

followed by a discharge from the nose, showing increased action of the mucous membranes; and on account of its peculiarities as to symptoms, complications, etc., we may regard it as a specific disease. Hence we are justified in arriving at the following conclusions: That influenza cannot be considered as a local disorder, but, on the contrary, it is to be regarded as a general disease, the bronchitis, nasal defluxion, cough, etc., being merely the local expressions of a constitutional affection.

It is essentially a fever of a specific character—a peculiar species of fever—presenting well-marked catarrhal and febrile symptoms, and having for its anatomical characteristic inflammation of the great mucous tract, but more especially showing itself in connection with the mucous membranes lining the air-passages and other parts contiguous thereto. It is due to a specific poison which is received into the system, and according to the amount absorbed, the organs involved, or the susceptibility of the animal to the morbid influence, are the symptoms more or less developed and varied in character.

The causes of influenza are predisposing and exciting.

Predisposing are—sudden changes of temperature, as in the spring and autumn, the disease being more prevalent during these months.

Crowding together of large numbers of animals in underground, damp, or badly ventilated stables, where the air is necessarily vitiated to a great extent; noxious emanations from heaps of decomposing animal or vegetable matters; stabling or pasturing in low, swampy situations; poor food, impure water; exposure, age, and excessive work, by causing debility, render the animal more susceptible to the influence. As it were, the soil is thus prepared for the reception of the seed, which, in the shape of the contagious principle, constitutes the 'exciting cause.' The disease also