

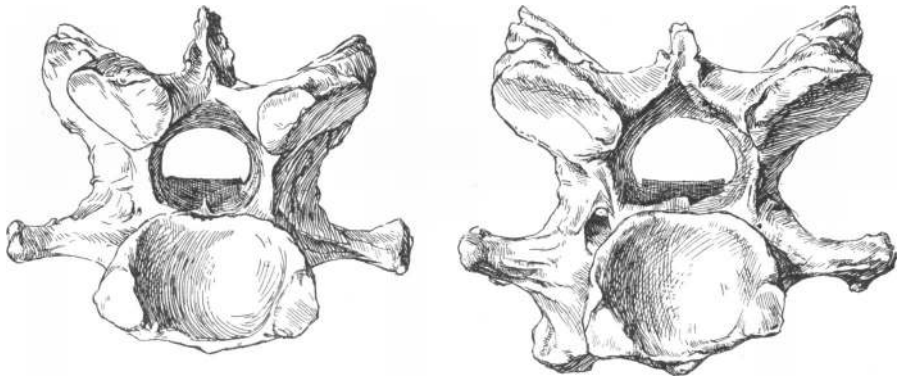
ABNORMAL CERVICAL VERTEBRA OF HORSE

By B. GORTON, M.R.C.V.S.

DURING the examination of the carcase of a horse which was destroyed recently, it was noticed that the seventh cervical vertebra was abnormal.

Normally the lateral process of this bone is a single outwardly projecting process which does not present at its root a foramen transversarium found in a typical cervical vertebra. The inferior or ventral spine, on the ventral aspect of the centrum, is an elongated bifid ridge quite small in size. The dorsal spine (spinous process), on the other hand, is conspicuous and is a definitely outstanding prominence.

In the abnormal vertebra under consideration the lateral process on the right side is normal, being single and untraversed by a foramen; on the left



side, however, the process is double, having two well marked prominences, a dorsal projecting outwards and a ventral projecting downwards. The dorsal part, which has a blunt extremity, is apparently the counterpart of the whole process on the right side. It is significant that the ventral prominence is in line with the capitular facet for the first rib which, in the horse articulates with the seventh cervical vertebra as well as with the first thoracic. The root of the process is pierced by a large foramen.

The inferior spine, on the ventral aspect of the centrum, is represented by a rounded ridge not quite median in position.

Another departure from the normal is seen in the fact that the right capitular facet for the first rib is slightly more dorsal in position than that on the left.

The asymmetrical condition scarcely calls for comment, as anomaly involving a vertebra is most frequently one sided.

The condition on the left side may be explained by regarding the dorsal prominence of the lateral process as representing the transverse process proper, and the ventral process as being costal in nature. In the normal seventh cervical vertebra the transverse and costal processes are indiscriminately fused, as is the condition on the right side. On the left side, however, the distinction between the two is accentuated not only by the presence of a costo-transverse foramen, but by the distal independence of the greater part of the costal element.

In short there is apparently an asymmetrical attempt at the exhibition of a cervical rib.