

# Supernumerary Digit

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Class of 1940

Last December 12, a colt 7 months old was admitted to the Iowa State College Veterinary Clinic. The animal had an extra digit on the medial side of the left front foot. This caused very little trouble as far as walking was concerned, but was unsightly and probably would have interfered more as the colt grew older.

Two X-ray photographs were taken of the leg to determine the attachment of the extra digit. A gross photograph was also taken and is presented here.



The colt was given one-half ounce of chloral hydrate via the stomach tube and then placed on the operating table. The area was prepared for the operation, and Dr. Johnson blocked the median nerve with two per cent Procaine solution; this seemed to give complete anesthesia. The skin and underlying tissues were incised, at the junction, down to the bone; the skin being cut so there would be enough to cover the wound when sutured. The bone was removed by cutting parallel to the third metacarpus with a wire saw,

and in so doing no tendon sheaths or joint capsules were opened. A gauze pack saturated with Bipp (Bismuth Subnitrate-2 parts, Iodoform-1 part, Liquid Petrolatum-15 parts) was put over the area and the edges of the skin sutured together. After suturing, a cotton and gauze pack was bandaged tightly over the area.

The post-operative treatment consisted of changing the Bipp pack daily for three days, then the leg was soaked in warm pheno-formalin solution (0.03% Formalin and 0.02% Phenol) daily, and the Bipp pack was discontinued. This treatment was continued for about ten days. About this time the colt's temperature rose to 104.6°, so one ounce of sulfanilamide was given daily for five days. The temperature slowly receded to 101°.

December 29 the colt was again placed on the operating table and the wound examined. Several small pieces of sloughing bone were located and removed, then the wound was dressed with a Bipp pack. The wound was cleaned daily with Therapogen solution and a fresh Bipp pack applied.

On January 4 the Bipp packs were discontinued and a dry boric acid pack substituted.

The animal was discharged on January 6, 1940, apparently well on the road to recovery.

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The annual Veterinary Dance was held January 6, 1940. This was the first formal dance given in the history of the department.

Frankie Trumbauer and his orchestra diagnosed, prescribed, and administered the music; the heads of the departments served as chaperons.

The dance was well attended and the prognosis for an evening of enjoyment was made a reality.