

Malignant Anthrax in Cattle and Sheep.

B. T. Benn, Goochland, Va., reports a very fatal disease in cattle and sheep entirely new to the locality, and occurring to the end of September, after two months of heavy rains, followed by an interval of hot, dry weather. The pasture was an upland, naturally dry, but with a clay subsoil, and most of the stock had access to a creek with a bottom of rich clay, which had been overflowed in spring, in July, and three or four times in August. The first victims were two working oxen, noticed ill on Tuesday, and dead on Thursday. Others were found dead without any recognition of previous illness. Those in which sickness was observed had loss of appetite, dullness, great weakness and debility, watery eyes and bloody urine. The sheep had soft swelling between the bones of the lower jaw. After death, the bladder was found over distended with a bloody fluid, the kidneys black, and all the fat of the body had an orange-yellow hue. The swelling beneath the jaws of the sheep presented a red, bruised appearance. The disease subsided after a few frosty nights. There had been no Texan or other southern cattle in the

veloped in the same way, and that the best precaution would be the thorough drainage of the clay soils. Even this may prove insufficient for a year or two at first, until the clay becomes sufficiently pervious and the full effect of the drainage is obtained. Meanwhile these bottoms might be used for hay, or at least not pastured in the fall after a hot summer, and especially after inundations. Another important point is, that the disease, once developed, is communicable by inoculation to all our domestic animals, and even to man himself, and that suspicion attaches even to the grass grown upon the graves of the dead. It would be well, therefore, to fence these around, and allow no stock to have access to them for some years.—*Prof. Laws, in N. Y. Tribune.*

Threshing by Steam.

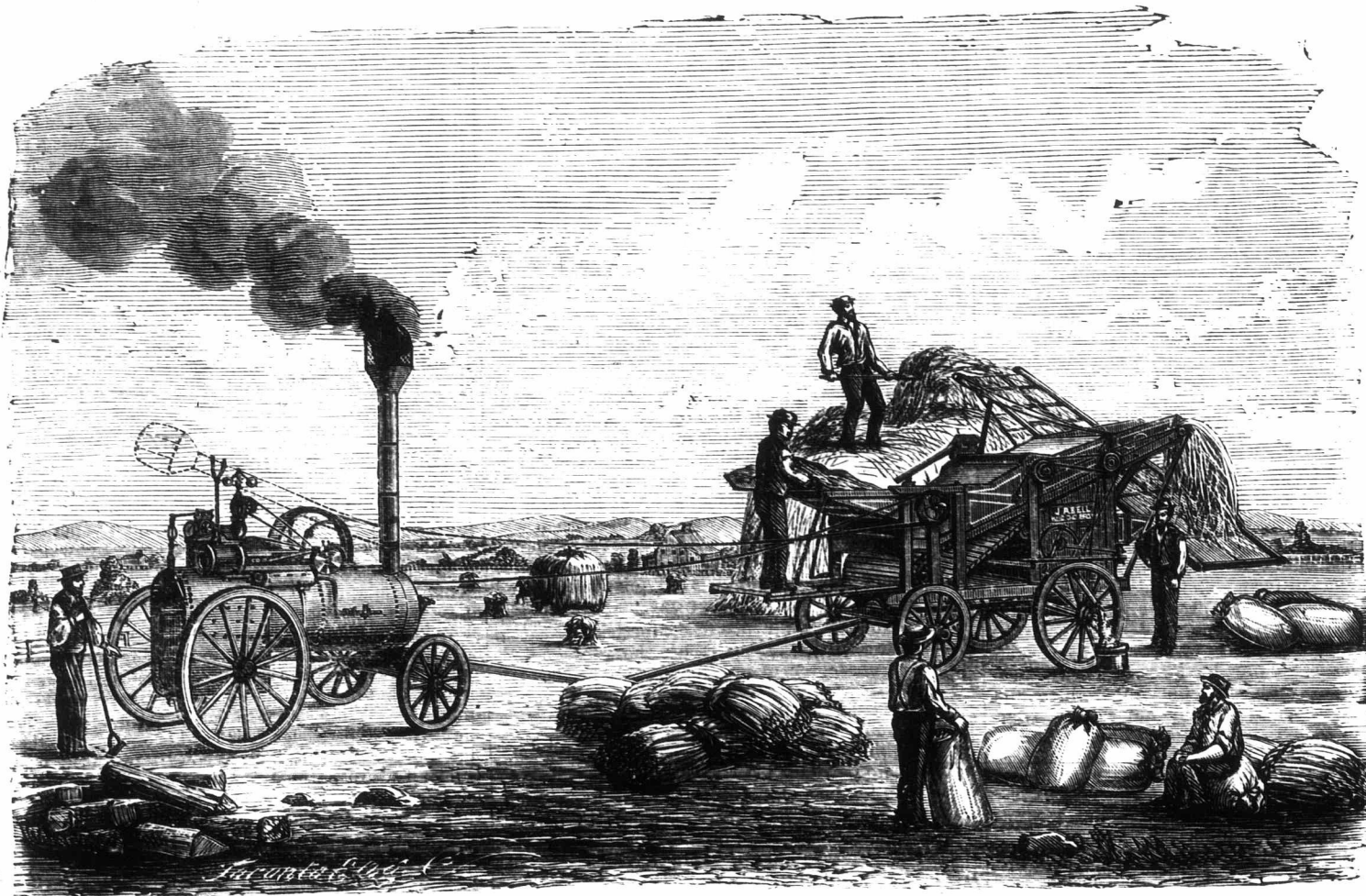
Threshing has now commenced in some parts. Many a day have we worked at it. No work did we dislike to put our horses at more than threshing. The steam power is now supplanting them for threshing. It is a pleasure to see the steam horse at work, the machine runs so smooth and steady—no jerks and stoppages. The grain is

Another Remedy Proposed for the Fruit Blight.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, enquiring into the nature and origin of the pear blight, arrives at the conclusion that the disease is caused by the peculiar state of the atmosphere producing atmospheric food in such abundance and activity beyond the limit of the supply of mineral food that healthy assimilation fails to take place, vegetable matter cannot be organized; both of which show in the form of a constitutional disturbance or disease, which we call blight, its various forms being due to the greater or less intensity with which the atmospheric foods have been supplied in the one case, and the insufficient supply of mineral supply in the other.

Premising that experience is the best proof of the soundness of reasoning from theory, and of testing the true value of remedies proposed in diseases as yet little known, we give the following extract from the communication referred to:—

Now, remembering that carbonic acid, ammonia, water, nitrous and nitric acid and ozone, or active oxygen, are each and all especially abundant and active during hot, wet, thunderous and sultry



STEAM THRESHING MACHINE AND ENGINE.

district. Is the disease likely to reappear in the spring, and what can be done to prevent it?

This is an occurrence like that which caused so much excitement in the Genesee Valley, N. Y., early in September. The malignant anthrax, or bloody murrain, appears above all on rich soils, with impervious subsoils, from which the water must escape by evaporation, carrying with it the dangerous emanations from the decomposing organic matter. The rich deposit of animal and vegetable remains left on the bottom lands, after the overflowing of a river, is especially dangerous, if there is no natural nor artificial drainage. The other conditions which favor its appearance are such as contribute to organic decay. A period of hot, dry weather increasing the decomposition in the surface soil, and setting it up at an unusual depth, is especially dangerous. A close, muggy atmosphere, without the circulation of winds, favors the concentration and settling of the deleterious exhalations, and the generation of the disease, by chilling the system of the animal. Frost, on the other hand, checks it by locking up the organic matter in the soil and checking decomposition. It follows that in similar states of the weather, in future years, the disease may be de-

threshed cleaner and can be done when horses could work outside. The first steam threshing machine we saw at work was near Chatham, some years ago. In that part of the country the horse-powers are at a discount, and may be purchased cheap, as farmers will not have their threshing done by horse power after having once found the advantage of steam power, but in many sections the steam thrasher is not known. We give you the above illustration of one at work. The machines are made by John Abel, of Woodbridge. He makes the thrasher and engine, and turns out very efficient machinery. We noticed one of Mr. Abel's threshing machines at the Centennial. It was considered equal in every way to any American machine, except in paint, gilt and polish. The Americans have some of their implements so highly finished that they should be kept till the next Centennial. The cost of the ornamentation, we should judge, would be in some instances ten times more than the cost of the machine ready for use.

There were over 50,000 paying visitors to the Philadelphia Exhibition the day after the 4th, or more than in any day before.

weather, and the most powerful of which are created and intensified by electricity, let us assume that atmospheric food, being supplied or forced upon the pear tree beyond the limit of its supply of mineral food, healthy assimilation fails to take place—healthy "vegetable matter cannot be organized;" both of which show themselves in the form of a constitutional disturbance or disease, which we call "blight," its various forms being due to the greater or less intensity with which the atmospheric foods have been supplied in the one case, and the insufficient supply of mineral matter in the other, and see how the assumption is justified, or is borne out by our observation.

The reasonable and logical remedy then for pear blight would be to throw off the soil so as to expose the roots, to loosen the soil below, and with it mix a certain proportion of wood and coal ashes, old mortar, and a small per cent of superphosphate of lime, and then restore the earth first thrown off. Or better, perhaps, trench around the trees, one or two spade breadths wide, so far out as the limbs extend, and down so deep that the spreading roots will be cut off, and then fill in the trench with coal and wood ashes, and such non-nitrogenous mineral manures as convenient.