THE CORNSTALK DISEASE.

Detection and Prevention of This Serious Ailment.

Dr. Frank S. Billings reports as follows:

In endeavoring to pursue the symptoms of this disease we come face to face with a question of exceeding difficulty, because of their very close resemblance to other diseases which occur in cattle in our western states, and even another fungal other hemorrhagic phenomena which more or less closely resemble those presented by this disease, especially in the more acute forms. This fact has led many veterinarians into back controversies in Congress. The occurrence of the disease in the months from November to March must lend essential differential diagnostic value.

Like the swine plague, this disease may be fatal in twenty-four hours, or it may extend to eight or ten days or some weeks before such a result occurs. It is not a universally fatal disease, as we have seen better than ever before.

Primarily we have to do with an acute fungal poisoning disease, which, like all such diseases, is accompanied by a more or less extensive congestion of the body's mucous surfaces, varying in far as known, from 30 deg. C. to 45 deg. C. that is, from 86.5 deg. F. to 113.5 deg. F.

These disturbances of the circulation frequently extend to the brain, where congestion and cerebral pressure occur, which in some animals often or the former "craziness," as the farmers call it. The animals then follow fearfully and chase other animals, especially dogs, hogs or cows, but seldom human beings. This has led to the mistake of their being called "mad" at times, and to this disease being mixed up with so called "hydrophobia" in cattle by some veterinarians. Other animals stand by themselves or are dismissed and left to move. Separation from their companions is one of the first indications of illness. As soon as I was disturbed they ran all sniffing and all quick. As in other plague and southern cattle plague, constipation is a very frequent accompaniment while hardly of the bowels also often occurs and may be looked upon as rather a favorable complication. But either does not occur. The visible mucous are injected and often have a yellowish red tinge. No hemorrhagic extravasation all the time, and even not a little during its most ill days. That sick cattle animals should be disturbed to eat and attempt to drink, is no wonder, but if their water is placed before them no difficulty in swallowing will be discovered. Milk cows soon sicken in their yield of the lactual fluid, and frequently the secretion ceases altogether for a time.

It must be borne in mind that if the manure and litter from a cattle yard where animals have had this disease are taken out and strewn over a field and then plowed in, that the field is planted with corn, such soil is very liable to become infected by this germ, and this can be the cause of some losses to cattle if turned into such "a sick field" the ensuing fall and winter.

On the eruption of this disease in a herd of cattle which have been used to feed on any man's growing or a stack field the first step is to be taken is the peremptory withdrawal of the herd from such a field and such fodder. The next thing to do is either to burn such stack or adopt some other means by which a record can be kept of each animal in the lot, and then take the temperature of each one night and morning. All with a temperature of over 102 degs. F. must be looked upon as suspicious. Those in which it does not exceed or the over 102 degs. F. need only be noted and watched. There is no need of reporting the sick from the well, as the disease is not contagious.

A saline purgative is indicated for all the animals. Those that die should be examined, and with them a lot of the liver in the past. If possible to send it, the regular cattle yards should never be used for such cattle after any of them have become ill. Again I repeat it is no use should a portion of the manure or refuse from a place where such cattle have been confined ever be used for fertilizing purposes. Burn it up.

The illustrations of the disease in cows and descriptions of the same have got to be presented in that practical knowledge by which we should be able to instantly tell when the growing corn in our fields is infected with this germ so dangerous to our live stock. The question of prevention should be the single method of avoiding such corn fields as places for turning in stock to do the post harvest gleaning. From conversation with several farmers I am quite convinced that even now some of them have quite distinct ideas of the manner in which the corn field is affected, and that as we have obtained an exact description of this part of the story from the botanical side we should now be able to totally prevent this disease in our live stock as far as the gleaning of our corn fields is concerned. But this still leaves us to face several uncertainties, which can only be settled by careful observation by farmers and exact investigation by competent investigators.

Knowing that the corn fodder is diseased, both as to the husks and leaves, the question is, does the germ also penetrate the cob and growing kernel, and can they also cause the disease?

Are grasses also infected by this germ? And if so, which? This is a very important question, for if they cannot be, then such fields can be used for raising grasses. This can be best determined by actual experiment by intelligent farmers, who should turn such fodder into grasses, including patches of millet and clover, and then feed a few cattle with such food without the admixture of any other herbaceous food.

It would be well if the experiment stations would make suitable arrangements in this direction with intelligent farmers and bear the expense of using such an infected corn field as experimentation in about the following manner:

It should be thoroughly cleaned of all refuse of the old corn crop, but not exposed to the action of fire.

A portion should be planted to corn, and if any stalks appear diseased during the growing period they should be dug up and burned, and under every precaution separated from other cattle and also rabbits. The latter might be tried first, as enough is now known of the germ of this disease to enable the experienced person to recognize it correctly. When the corn is ripe the ears should be gathered carefully and all full ears separated from those incomplete in development. Feeding experiments should be made with both. After the crop of corn has been gathered a few cattle should be turned into it in order to check any errors. Naturally such a field of the first should be separated from the other, and if, as Professor Burrill's letter suggested, such a field as one of "very acute" can be pretty amusing indeed, such a use should be used for this kind of experimentation.

Varieties grasses, including millet, clover and in fact all kinds must be feeding stock should be planted in rotation in such a field. One lot of each kind should be used for pasturage in the summer for a few cattle, while the crop of another lot should be preserved for winter use and then fed to a certain number of cattle.

It is the work of our farmers to do all this at their own expense, but the interests of stock make it the imperative duty of the agricultural experiment stations to do it, this being one of the purposes for which they were created. Though Science is the only study that we do not see their fees for in this report. There are an abundance of public spirited and liberal farmers who will gladly support the work. In fact Mr. McMillan has written me that he intends to follow out my suggestions as to grasses and millet with the field in spite of its his very detailed letter relating his experiments with the disease. Later advantage Mr. McKelvy go to show that there is no danger in such grasses raised on such land.

We have each autumn been accustomed every stack and leaf on such a field should be destroyed by fire, and until we know to the contrary this practice should be continued. There is no question but that the diseased remnants of the corn fodder can spoil their silo, or cause the further infection of the land by the germs thus remaining free and again ready to spring in the soil.

The absolute necessity of this or that disease for the present practically unknown by every practical observer that it would seem unnecessary to call further attention to it, yet a brief recapitulation of the main points may not be out of place. Some of the points have come from the Reports of this station, and this new discussion.

Watch the Stables.

How important it is to make a tour of the stables at, say, 8 o'clock each night. And yet how few farmers, comparatively speaking, make this a habit. Many and many a time the owner of stock will on his late round notice some premonitory symptom of disease that has escaped the attention of the hired hand earlier in the evening at feeding or milking time. Many a case of possibly fatal trouble may be caught in time by seeing the condition of the animals before retiring. Cows of calve very commonly come in after the evening meal, and if attended to at once will generally repaid satisfactorily to the anxious owner in such cases. Where the animals are not housed a sec late in the evening it is quite possible that sickness, which at that time could be treated successfully, may have proved fatal by morning. Horses wintering in stalls and loose boxes sometimes are unfortunate enough to cast themselves after a full meal. If not helped up when it is impossible for them to rise without assistance, they may be dead in the morning. About this time of year early foals, calves, lambs and pigs are commencing to arrive, and it is therefore of the greatest importance that all pregnant animals should be inspected before retiring for the night. We need not go into detail in this matter. It will be only necessary to suggest the subject, as common sense will lead our readers to accept this "hint" to their memories in good part. Just one more point. We could quote cases where horses in stalls have been found strangled in the morning from getting foal in the hitching strap, rope or chain, while others have lamed themselves for life by getting their feet caught in the same way and cutting their tendons in their struggles during the night.—Northwest Farmer.

Hogs in Winter.

It is no disease to the manure to have the hogs rooting it over if it is not drawn out upon the fields about as fast as made. Neither is it any injury to the breeding stock to have them do so. They will be more vigorous and have stronger pigs if they have exercise, and it is well to encourage them to work by scattering a little corn among the manure before it goes into the barn cellar. But while they can work in the manure heap nearly all day they should not sleep in it. The heating pile beneath them is probably warm, and they choose it for that and not for the sake of the filth, but such a heat upon one side while the other is cold cannot be wholesome. Provide a warm pen with an abundance of bedding in it for them to lie down upon when tired of working, and they will soon show that they seek the bed for comfort. If they do not, driving them in a few times will convince them that their comfort is the place for them. Raw roots are quite as good as cooked roots for them, as the cooked roots are too watery. If cooked, all the water should be drained off and then bran or oatmeal mixed with the warm roots when mashed up. Keep them in good growing condition, but do not get them too fat.—American Cultivator.

To Avoid Loss in Lambs.

The liberty to take exercise, and if necessary to be forced to take exercise, is a part in sheep raising that cannot be too highly appreciated. Even with lambs should be firm and full of muscle, not fat and soft, and this has been proved in every flock throughout the country year after year by the lambs that come early in nearly every case being strong and those that come very late being the strongest, while the great loss in lambs is nearly always past before the ewes go to pasture or from ewes that have during their whole period of pregnation been confined to the pens. To avoid losses from these causes give the ewes as much range as possible in the pens. Do not have the pens too close, but have them dry above and below.—Robert Miller.

Voting in the Japanese Parliament.

One of the first effects of introducing parliaments into Japan has been to stimulate inventors to discover some means of doing away with lobby divisions. Professor Zaftukawa, of the University of Tokio, has devised an electrical machine by which each member can record his vote without leaving his seat. There will be a board placed back of the president's chair, like a hotel bell board. The yeas being first called, each member desiring to vote yea presses his aye button, and records his vote, and the same way with the nays.—New York Sun.

The Fate of Some English Ships.

Several English and foreign war ships which have been sold to the Norwegians are now carrying timber from port to port; the Marlborough, which conveyed so many thousands of our troops to India, is now moored at Gibraltar as a coal hulk, and the John Bertram, the American racing tea clipper, foundered some years ago while struggling along toward England with a cargo of petroleum.—London Standard.

He Had Lived in a Boarding House.

"I am afraid, dear," said the little woman timidly, "I'm afraid you will not think these biscuits of mine exactly right. They are my first, you know."

"On the contrary," rejoined gallant Mr. Lakewood promptly, "they are the very best I ever ate." And then he absentmindedly remarked, "Pass me another boulder."—Kate Field's Washington.

No Wonder People Laughed.

A book hawker, who was wearing a small, circular piece of court plaster on his face, removed it while shaving a few mornings since and replaced it when his toilet was complete. Contrary to his usual experience, as he went about his business during the rest of the day he was everywhere received with smiles, which grew broader and broader, until at last somebody laughed in his face.

Led by this to look in the glass, he was somewhat taken aback to discover that instead of the court plaster he had affixed to his face a little round printed label which had fallen from the back of a new month's clock purchased the day before, and which bore the appropriate inscription, "Warranted solid brass."—London Tit-Bits.

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For Ogden, all intermediate points and San Francisco ..... 11:59 p.m.
For Eureka, Juab and Milford ..... 7:00 a.m.
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