

HOW TO CARE FOR A HORSE.

Dr. Junius H. Wattles, sr., lectured on "Our Friend, the Horse," in the First Christian church, Eleventh and Locust street, last night. The lecture was given under the auspices of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Dr. Wattles devoted the first thirty minutes of his lecture to the study of the prehistoric horse, from the five-toed animal, scarcely larger than a rabbit, increasing in size and speed as the number of digits decreased, to the three, the two-toed, and finally the one-toed animal of to-day, the only living mammal having only one toe upon each extremity.

Equine Hygiene.

From the early history of the horse, and its arrival on the North American continent, presumably from Asia, the speaker passed on to a technical description of the horse's anatomy. Every person having horses in his charge, he declared, should have a reasonable understanding of common physiology and hygiene, as it is by the intelligent application of common rules, in regard to health, that best results are obtained. Clean water, clean feed boxes and clean bedding are absolute necessities in the life of a horse, said Dr. Wattles, and should no more be neglected than in the care of a human being. "Grain should not be given to the animal at noon," said the doctor, "until it has eaten hay and rested for at least fifteen minutes. This rule alone, will keep the animal in better condition on one-third less grain, than when fed indiscriminately.

Proper Nutrition.

"It is necessary, also, that food furnished the horse should contain the proper nutrition, and that it be given in proper quantities, and at the proper time. Hay and oats are the foods best adapted to the horse. Wheat and corn contain elements of nutrition in larger quantities than hay or oats, but it is not an excessive amount of nutritive element, that is so much desired, as the manner of combining these qualities that are especially adapted to certain animals, that makes a perfect food. A horse may safely be given as much hay as it will consume without waste, but oats should never be fed in such quantities that the animal leaves a part of its allowance in the box. Salt should be kept where the horse may have access to it at all times.

Education of a Horse.

"The day has passed for 'breaking' horses," Dr. Wattles continued. "The humane and intelligent man educates them. Their instruction begins at birth. Men now begin the education of a colt by placing a web halter upon the future obedient servant, and leading him about from time to time, teaching

it to obey commands given in a firm, but gentle voice."

Harness.

Dr. Wattles condemned the popular tendency to add superfluous parts to a work harness, such as heavy housings, showy metal trimmings, rings and other things that serve only to increase weight. "A harness," said he, "should be made as simple as possible, of leather, well fitted, perfectly smooth, and without cloth lining, padding or stitching where it touches the skin. The traces should be made of a single thickness, when possible. Saddles, collars and other parts of harness lined with cloth or felt, confine the body heat beneath them and prevent evaporation; those with coarse fiber and stitching produce an irritation of the skin, and cause sore backs and shoulders.

Veterinary Knowledge.

"The public should have some knowledge of the cause and effect of some of the diseases and injuries that affect the horse. So-called 'sweeney' is an atrophy of the shoulder muscles, produced by inaction, just as a man's arm, carried in a sling, would waste in time. It is the result, always, of an injury in some other part of the body, and the man who blisters the shoulder of a horse in this condition should be prosecuted. The diseased condition of the eye, called 'hooks,' is an inflammation of the membrane, causing it to swell and partly pushing it over the eye. It would be just as reasonable to amputate a man's finger to relieve an inflamed condition of the eye, as to remove this membrane. The usual treatment of this inflammation is the most brutal ever devised by man. The so-called 'scum' is inside the eye, not outside, and you can see what a vicious thing it is to blow such substances as salt, sugar, and even powdered glass into the eye to cut off this membrane. Put a grain of salt into your own eye and see how you like it.

Diet and Pure Air.

"One of the commonest and most fatal diseases of the horse, made so because so little is known of its cause, is colic, or acute indigestion. It is the result, always, of improper feeding. It may be caused by feeding grain when very tired, or in too large quantities; allowing too great a period of time to elapse between meals; rapid exercise immediately after feeding; watering immediately after meals, or by changing foods and giving the same amount of the new as of the old, especially when new oats, corn and hay first come into market.

"Always have plenty of fresh, pure air in the stable, as a horse requires an immense amount of oxygen to purify the blood. Avoid direct draughts and furnish an abundance of clean, dry

bedding. Blanketing in the stable is unnecessary if the temperature be maintained at 40 degrees, or above. New horses that have just been brought into the city, should not be taken out in a storm, or allowed to stand where a draught comes upon them, as, from these things, pneumonia or pleurisy almost always results.

"The inhuman practice of burning or cutting the roof of a horse's mouth, when it is already suffering from an inflamed condition, is another of the abuses that should be corrected. This condition is commonly called 'lampers,' and means only an inflammation of the mouth that should be treated by the mildest of applications.

Natural Thirst.

"There is a popular idea that should be exploded. That is that a horse should not be given water when warm. If we could understand the immense amount of moisture thrown off through the skin and lungs of the horse, we could see how essential it is that the horse should be watered, even if warm. The only precaution that need be taken is the same any sensible man would take in drinking cold water, when warm, not to give it to the horse in large quantities, nor when it is very cold."

Horse Shoeing.

The lecturer declared that calkings on a horse's shoe are unnecessary, and should not be tolerated. They cause an uneven bearing to be placed upon the foot, raise the foot from the ground, preventing frog pressure and produce a contraction of the foot. He denounced the practice of cutting a deep notch on either side of the frog of the hoof, called opening up the heels, and said it should be abolished. Instead of spreading the heels each time the frog touches the ground, it presses the frog into the notch made by the knife. The enamel of the foot should not be rasped off, as it allows the foot to dry and crack, causing irregular lines and sometimes a permanent injury.

More Humane Safeguards.

"Another phase of the horse question," said Dr. Wattles, "is the part taken by the humane society to prevent the abuse of animals. Would it not be well to have the women of the society, as well as those who are not members, given authority to make complaints to the police when abuse occurs, instead of waiting to investigate? The fact is, there are too few active members in the society. So far as striking animals with clubs, kicking them, or otherwise maltreating them is concerned, the newspapers have done more than the society to correct that evil, for public opinion, guided by the newspapers, is the controlling factor in such actions."

"Docking."

While Dr. Wattles does not approve