

## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

Canadian stock owners and veterinarians have been fortunate in that hitherto they have had little need for knowledge of Foot and Mouth Disease. Its recent appearance in New England however, has suggested the advisability of issuing a brief bulletin giving a general description of the disease in question, its symptoms and treatment and the various channels through which it spreads.

This malady has many other names as Eczema Epizootica, Epizootic Aphtha, Aphthous Fever, etc., but it is now commonly known in English speaking countries as Foot and Mouth Disease, owing to the fact that its specific effects are, as a rule, more readily observable in connection with the feet and mouth than elsewhere, although the skin and mucous membranes generally are also affected.

There is conclusive evidence of the existence of this disease in Europe before the middle of the eighteenth century.

It first appeared in Britain, so far as is certainly known, in 1839 and from that date until a very few years ago, it was one of the most persistent scourges of the herds and flocks of the mother country. For eight or nine years back however, it has been kept under control, and although it has been introduced several times, it has never been permitted to extend its ravages.

It was first observed in Canada in August, 1870, having been introduced by cattle landed at Montreal. A number of herds in Quebec, Ontario and the North-eastern States became involved but the infection did not survive the winter.

In 1875 it appeared near Toronto in some imported sheep, and although it spread to some extent, it was stamped out through the well directed efforts of Professor Smith who, however, attributes his success largely to the advent of cold weather.

In 1884 a slight outbreak occurred in cattle landed at the quarantine station at Point Levis, but the prompt measures adopted by my predecessor prevented its obtaining a foothold in the country.

The exact nature of the germ to which Foot and Mouth Disease owes its existence is not yet definitely decided. It is not of a fatal nature, the rate of mortality, in ordinary outbreaks, seldom exceeding one or two per cent of the adult animals affected. It causes however great financial loss to stock owners through shrinkage of flesh, milk and general condition, while abortion in pregnant animals is very common, and in severe cases troublesome complications are liable to persist long after the disease itself has run its course in the herd.

Originally it appears to be a disease of cattle, but it is easily transmissible to sheep, swine and poultry as also in a less degree to horses, dogs, cats and other animals, while man himself is by no means immune. It is, without doubt, one of the most infectious diseases known and the many different ways in which its germs are conveyed from place to place, render it very difficult to prevent its spread once it has made its appearance in a community.

As all the natural discharges of an affected animal are highly infective and as some of them, particularly the saliva, are largely increased during the attack, the disease is readily conveyed to other animals by these media.

Fodder of every kind, including grass, readily becomes infected and when eaten by healthy animals will, in the majority of cases, produce the disease, while water is a frequent agent in its transmission. Halters, blankets, brushes, brooms, and pails are all sources of danger as is also the manure from infected animals. The disease has frequently been conveyed from farm to farm through the clothing of attendants and others and by the feet not only of affected animals which, especially in the secondary stages of