

they are needed and are worth infinitely more than speculations, no matter by whom produced. Too often is it the case when a farmer is invited to write for an agricultural paper, that he thinks he must produce a studied essay on some topic, when only *his facts* carefully presented with all their surroundings, are wanted. Farmers must learn to observe and record their observations, for in this way is agricultural literature to be advanced.

MENTOR.

—Country Gentleman.

Pleuro-Pneumonia.

[We regret to hear that this fearful disease among cattle is again showing itself in the New England States. Recent accounts from Australia and even New Zealand, represent its ravages as most extensive and destructive. The following communication from an eminent Veterinarian first appeared in the *Fifeshire Journal*, and which we take from the *Irish Farmer's Gazette*. Eps.]

SIR,—Every communication I see in the newspapers from veterinarians about pleuro-pneumonia would lead agriculturists and the public generally to believe that infection was the whole cause of the disease.

I have seen as many cases of pleuro-pneumonia for the last nine years as I think could come under the notice of any veterinary practitioner, from young calves to old cows—in town byres, villages, farm steadings, and open fields, where spontaneous origin has often been observed. You were to tell a party who had reared all its own stock, and which had never been in contact with any other animal, that one of his was infected with pleuro he would scarcely believe you.

When the disease became so prevalent in this part of the country, if an animal was observed to show the least symptom of it, it was once put out of the way, and every precaution taken to prevent contagion; yet the disease went on. One farm I know of was scarcely over without it till the courts were drained and recovered in, after which not another case occurred for four years, although about fifty head of cattle were kept on it. I know several farms, in particular, where the steading is close by the road side, and where they rear mostly all their own cattle; when calves they are always grazed at the road-side, and often on the road where cattle have travelled in the worst stages of disease, day after day, and disease raging on every side of it, yet there has never been a single case on that farm.

I know an extensive farmer who bought a thorned bull, which he placed in a loose stall along with a heifer. The bull shortly afterwards became affected with pleuro-pneumonia,

and died in the same place after fourteen days' illness. There was a door which communicated with other cattle, and on the opposite side a byre containing about twenty milch cows; but another case never occurred on that farm for three years. Another farmer told me that he bought eight cattle and kept them by themselves for a fortnight, and as they appeared healthy he then placed them in a park beside other fifty. Shortly afterwards, however, they became diseased, and were ultimately sold at a great sacrifice; but not one of the fifty ever became affected. I attended a yearling which belonged to a small drover, and was affected with pleuro. It recovered, and was shortly afterwards sold in the market to a farmer whose stock I had occasion to visit, and in the midst of which I observed the same animal without any bad result. On many farms single cases occur without going farther. Now, if the disease is so infectious as some writers would have us believe, how is it so many beasts escaped when placed in such circumstances? I kept a cow for six months, during which she travelled to and from her pasture on the road leading to the railway station, where diseased cattle were repeatedly going, and other cows beside mine, without any bad effect. I know that on a farm where there are two byres, each containing ten polled cattle, four in each byre became affected with pleuro-pneumonia. They were all removed after showing symptoms of disease, and treated for recovery. All the eight recovered, and as they began to get better, they were returned to their own stalls, and in the summer the whole twenty were turned out to graze in the park, and none of the other twelve ever showed the least symptoms of the disease. I knew of other diseased cattle that were disposed of, and three healthy ones immediately put in their place without any bad effect, although they remained several months till they were fat.

Those agriculturists that have suffered most from it are beginning to think that we must look for other causes than contagion—a conclusion to which I also have come; and instead of selling their lean stock when they become diseased for little more than the price of their skins, are now treating them for recovery, and in many cases very successfully. I may mention that I have had both valuable short-horned bulls and heifers badly affected with pleuro that recovered, and afterwards produced healthy stock.

The question is often asked of a veterinary surgeon, "What is the cause of pleuro-pneumonia?" In my opinion, the first cause has been the great demand for beef, and the way in which that beef has been reared to meet the demand. On many farms there are too many calves reared for the amount of accommodation, and their milk not always of genuine quality. The moment the calves are dropped from their dams