

## EVERY MAN HIS OWN CATTLE DOCTOR.

In a former number of this paper, we took a favourable notice of the above work, and also copied the first three chapters, and promised our readers further extracts, as opportunity might present. Since that period we have examined into its merits more minutely, and have formed so high an estimate of its character, as to come to the conclusion, that we could not confer a higher favour upon the majority of our readers than by copying largely from its columns. In each future number about two pages will be occupied with the highly-valuable and practical information which has been so cheaply and so neatly furnished to the public, by the enterprising publishers; and we hope that our subscribers will receive more real value from this source alone than will compensate them for the price of twelve copies of the *Cultivator*.

### CHAPTER IV.

#### On Setoning.

The utility of setoning for the cure of several diseases incident to neat cattle cannot be doubted. There are many localities in which, if farmers did not adopt this precaution, they would lose great numbers of their young from the black leg.

In some districts the hoose in calves is very prevalent and fatal: where this is the case, they should all be setoned when they are getting into condition, and before they are attacked by the disease. This will either lessen the violence of the complaint or prevent it altogether.

In joint evil, I have frequently inserted a seton in the dewlap with decided good effect.

Setoning will be often prescribed, in the course of this treatise, in inflammatory complaints; and it acts by exciting a new and artificial inflammation in the neighborhood of the former one, and thus lessening its intensity. This plainly proceeds on the principle of diverting to another part a portion of the blood which was determined to the original one, while also a new direction is given to a portion of the nervous influence or power which was concentrated on it. This is in accordance with the generally received medical maxim, that no two violent inflammations, of different character, can exist in neighbouring parts at the same time; and that in proportion to the intensity of the one the other will be diminished.

By the discharge which a seton produces it will likewise relieve the overloaded vessels of a neighbouring inflamed part.

*Mode of inserting a Seton.*—The seton is commonly made of tow and horse hair plaited together, or cord or coarse tape alone, or leather. It should

be tolerably thick, and eight, ten, or twelve inches in length. Before inserting the seton, it should be dipped in oil of turpentine. The seton being now prepared, an assistant is to hold the animal, while the seton-needle, with the cord affixed to it, is plunged into the upper edge of the brisket or dewlap, and brought out again towards its lower edge: the space between the two openings should be from four to eight inches. The seton is to be secured by fastening a small piece of wood, or tying a large knot at either end of the cord. Matter will begin to run the second day, and, after that, the cord should be drawn backwards and forwards two or three times every day, in order to irritate the parts, and by this means increase the discharge.

When setoning is had recourse to in inflammatory complaints, the cord should be dipped in the following blistering ointment:—

*Blistering Ointment.*—Take yellow basilicon, one ounce; cantharides, in powder, three drachms; spirit of turpentine, two fluid drachms.

This ointment will be found to act efficaciously and quickly in stimulating the parts to action, and hastening on the suppurative process.

The root of the common dock forms a very good seton, and one that will act speedily and powerfully; but the best of all, where a considerable effect is intended to be produced, is the root of the black hellebore. This will very quickly cause considerable swelling as well as discharge.

### CHAPTER V.

#### Cold and Cough—Hoose.

A simple cold, attended by slight cough and discharge from the nostrils, is easily removed. Warm housing, a few mashes, and the following drink, will usually succeed:—

*Recipe, No. 1.—Cough and Fever Drink.*—Take emetic tartar, one drachm; powdered gentian, half a drachm; and nitre, three drachms. Mix, and give in a quart of tolerably thick gruel.

There are few things, however, more dangerous, if neglected, than cough or hoose; and there are few maladies that are so often neglected.

The farmer will go into the cow-house, or into the pasture, again and again, and hear some of his cows coughing and that perhaps hardly, or hollowly, or painfully; but, while they continue to chew the cud, and do not waste in flesh, he thinks little about it, and suffers them to take their chance.

The inflammation is slight; the animal is scarcely ill at all; the cough remits and returns, with or without his observation. He adds to it, perhaps, by improper treatment. He exposes the beast unnecessarily to cold or wet; or he crowds his cattle into stables shamefully small compared with the number of the animals, and the air is hot and nauseous, and charged with watery fluid thrown off from the lungs and from the skin. The cough increases, it becomes hoarse, and harsh,

and painful; and that affection is established which oftener lays the foundation for consumption and death than any other malady to which these animals are exposed.

That farmer is inattentive to his own interests who suffers a cough, and especially a hoarse, feeble cough, to hang about his cattle longer than he can help. He should be warned in time, before his cows are getting off their feed, and becoming thin, and are half dry; for then it will generally be too late to seek for advice, or to have recourse to medical care: the disease has fastened upon a vital part, and the constitution is undermined.

Cough occasionally assumes an epidemic character—from sudden changes of the weather, chiefly and particularly in the spring and the fall of the year: it then spreads over a great part of the country, and is often particularly severe.

The symptoms of epidemic cold or catarrh, or influenza, as it is sometimes called, are frequently serious. The beast is dull and heavy, with weeping at the eyes, and dry muzzle; the hair looks pen-feathered, or staring; the appetite fails; the secretion of milk is diminished; there is considerable heaving of the flanks; the pulse is from 60 to 70, and the bowels are generally costive or *sapped*.

Cattle that have been tenderly managed during the winter, and cows after calving, are very subject to it, especially if they have been poorly fed, or driven long distances, and exposed to a cold, piercing wind.

It will be necessary to commence the treatment of this disease with bleeding. From four to six quarts of blood should be taken, and then a dose of physic administered. The following will be a good purgative medicine in such a case:—

*Recipe, No. 2.—Purgative Drink.*—Take Epsom salts, one pound; powdered caraway-seeds, half an ounce. Dissolve in a quart of warm gruel, and give.

After that the drink No. 1 should be given morning and night, the drink No. 2 being repeated if the bowels should be costive.

It will be proper to house the beast, and especially at night; and a mash of scalded bran with a few oats in it, if there is no fever, should be allowed. It is necessary carefully to watch the animals that are labouring under this complaint; and, if the heaving should continue, or the muzzle again become or continue dry, and the breath hot, more blood should be taken away, and the purgative drink repeated. At the close of the epidemic catarrh, the animal will sometimes be left weak and with little appetite. It should be well ascertained whether the fever has quite left the beast, because listlessness and disinclination to move, and loss of appetite, and slight staggering, may result as much from the continuance of fever as from the debility which it leaves behind. If the muzzle is cool and moist, and the mouth not hot, and pulse sunk to nearly its natural standard, or rather