath the skin. The lateral
cartilages should be elastic in order
to help deaden the concussion of the
foot, but through different causes
these cartilages osify (become bone)
they harden and often cause stiffness
or lameness.

Navicular Disease.

This condition affects feet, more of-
ten the front than the hind feet, and
often causes lameness. The navicular
bone is located just back of the upper
part of the coffin bone. It is long and
narrow, and placed transversely. It
articulates with the third phalanx by
its anterior surface and its posterior
surface is covered with cartilage on
which glides the tendon of the pos-

terior part of the leg. This gliding
cartilage sometimes becomes diseased,
causing a rough surface and a painful
condition to the animal on being
moved. A horse with navicular dis-
ease usually paws with that foot con-
siderably, and if bad it points the foot,
that is, keeps it out in front as far as
possible, but not flexing it. If on
both feet it alternates, pointing first
one and then the other foot to relieve
pressure.

Splints.

These appear as small enlargements
on the sides of the bones below the
knee, usually on the inner side,
caused through some injury or con-
cussion. The small splint bones are
partly torn loose from the common
bones and nature in trying to heal
the injury throws out bone salts, caus-
ing the enlargements. Splints seldom
appear on the hind legs. Splints do
not usually make the animal lame and
are only considered blemishes unless
located near the joint, (as next to the
knee).

Spavins, ring-bones, side-bones, and
splints are developments of bone tis-
sue, the result of an inflammation of
the outside covering of the bone.
Such bone diseases or blemishes are
sometimes caused by injury of some
kind, but there are families of ani-
mals that have a weakness of the
bone and this creeps out in the off-
spring.

Those conditions are not directly
transmitted from parent to offspring,
but the weakness is transmitted and
will crop out sooner or later. Ani-
mals that seem to have inherited con-
ditions of this kind should not be
bred, as they never are worth as
much as a sound animal.

We have other forms of blemishes
among horses which all who handle
them should understand. Among
them are bad eyes, defective sight
(very common), poll evil back of the
ears, fistular at the withers, heaves,
shown in breathing, injured tendons
or cords, bruised ankles from inter-
fering, corns, founder, cracks and
thrush of the foot. Wind puffs on
legs, bog spavins on the front inter-
nal part of the hock. Thorough pine
found at the upper and back part of
the hock.

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