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HORSES DEVELOPING PARALYTIC SYMPTOMS, WITH DEGENERATION OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVES

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(Summary of the Master's thesis written under direction of Dr. Y. FUJIMOTO)

1. Histopathological investigations were carried out on thirteen horses (2 to 13 years of age) which had developed various paralytic symptoms. These cases occurred in all areas of Hokkaido Prefecture except the Tokachi district.
2. The principal symptoms reported were of inco-ordination primarily of the hinder part of the body, staggering in gait, paresis of the fore or hind legs, paralysis of the hinder part of the body, unsteadiness in standing, astasia, paddling movement with the legs, hypesthesia, facial paralysis, glossolysis, dysphagia, etc. After having exhibited symptoms for periods between twelve hours and nine months, one animal died and all of the other animals were slaughtered.
3. From the histopathological viewpoint, all of the cases were dealt with as having had identical diseases of the nervous system.
4. In the peripheral nerves (the animal and vegetative nerves; including the various ganglia), there were multiple lesions of degeneration and loss of the parenchyma (polyneuritis). In the ganglia especially the spinal ganglia frequent neuronophagias were also observed. In the twelve central nervous systems examined (one was not examined) there were evident features of degeneration of neurons in the cerebral trunci and spinal cords; the confirmation of such features was easy especially in the "Bodengrau" of the medullae.
5. Centering around the clinical features and patho-morphological findings, discussion was done on the similarity between the present disease of the nervous system and "Koshifura Disease" (B_1 -avitaminosis resulting from ingestion of the fern particularly *Thelytepris palustris* SHOTT) occurring in the Tokachi district. Consequently, the author, for the present, comes to the conclusion that he is inclined to regard the present disease as—since the present cases occurred in Hokkaido—"Koshifura Disease".