

AGRICULTURAL.



"PLEURO-PNEUMONIA," OR LUNG MURRAIN IN NEAT CATTLE.

[FROM THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURALIST.]

This disease, at present unknown at the West, with us at the East is so far naturalized that we believe it may break out in almost any herd situated on any important thoroughfare, or in which there are working cattle which go upon the highway. Still there is as yet but very little of it. The vigorous measures pursued in Massachusetts and other New-England States, to a certain extent checked the evil, and the existence of the disease at other points along the sea-board where ship cows have been bought, though frequently recognized, has not given rise to extensive disaster. We have no doubt the disease may be suppressed, wherever it breaks out, by the perfect isolation of the herd, and the slaughter of every animal of it; not as was done in Massachusetts, killing and burying every animal; but by putting the cattle under treatment until they are cured and fattened, when they may be slaughtered; the flesh will be good food, and the hides good leather, and no danger need be apprehended to other stock, after the barns and stalls have been thoroughly whitewashed and limed, and aired for some time. We saw the disease as it existed in Massachusetts, and were fully convinced of its intensely contagious nature. The fact that of the hundreds of cattle slaughtered in North Brookfield and vicinity, there was not a single case where the contagion could not be traced directly to the imported Dutch cow of Mr. Cheney's herd which arrived sick, is abundant evidence—that is, directly to that cow through several others by which the disease was conveyed. And again the fact that at a certain house-moving in that town, where 24 yokes of cattle were used in one "string," one pair of these, having contracted the disease from a calf brought from the originally infected herd, though not showing it, still communicated the disease to every one of the 23 other yokes, not a single one of them all being found which did not give evidence of the murrain.

The disease exists in Brooklyn, N. Y., and in New-Jersey, and in some places on the Hudson river where cows from the distillery stables have been taken. Vigorous means need to be taken to control it. The States should act, and so should individuals. It is a great crime to sell an animal supposed to be infected, or to keep such a fact or supposition secret. We need educated veterinarians. A few are in this country; however there are hundreds of quacks to one who knows his business.

In a paper which discussed this subject in *Wilkes' Spirit of the Times*, by Louis Brandt, veterinary surgeon, we find the following description, which accords well with our own observation and knowledge of the disease.

SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.

"In localities in which the disease has never existed, veterinary surgeons themselves can be convinced of its presence only by dissection.

"1. The evolution of the disease, in the first period, is so secret and feverish, that only a practised eye can detect its presence. The first observatory symptom is, a short, dry, weak cough, or hic-cough, generally without repetition, which, in the beginning, occurs but seldom, and then when the animal rises or is watered, and afterwards more frequently, and accompanied by great pain and effort, a remarkable croaking of the back, a stretching of the head and neck, and a quaking motion of the flanks, the cough becoming more and more hollow and dry; moreover, a slight feverish motion, frequent changes in the temperature of the horns and ears, the muzzle now dry, now moist, bristling of the hair along the back, often a greater sensitiveness when the same is pressed, and sometimes a somewhat excited pulse.

"In this period we find, on dissection, firm and increased spots of a darker red, and of various sizes upon the generally pale and flabby lungs, and afterwards an effusion of yellow lymph around them in the cellular tissue, lying between the lobes of the lungs. In this period, the disease, when properly treated, is almost always curable.

"2. In the second period, the appearances are: a feverish affliction of the whole body; an accelerated, difficult and unequal breathing, with expanded nostrils, and a violent motion of the flanks; a short, hollow, incomplete, and even suppressed cough; pain on pressing the breast behind the shoulders; continued standing with stretched head and neck, lying down only now and then, and for only a short time, and generally upon the diseased side, with the feet turned under the body, and the head and neck stretched out; reddened mucous membranes; dry muzzle; warm horns and ears; delayed, dry, ball-shaped, painful excrements; entire loss of milk.

"Dissection.—In this developed state of the disease, the affected lung appears hard, firm, enlarged, heavy, can not be inflated, sinks in water, is covered with lymph from one-half to one inch in thickness, and when cut through looks like marble. The pleura and the lungs are covered with false membranes of different thicknesses and different forms, and commonly adhesions between the lungs and the ribs have

taken place. In the trachea a discharge of yellowish, cloudy water, intermixed with flakes and strings, is found in various quantities, sometimes a painful. A suppuration seldom appears, except in case of a previous inflammation of the lungs.

"In the first period, by proper treatment, a cure can be effected with a loss of scarcely five per cent, of deaths, but, in the second, the best surgeon will scarcely succeed in curing five per cent; whence it follows, that if the owners are unable to cure the disease themselves, they should seek competent assistance in the earliest stages. There is no infectious disease that spreads so easily as this disease of the lungs, so that those who attend to animals thus infected should not go into a healthy stable. The air which remains in the clothes is sufficient, even after an interval of several days, to spread the disease in other stables. Even the surgeon who has been in an infected stable, should not go into a healthy one, without first having himself fumigated with chlorine or tar. Horses are not liable to be infected. It is even advisable, and beneficial to the diseased animal, to put horses in the same stable, for it renders their cure so much the easier."

RIPENING PEARS.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Club, (September 9th,) the subject of "Ripening Pears" was discussed, and while all agreed that the later sorts should be removed from the trees when hard, to be ripened in fruit rooms at their proper seasons, some preferred the summer and fall pears when ripened on the trees. Several admitted that the Seckel would ripen perfectly on the tree; but J. W. Hayes, Esq., of Newark, claimed that many, if not all the summer and fall pears were better when so ripened, while Dr. Carpenter and many others stated that with the exception of the Seckel, none of the summer or fall pears were so good when not gathered in a green state; that they became mealy, losing much of the juice by evaporation, etc.; while, if removed from the tree before losing their hardness, and ripened into proper localities, the pears were more delicious, and every way preferable. Our experience coincides with the latter opinion, for we have found that even the Bartlett is materially improved in quality by being ripened in the dark after being removed from the tree.

We are anxious for exact information on this subject, and would thank our pomological readers if they would furnish it, and also the proper dates for ripening each of the latter kinds of pears. If the Dutchess D'Angouleme be placed in a warm room, and ripened at various dates fifteen days apart, from Sept. 15th, to Dec. 1st, those ripened at the latest date will be found to be far better in quality than those ripened earlier. A perfect list of the later pears, and the best dates for ripening them, would be very valuable and would assist fruit dealers in improving the public appreciation of the finer qualities of fruits.—[Working Farmer.]

PRESERVING FRUIT.

There is nothing so badly needed among fruit-raisers as a certain method of preserving their fruit. Some people are very successful in their efforts, while others, the great majority totally fail to save their apples and pears especially the latter, for any lengthened period. Grain, bran, chaff, meal, shavings, sawdust, &c., have all been used with more or less satisfactory results. Lately land plaster has been introduced, and is spoken of very favorably, and we have no doubt justly. Its nature would seem to point it out as well adapted to this purpose, when the fruit is packed in barrels or other vessels, and separated well by plaster. On farms, where plaster is annually applied to the grass, corn, &c., it is only necessary to purchase it a few months in advance, as it will keep without deterioration any length of time. It is said that apples can be thus preserved until May in perfect condition and flavor.

Barreling-up tightly and burying in the earth, we have no question, is one of the very best processes. We have known it to be eminently successful. Barreling and sinking under water is also said to answer the purpose. With choice pears this would well repay the trouble.—[Germantown Telegraph]

AUTUMN OR WINTER MANURING THE BEST.—Nearly all the benefits of autumn manuring may be secured, where cattle and other animals are kept in stables or warm basements, by drawing out the manure during the comparatively leisure time of winter, and spreading it at once on the land. The Winter rains, whenever they occur, and all the spring rains, will give it a thorough washing, and carry the liquid into the soil; but such places must be selected for this purpose as will not favor the accumulation of water into brooks or streams, and thus carry off the manure altogether. Grass lands are much the best for this treatment, by tending to retain the manure. Nothing is better for gardens that are to be enriched for spring crops, than autumn or winter application of manure; and newly planted trees, dwarf pear, strawberry beds &c., receive a great deal of protection against cold by such coatings, which are to be turned in, in spring.—[Country Gentleman.]

—A bean has been discovered on the west coast of Africa called *Gourou*, which has an astonishing effect in quieting the pangs of hunger, (medicinally, not in bulk.) It is an astringent and bitter tonic when chewed dry, but sweet immediately on taking a mouthful of water. It is also a preventive of colic.

TOBACCO EXCITEMENT IN CONTRA COSTA.—A successful experiment has been made this season in our county in the cultivation of tobacco by Messrs. Stout and Peden, of San Ramon Valley. They have planted about twelve acres, and the tobacco has come up beautifully and matured thoroughly. It is now fully ripe, and will be cut next week. Good judges estimate the average product as certainly not less than five hundred pounds per acre, and probably more. The sorts that have turned out best, we are told, are the Long Green and the Maryland Straight tobacco. This experiment demonstrates the capacity and the adaptability of our soil and climate to the rearing of this plant. There can be no longer any doubt on the subject. The matter is tested and fairly proven. Quite an excitement has been created in the neighborhood of Alamo and Danville, among the farmers, we understand, owing to the success of this new experiment. From what we hear, we should not be surprised if very large crops should be raised next year in that locality.—[Contra Costa Gazette.]

HOW PAT NICELY MANAGED IT.—A lady and gentleman recently married, in the neighborhood of Boston, left home in their own carriage for a bridal tour among the mountains of New Hampshire. In order to avoid the curiosity attracted by persons in the honeymoon, the gentleman gave his Irish servant, one Murphy, the strictest charge not to tell any one on the road they were newly married, and threatening to dismiss him instantly if he did. Pat promised implicit obedience; but on leaving the first inn on the road, next morning, the happy couple were much astonished and annoyed to find the servants all assembled, and, pointing to the gentleman, mysteriously exclaiming: "That's him; that's the man!"

On reaching the next station, the indignant master told Murphy he must immediately discharge him, as he had divulged what he had imposed on him as a secret.

"Paze your honor what is it you complain of?"

"You rascal you told the servants at the inn last night that we were a newly-married couple."

"Oh, then, be this and be that," says Patrick, brightening up in anticipated triumph, "there's not a word of truth in it yer honor; sure I told the whole kit o' them, servants and all, that you wouldn't be married for a fortnight yet."

The lady faints, but the husband pardoned Pat, and concluded that in future he had better tell the truth.

AN EFFECTIVE RETORT.—Sheridan was very desirous that his son Tom should marry a young woman of large fortune, but knew that Miss Chandler had won his son's heart. One day he requested Tom to take a walk with him, and soon entered on the subject of his marriage, and pointed out to him in glowing colors the advantages of so brilliant an alliance. Tom listened with the utmost patience, and then descended on the perfections of the woman who afterwards proved the pride and solace of his declining years. Sheridan grew warm, and expatiating on the folly of his son, at length exclaimed,

"Tom, if you marry Caroline Chandler, I'll cut you off with a shilling!"

Tom could not resist the opportunity of replying, and looking archly at his father, said—

"Then, sir, you must borrow it."

Sheridan was tickled at the wit and dropped the subject.

ROTHSCHILD'S WIT.—During the stormy days of 1843, two stalwart mobocrats entered the bank of the late Baron A. Rothschild, at Frankfurt.

"You have millions on millions," said they to him, "and we have nothing; and you must divide with us."

"Very well; what do you suppose the firm of De Rothschild is worth?"

"About forty millions of florins."

"Forty millions you think, eh! Now there are forty millions of people in Germany; that will be a florin a-piece. Here's yours."

RESULT OF A SPORTIVE FIGHT.—A young Vermont, who owned a pet black bear, was bantered recently by a couple of young sportsmen from Boston, who had gone up to the wilts of the Green Mountain State for a hunt, to let them try their dogs (three rather powerful creatures) upon his pet, he (the bear) to be kept chained to a post by a chain about twelve feet long. The Vermont boy, unable to resist the appeal of five new half dollars, and having faith in his pet, agreed to the trial. The result was three dead dogs, two mortified Bostonians, one triumphant bear, and a jubilant Vermont juvenile.

A LICENTIOUS CONDITION.—In some religious denominations, they license young men to preach, and let them preach on trial some time before they ordain them. At a church meeting in Campbell county, Kentucky, there arose quite a discussion as to ordaining a licentiate who had not succeeded very well so far, and Elder Dobson settled the matter, by moving that he be required to remain six months longer in his licentious condition!

COULD HAVE HIS CHANCE.—It is said of Ethan Allen that he once attended church where a minister made an estimate that, of the whole human race, one in a thousand would be saved. On the announcement of this result, Allen took his hat and walked out saying as he went: "Gentlemen, if any of you want my chance, you are welcome to it. It is not worth staying for."

A GOOD STORY.—Rennie, in the good old times, was traveling in Scotland in a stage-coach. The axle-tree broke near a blacksmith's, and the son of Vulcan being out, Rennie himself lit the fire and welded the axle-tree in a masterly style. His fellow passengers, who had been very communicative and friendly during the earlier part of the journey, now became very reserved, and the "respectables" especially held themselves aloof from the man who had so clearly revealed his calling by the manner in which he had mended the broken axle. Arrived at their journey's end for the day, the travelers separated, Mr. Rennie proceeding towards Eginton Castle. Next morning, when sitting at breakfast with his noble host, a servant entered to say that a person outside desired to have a word with the earl. "Show him in." The person entered, and proved to be one of Mr. Rennie's fellow travelers, whose surprise and confusion at finding the "blacksmith" of the preceding day breakfasting with my lord, may be very easily imagined. The earl was much amused when Mr. Rennie afterward described to him the incident of the broken axle.

A COUNTRY CREDITOR'S QUESTION.—Recently, in consequence of sudden reverses, a large mercantile house was compelled to suspend operations. The creditors were called together; and at the meeting a formal statement was made of the circumstances which led to the stopping of payment. As may be supposed, the assembly was a grave one; and upon some countenances the shadow of disappointment rested palpably enough. The general gloom, however, was relieved by a little incident, at which the most moody could not help smiling. A bly country creditor, who was sitting near the table, no sooner heard the words "stopped payment," than he started to his feet, and, in a voice which, for burr and volume, belied no the proportions of his frame, called out—"Stop! payment! I should like to know when they began payment, for I've seed none of their brass yet."

AN EXPENSIVE HAT.—John J. Arnold, a rich old bachelor, who lived some years ago in Pittsfield, Mass., in making his will, left one thousand dollars to a clergyman in question, for whom he entertained great regard. One day during his last illness the clerical gentleman came to see him, wearing an uncommonly seedy hat. Mr. A., noticing it, wrote him an order for a hat, which he begged his acceptance. Shortly after he had a severe attack, and was thought to be dying, and the clergyman, upon learning the fact, hastened to the latter's and ordered the most expensive hat that could be made. The price was ten dollars. Mr. Arnold lived, and when he learned of the clergyman's cupidity was so disgusted that he revoked the bequest.

TRASH OF ARMY CHAPLAINS.—A Philadelphia correspondent of the N. Y. Observer makes some damaging statements in regard to the "shepherds" in the United States army. One chaplain is reported to have "preached but twice since he entered his regiment." Another took no notice of the privates, but "was very attentive to the officers." A third "played cards regularly every day," had preached but once, and then to a little squad, a portion of whom played cards during the service." Many of the soldiers seemed astonished when they were informed, on a certain occasion, that it was Sunday—remarking that they did not know they ever had any Sundays in their regiment.

A BLASTED LIFE.—The late Mr. Sands sued a wealthy dandy for damages in a case of breach of promise of marriage. He was offered two hundred pounds to heal his bleeding heart. "Two hundred pounds," exclaimed he, "for ruined hopes, disappointed love, and a blasted life! Two hundred pounds for all this! No—never! Make it guineas, and it's a bargain."—[English paper.]

TWO FOR THE NIGGER AND ONE FOR THE UNION.—Vanity Fair of a recent date has a comical picture of "Governor Andrews' School for the Massachusetts Soldier;" it represents the doughty Governor, spectacles on, in the act of commanding—trampling on the Constitution, and flinging up his plumed cocked hat, with—"Now, boys, three hearty cheers—two for the nigger, and one for the Union." It's capital—and as just as it is good.

TURNER AND THE BOATMEN.—There are two old boatmen still living at Sunbury who well remember rowing out Turner on his sketching excursions. It is still their unspeakable wonder how "a man like that," who always took a bottle of gin out with him for inspiration, and never gave them any, could have been a great genius.—[Life of Turner.]

BE NEAT.—Young ladies, if they only knew how disgusting to men slovenliness is, and how attractive are displays of neatness and taste, would array themselves in the simplicity and cleanliness of the lilies of the field; or, if able to indulge in costly attire, they would study the harmonious blending of colors which nature exhibits in all her works. A girl of good taste and habits of neatness, can make a more fascinating toilet with a shilling calico dress, a few cheap ribbons and laces, and such ornaments as she can gather from the garden, than a vulgar, tawdry creature who is worth millions, and has the jewelry and wardrobe of a princess.