

EQUINE
MEDICINE &
SURGERY

FIRST
EDITION

EQUINE MEDICINE & SURGERY

A TEXT AND REFERENCE WORK

The Work of Sixty-eight Authors

Edited by

J. F. BONE, B.A., B.S., D.V.M., M.S.

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WITH 379 ILLUSTRATIONS

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AMERICAN VETERINARY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
1.	THE EXAMINATION	
	By R. H. SMYTHE	
	Physical Examination	17
	Examination for Soundness	24
	By J. P. MANNING	
	Radiographic Examination of the Legs	29
	By J. GLIGORIJEVIC	
	Transrectal and Transvaginal Radiography	34
	By D. C. DODD	
	Postmortem Examination	39
	By E. N. ANDERSON AND A. A. GABEL	
	Notes on Euthansia	44
2.	RESTRAINT AND ANESTHESIA	
	By J. T. VAUGHAN AND C. H. REID	
	Physical Restraint	45
	By A. A. GABEL	
	Drugs Used in Restraint	59
	By A. A. GABEL AND E. W. JONES	
	General and Local Anesthesia	63
3.	THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE	
	By A. A. GABEL	
	General Technics and Routes	93
	Special Technics:	
	Blood Transfusion	106
	Fluid and Electrolyte Therapy	110
4.	VIRAL DISEASES	
	By C. OLSON	
	Equine Cutaneous Papillomatosis	119
	Sarcoma-like Lesions of the Skin	121
	By J. F. BONE	
	Papular Dermatitis	124
	By R. P. HANSON	
	Vesicular Stomatitis	124
	By R. J. BYRNE	
	Arthropod-Borne Viral Encephalitides	130
	Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis	132
	Western Equine Encephalomyelitis	135
	Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis	137
	Japanese Encephalitis	138

CHAPTER	PAGE
Borna Disease	139
Rabies	139
BY N. M. KONNERUP AND F. P. GLUCKSTEIN	
African Horsesickness	141
BY C. D. STEIN	
Equine Infectious Anemia	147
BY E. R. DOLL	
Influenza	152
Viral Arteritis	153
Viral Rhinopneumonitis	158
BY EDITORS	
Infectious Bronchiolitis	165
5. BACTERIAL AND SPIROCHETAL DISEASES	
BY J. F. BONE	
Anthrax	167
Glanders	169
Listeriosis	172
Melioidosis	172
Staphylococcosis	173
Strangles	173
Tularemia	175
Ulcerative Lymphangitis	175
BY J. T. BRYANS	
Leptospirosis	176
Salmonellosis	178
BY E. R. DOLL	
Actinobacillosis	181
BY J. FRANCIS	
Tuberculosis	184
BY L. R. VAWTER	
Clostridial Diseases	185
Tetanus	186
Malignant Edema	188
Botulism	189
6. MYCOTIC DISEASES	
BY J. DITCHFIELD	
Sporotrichosis	191
Epizootic Lymphangitis	192
Streptothricosis	194
Mycetomas	194
Rare Mycoses	195

CHAPTER	PAGE
By C. H. BRIDGES	
Phycomycosis	196
By J. F. BONE	
Aspergillosis	201
By F. KRAL	
Dermatomycoses	201
By J. F. BONE	
<i>Keratomyces ajelloi</i>	204
7. PROTOZOAL DISEASES	
By R. D. BARNER	
Dourine	205
By A. LITTLEJOHN	
Babesiasis	211
By W. D. MALHERBE	
Globidiosis	220
Nagana	222
Surra	223
Sarcocystis	224
Murrina	224
By W. H. WOHLER, JR.	
Protozoal Diarrhea	224
8. METAZOAL DISEASES	
By D. POYNTER	
Endoparasites	227
By E. G. BATTE	
Ectoparasites	245
9. DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	
By R. S. JACKSON	
Lampas	253
By B. W. KINGREY AND R. L. LUNDVALL	
Dysphagia	253
Choke	254
Esophageal Spasm	258
Esophageal Dilation	258
Esophageal Diverticulum	258
Esophageal Fistula	259
Esophageal Stricture	259
By H. E. AMSTUTZ AND R. C. HERSCHLER	
Gastric Dilation	260
Enteritis	263
Peritonitis	265
By W. J. GIBBONS	
Diseases of the Liver	266

CHAPTER	PAGE
BY N. VAN HOUSEN	
Torsion	269
Intussusception	270
Impactions of the Colon	270
10. DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	
BY H. H. HOYT	
Rhinitis, Pharyngitis, and Laryngitis	275
Pneumonia	276
Pleuritis	278
Hydrothorax	279
Pneumothorax	279
Alveolar Emphysema	280
BY R. A. HOLMES	
Empyema of the Guttural Pouches	285
Tympanites of the Guttural Pouches	286
11. DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM	
BY R. G. ROLOFSON	
Vesical Calculi	287
Urethral Calculi	288
Nephrosis	289
12. DISEASES OF THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM	
BY R. H. SMYTHE	
Anhidrosis	291
Nymphomania	293
Intersex	293
Goiter	293
13. DISEASES OF THE SKIN	
BY W. J. GIBBONS	
Eczema	295
Noninfectious Dermatitis	296
BY R. L. LUNDVALL	
Grease Heel	299
14. DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM	
BY F. C. NEAL AND F. K. RAMSEY	
Developmental Defects of the Nervous System	301
Trauma of the Central Nervous System	304
Spinal Cord Injuries	306
Cranial Nerve Injuries (inc. Laryngeal Hemiplegia)	308
Meningitis	316
Equine Incoordination	318
Cerebrospinal Nematodosis	320
Wobbles in Brazil	320
Pseudoamyloid Multiradicular Degeneration of Spinal Nerve Roots	321

CHAPTER	PAGE
Suprascapular Nerve Injury	321
Obturator Paralysis	322
Pudic Nerve Injury	323
Cauda Equina Paralysis	323
Convulsive Syndrome of Newborn Foals (Barkers, Dummies, Wanderers)	324
Shivering	326
15. DISEASES OF THE EYE	
By R. H. SMYTHE AND R. L. LUNDVALL	
Laceration of Eyelids	327
Blepharospasm	327
Foreign Bodies	328
Occlusion of the Nasolacrimal Duct	328
Conjunctivitis	328
Keratitis	329
Dermoid Cyst	331
Glaucoma	331
Luxation of Lens	331
Cataract	331
Hyalitis	333
Retinitis	333
Ocular Neoplasms	334
Amaurosis	334
By J. T. BRYANS	
Periodic Ophthalmia	334
16. DISEASES OF THE BLOOD AND CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM	
By D. K. DETWEILER AND D. F. PATTERSON	
Examination of the Heart	338
Examination of the Arterial Pulse	339
Examination of the Jugular Pulse	340
Electrocardiography	341
The Heart Sounds	347
Cardiovascular Murmurs	360
Circulation Time	365
Blood Pressure	367
Cardiac Catheterization	367
Cardiac Arrhythmias and Conduction Disturbances	368
The Fetal Electrocardiogram	384
Congenital Heart Disease	384
Diseases of the Pericardium	386
Diseases of the Myocardium	387
Diseases of the Endocardium	389
Diseases of the Arteries and Veins	389
Clinical Syndromes	391

CHAPTER	PAGE
By D. K. SORENSEN	
Purpura Hemorrhagica	397
Primary Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura	401
By J. D. STEEL	
Hematology and Its Relationship to Track Performance	402
17. DISEASES OF THE LOCOMOTOR SYSTEM	
By J. R. ROONEY	
Disease of Bone	407
By H. CRESSWELL	
Disease of Joints, Tendons, Ligaments, and Bursae	422
Poll Evil	426
Fistulous Withers	426
By H. CRESSWELL AND R. H. SMYTHE	
Foot Lamenesses	427
Lamenesses of the Metacarpus and Metatarsus	449
Lamenesses of the Forelimb	451
Lamenesses of the Hindlimb	458
Pelvic Lameness	468
Lumbar Lameness	469
By R. L. LUNDVALL	
Canker	470
By R. H. BAKER	
Osteochondrosis Dessicans	471
Osteomalacia	473
By D. C. DODD	
Azoturia	473
By J. F. BONE	
“Tying Up” Syndrome	475
18. DIAGNOSIS AND SPECIAL TREATMENTS OF LAMENESS	
By R. H. SMYTHE, J. V. LACROIX, AND J. F. SMITHCORS	
Diagnosis of Lameness	477
By J. L. TEMPLE, E. N. ANDERSON, AND M. THOM	
Special Treatments for Lameness	504
19. DISEASES OF ALLERGY	
By E. R. DOLL	
Neonatal Isoerythrolysis	517
By R. F. RIEK	
Queensland Itch	520
By W. J. GIBBONS	
Anaphylaxis	524
Photosensitization	525
Urticaria	526

CHAPTER	PAGE
20. DISEASES CAUSED BY PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL AGENTS	
BY M. E. FOWLER	
Poisonous Plants	528
BY C. H. BURGER	
Snakebite Poisoning	540
BY A. A. CASE	
Chemical Poisoning	541
BY H. E. AMSTUTZ AND R. C. HERSCHLER	
Electric Shock	554
BY W. J. GIBBONS	
Heatstroke	556
21. NEOPLASTIC DISEASES	
BY J. F. BONE	
22. NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND DEFICIENCIES	
BY T. J. CUNHA	
Nutritional Requirements	576
BY R. S. JACKSON	
Vitamin Deficiencies	590
Aphosphorosis	597
Lactation Tetany	599
Iodine Deficiency	600
BY D. C. DODD	
White Muscle Disease	601
23. REPRODUCTION	
BY V. R. BERLINER	
The Physiology of Reproduction in the Mare	604
BY P. LIEUX	
Infertility in the Mare	615
Pregnancy Examination	618
Infertility in the Stallion	631
Abortion	640
BY J. W. BRITTON	
Breeding Farm Practices	644
BY W. J. GIBBONS	
Artificial Insemination	650
24. OBSTETRICS	
BY R. H. SMYTHE	
Dystocia in the Mare	652
Other Complications of Parturition	664

CHAPTER	PAGE
25. PEDIATRICS	
By R. S. JACKSON	
Immediate Postnatal Care	667
Nursing	667
Premature Foals	668
Signs of Illness in the Newborn	669
Clinical Entities of the Newborn	670
26. TRAUMATIC INJURIES AND THEIR TREATMENT	
By R. L. LUNDVALL	
Fracture Repair	672
By L. E. JOHNSON	
The Walking Cast	690
By D. L. PROCTOR	
Surgical Removal of Sesamoid Fragments	694
By J. W. BRITTON	
Wound Treatment	697
27. SURGICAL PROCEDURES	
By L. E. JOHNSON	
Introduction	708
Castration in Recumbency	709
Hernioplasty	720
Laparotomy by the Grid Incision	725
Caslick's Operation	735
By W. O. REED	
Castration in the Standing Position	708
Laryngeal Ventriculectomy	712
By D. G. LEWIS	
Castration of Foals	711
By J. F. BULLARD	
Hernioplasty	714
By D. L. PROCTOR	
Surgery of the Carpus	725
Surgical Repair of Bowed Tendons	728
By M. E. FOWLER	
Repair of Rectovaginal Defects	730
By R. C. HERSCHLER AND H. E. AMSTUTZ	
Dentigerous Cyst	736
By R. H. SMYTHE	
Repair of Entropion and Ectropion	737
By A. R. SKEWES	
Equine Dentistry	739

CHAPTER	PAGE
28. SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF PONY PRACTICE	
BY P. E. HOFFMAN	
Nutritional Requirements	761
Parasite Control	764
Pregnancy Examinations	765
Common Diseases	765
Common Surgical Procedures	767
Equipment and Technics	769
29. HORSESHOEING	
BY J. F. BONE	
Anatomy of the Foot	771
Physiology of the Foot	775
Care of the Foot	775
Examination of the Foot	776
Examination for Shoeing	777
Special Shoeing	780
BY C. D. COOPER	
Additional Comments on Corrective Shoeing	783
30. VICES	
BY J. L. TEMPLE	
31. THE VETERINARIAN AND HORSE FARM MANAGEMENT	
BY H. H. SUTTON	
Seasonal Programs	793
Comments on Breeding	797

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P R E F A C E

It is customary to describe a medical volume as intended for students and practitioners, but the more satisfactory it is for the one, the less satisfactory it may be for the other. The practitioner may, at any time, see rare and obscure diseases. He will therefore wish to have a comprehensive book to which he can refer. The student, however, must strive to grasp the broad aspects of a subject and a knowledge of common diseases and their treatment. His time is so limited that he cannot afford to seek out the variations of every clinical syndrome, or he will become buried in a mass of details. Ideally, there should be books of reference and books of instruction. Practically, this would be very difficult for a subject like Equine Medicine and Surgery. As this book is intended for both practitioners and students, it inevitably has some dichotomy of purpose. However, a good synthesis of these two objectives can conceivably be placed inside a single binding, and this we have attempted to do.

The prospect of an equine textbook was considered nearly three years ago when it was decided to prepare a small monograph that would be helpful to veterinary students and general practitioners alike. The enthusiastic response to our initial inquiries regarding the need for such a text prompted us to expand our initial concept to include a wider scope of information. Contrary to the dismal predictions of the 1920's, the veterinary profession has not withered away nor has the horse become a rarity. In fact, the future of equine practice throughout the world looks brighter today than it did in the heyday of the draft horse. In terms of number of practitioners involved, capital investment, and monetary value, equine practice is now in a favorable and expanding position. The horse is making a tremendous comeback at a time when sources of scientific information about it are sorely needed. In an effort to alleviate some of the need, this book has been produced.

It has been said that genius is the art of picking brains. If this is so, then this book is a work of genius because 68 teachers, research workers, and practitioners have contributed to its writing, and many others have given helpful advice and criticism. By compiling the contributions of so many it has been possible to assemble current information on an extensive list of topics concerning equine medicine and surgery. At the same time, this procedure precludes the possibility of achieving a uniformity in style throughout the book. Its content has been organized, however, into a format which we hope is orderly and sensible.

The discussions of disease syndromes have been grouped, as much as possible, on the basis of their relationship to a specific etiology. The syndromes without well-defined etiologies have been organized on the basis of their effect on the various physiologic functions. Because of their relative importance in equine practice, separate chapter groupings have been made for the discussions relating to nutrition, lameness, and reproduction.