

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

Valuable Observations on the Scourge From a Scottish Standpoint.

Says the Banffshire Journal, of Aberdeen, Scotland: The question of how to deal with this disease is one that may be discussed with profit. In considering the subject, we do not pretend to do so from a professional point of view, but we may state shortly what pleuro-pneumonia is and what it is not. It is a foreign disease. It is a contagious disease, and in most cases it is a deadly disease. Experiments were carried out some years ago in Brown's Institute, London, and, if we recollect rightly, it was found that even the diseased lungs from infected animals, hung before healthy subjects or laid in their troughs, could not produce disease; neither could the disease be transmitted to a healthy subject even when a portion of the diseased lung of a dead animal was injected into the system.

These experiments were brought to an end by the passage of the Vivisection Act, and there may be those who hold that the deductions drawn from them are insufficient to prove that the theory of inoculation as a preventive was disposed of. Without, however, going into the question as to whether inoculation is a preventive or not, we hold, and we hope to show, that it is a mistake to depend upon it.

A valuable lesson is to be learned from the doings of the Northumberland Local Authority during the past few years, and we do not hesitate to bring their procedure before our readers, and to quote largely from the reports of the chief veterinary inspector for the county of Northumberland, a gentleman well known all over the kingdom as a practical authority on stock matters. We refer to Mr. Clement Stephenson, F. R. C. V. S., who, some years ago retiring from active practice, continued to act for the county as their chief inspector. Perhaps there are few, if any, in the profession who have had such an extensive experience of pleuro-pneumonia, both in the living and post-mortem subject, as Mr. Stephenson. For about thirty years we believe he, by an arrangement with the Newcastle authorities, made post-mortem examinations, and took notes on the case of every animal that died in the large district in which he lives. This he did as a hobby. It will be at once seen, therefore, that the county of Northumberland was specially fortunate in their chief inspector. Let us now place before our readers what he says in his annual report for the year ending September 30, 1885:—

"The work of the past year has been troublesome, disheartening, and expensive. There have been six outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia to contend with, in which a total of two hundred and five animals have been implicated. Fourteen diseased animals have been slaughtered and buried; one hundred and thirty-five have been bought up, slaughtered and salvaged, and twenty-two remain to be dealt with; but an order for their slaughter was made on the 29th instant. In addition to the above, two animals died, and two were slaughtered before the true nature of the disease was recognized by their owners.

"The origin of each outbreak has been carefully investigated. Three of them, namely, the Errington Hill Head (63 cattle), Birkenhead (52 cattle), and North Seaton (10 cattle), were clearly traced to the introduction of diseased cattle from Ireland. The Newton Underwood outbreak (26 cattle), was for some time shrouded in mystery, but, from information recently received, it, too, appears to have been due to the introduction of Irish cattle. The Alnwick High House outbreak (16 cattle), was caused by a steer brought from Carlisle. The history of the remaining outbreak, Hallington (38 cattle), is an unusual and interesting one. The lot of cattle in which the disease first appeared were bought in April, 1884, and remained apparently healthy up to July in this year; the disease was then developed, and in so virulent a form, that the first animal died on the seventh day. This rapid death, not usual in this disease, was explained by the post-mortem examination, which revealed the disease in two forms or stages, namely, recent acute disease, and old encysted. The latter had lain dormant for fifteen months. I have before pointed out the peculiarities and dangers of these old encysted cases of which, during the year, I have found no less than nine, eight of which were in cattle brought from Ireland. Encysted pleuro-pneumonia is found in those animals that, from having been in infected herds, have contracted the disease, but in so slight a form (only a small piece of lung being affected), that apparent recovery has taken place. In fact, they may have been so slightly affected that little or no deviation from health may have been observed.

"Lung tissue, when once invaded by this disease, never recovers its normal condition; it becomes enlarged, hardened, and impervious to air, and in those apparent recoveries, the portion of lung affected is isolated and cut off from the remainder of the lung by a dense fibrous capsule, and it appears that so long as this imprisoned piece of dead lung remains firm and unbroken down, so long may the animal appear to be doing well. But the length of this, the firm quiescent stage, is as un-

certain as the incubative one. A time comes when the imprisoned piece of dead lung breaks up and liquefies, and then the active stage of the disease is re-started.

"I have found firm cysts in the lungs of cattle that, during life, gave no symptoms of the disease; and, in some of the most acute cases I have seen, I have found old cysts with softened contents accompanied with extensive recent diseases.

"I have before pointed out that sixty-five days quarantine was no safe-guard in pleuro-pneumonia. At Newton Underwood eighty-six days elapsed between cases. Owing to the uncertain length of the incubative and cyst periods of this disease, there is, according to our present knowledge, only one satisfactory way to deal with it, namely, prompt slaughter of infected herds, that is, both the diseased cattle and cattle that from herding with them have been submitted to the infection. The Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act gives permissive power to do this, but, unfortunately, it is not generally taken advantage of—as proved by the history of the outbreaks we have had this year—all of which have been imported to us, and not one of which we should have had.

"A vigorous effort should now be made to get the dangerous permissive word may in Section 21 (2) of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act changed into must, and slaughter of infected herds made compulsory. Until this is accomplished we shall continue to have repeated outbreaks. In the meantime it is most important to maintain the present good feeling that exists between the stock owners and the authorities. Prompt slaughter and consequent short quarantine insures this; on the other hand non-slaughter and long quarantine will lead to evasions of the law, and, instead of cases being reported, they will be hidden, and infected cattle will be sold and scattered in all directions, only to become new centers of disease."

Weighing and considering such statements as the above, it is not too much to say that, even although there may be something in inoculation for this disease, which we do not grant, it is a short-sighted policy on the part of any local authority to risk its trial. Suppose one of those animals Mr. Stephenson speaks of with disease in an encysted state happened to be amongst the number of inoculated cattle, and it is not too much to infer that in every lot, of any number, in a herd brought in contact with this disease that one had such a lung, what might be the result? After a certain time, restrictions would be withdrawn, the whole of the cattle might be scattered over the country with, let us say, one of their number capable, though apparently healthy, of spreading this fearful disease wherever it went. On this score alone, it is not worth risking inoculation. We may remark that, even when the county of Northumberland killed 137 apparently healthy cattle that had been in contact with diseased animals, the assessment was less than one farthing per pound. Even this does not show the full advantage of the killing-out system, as in the case of killing-out the printing, advertising, salaries, professional charges, and inspectors' fees are reduced enormously.

In the annual report on diseases of animals for the year 1885, issued by the Privy Council, most interesting facts are given as to pleuro-pneumonia in the Netherlands. After giving in a tabulated form the number of cases of this disease from 1871 to 1885, and the results of the workings of an 1874 Act, making inoculation of suspected cattle compulsory, the report says:—The compulsory inoculation, added to the slaughter of diseased cattle, did not have any effect on the progress of the disease, for, at the end of the year, it was found that the number of cattle attacked was nearly the same as in the previous year—viz., 2414 in 1874, against 2479 in 1873. The slaughter of affected cattle and the compulsory inoculation of those herded with them was continued during 1875 and 1876 without any marked result, the number attacked being 2247 in 1875, and 1723 in 1876. In 1877 the Netherlands Government resolved on the compulsory slaughter of all cattle which were herded with diseased cattle.

The report goes on to say:—"Three years' active application of this method of dealing with the disease had the effect of eradicating it from all the provinces of the Netherlands, except South Holland. Since 1880 the disease has practically been confined to what is termed the Spoelving district, that is the district in which cattle are fed in sheds from the refuse obtained from distilleries. Here most stringent regulations have been enforced; cattle taken into this district are not permitted to move out alive; and all cattle, whether slaughtered, diseased or otherwise, are examined post-mortem; the result of these inquiries has been most instructive, as they have revealed a fact with which we have long been conversant in this country, that numbers of cattle take the disease in a mild form, and recover and are looked upon as perfectly healthy animals. It was reported that the last case discovered in the living animal was in May, 1885, and no case has been detected since that date in any animal, either living or dead."

From the above it will be seen that, in all but one province, three years of the stamping-out system cleared the whole of the Netherlands of pleuro-pneumonia, and at the end of other five years even this peculiarly situated province may now be said to have had a clean bill of health.

These facts and figures prove clearly that our local authorities ought to consider well before giving the slightest attention to the inoculation idea, and also that the sooner the Government gives the Veterinary department of the Privy Council full powers, which they may do, to enforce compulsory slaughter of all cattle that have been in contact with diseased animals, the better it will be for the country.

The Fatal Thirteen.

"Yes," said a man, who in company with a party of friends, was engaged in conversation, "thirteen is a very unlucky number."

"I have been brought up to think so," replied a skeptical fellow, "but I have never seen anything to substantiate the superstition."

"I have," said the first speaker.

"Nonsense."

"No, it is a fact. Some time ago there were thirteen of us assembled in a room. Every one seemed to feel that something was going to happen and a strange solemnity settled upon the party. In fact, so deeply were we impressed that two of the company got down on their knees and prayed."

"Was there no one with nerve enough to make fun of such foolishness?"

"No, sir. Instead of making fun we stood with bowed heads."

"Well, what came of it? Did anything happen to either of you?"

"Yes, sir; less than an hour later one of our party was a corpse."

"What!"

"Yes, one of the men who had prayed died within an hour. He seemed to know that his time was approaching, for an expression of resignation had come over his face."

"Died of apoplexy, or something of that sort, eh?"

"Well, no. The attending physician gave it as his opinion that he died of a sudden ailment of the neck, hemiplegia, I think he said. The sheriff, it appeared to me, was the immediate cause of his death."—Arkansas Traveller.

They Knew It.

A barrel with a bung in it and a suspicious dampness around the heads was yesterday lying in an alley off Grand River street. So were two boys, two straws and a gimlet. A grocer stood in his back door and smiled and chuckled as he saw the barrel and the boys gradually drawn nearer each other. At length, after one last look around, the boy with the gimlet bored two holes, two straws were inserted, and two suction pumps began work.

"Yum!" sighed the biggest boy after a couple of pulls.

"Ain't she good?" queried the other as he let go his straw.

"Purty good, but just shade off."

"How much are you going to hold?"

"Oh, about a gallon."

"I'm going to hold more'n that."

The grocer then put in a sudden appearance and said:

"Come, come boys! I just filled that barrel up with water to tighten up the seams. Come back here to the penstock if you want a drink."

They left the straws sticking in the gimlet-holes and walked off without saying a word until beyond reach. Then the big boy called back:

"We knowed it all the time. D'ye 'spose we thought it was kerosene?"—Detroit Free Press.

Badinage of the Ministers.

There was a meeting of the preachers of Lynchburg, Va., and when it was breaking up Dr. John Hannon could not find his hat. Turning to the Rev. R. R. Acee, he said:

"One of you Baptists has my hat."

"Then," said Brother Acee, "your hat has more brains in it than ever before."

A few days after that Dr. Hannon was passing by Brother Acee's yard gate, and when urged to come in he said:

"I am on my way to preach."

"You can't preach," replied Brother Acee.

"So I felt for a long time," replied Dr. Hannon; "but since hearing you, the other day, I have changed my mind."—Richmond Religious Herald.

Unfortunately Named.

"Your first name is Walkill, isn't it, Mr. Featherly?" asked Bobby.

"Yes, Walkill," complacently replied that young man.

"It's too bad."

"Why, Bobby?"

"Because sister Clara told Etzel Robinson that you would be a nice young man to call a dog after if it wasn't for your name!"—Life.

Model Men.

"Papa, what is a model?" inquired little Johnny.

"A model is a small likeness of anything."

"And is a model man a small likeness of a man?"

"A great many of them are, Johnny," replied his pa, musingly.

"A great many of them are."—Merchand Traveller.



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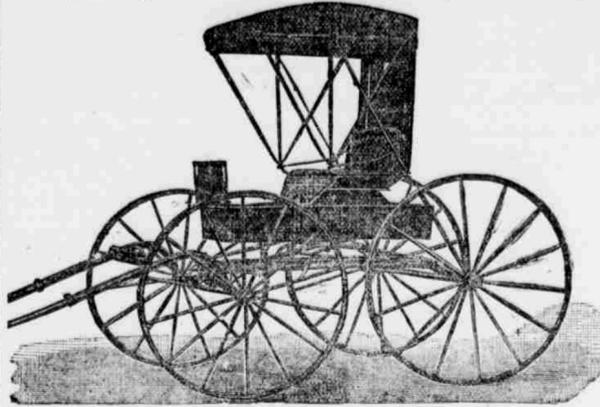
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