

In the Austro-Hungarian army cases of diphtheria are rare, but they occur principally amongst the cavalry regiments. Much has been written on this point, too, by investigators on this continent. In England, some months ago, Dr. Tanner presented to the Local Government Board a report on the subject of diphtheria in animals, especially pigeons and fowls, and gave many instances in support of the communicability of the disease to man. He had noticed a similar disease in swine and horses, and in cats. At Yately diphtheria was in two instances coincident in the human subject with strangles in horses. Similar instances had been noticed by Dr. Ogle in connection with sheep.

Such facts should awaken the deepest interest in all interested in the welfare and progress of the country. While a great deal of attention has been given by agriculturalists and by governmental bodies to the diseases, mostly parasitic, which affect the vegetable products of the farm, and the causes of the failure or destruction of cereal and other crops, together with the means of removing these causes, comparatively little effort has been put forth, especially on this continent, with the view of preventing disease in domestic animals. And while the diseases of animals, so frequently fatal, constitute a subject of very grave import as they relate alone to direct profit and less to both individuals and the country, when the communicability of these diseases to mankind is taken into consideration, the subject becomes a most serious one.

A field hitherto but little cultivated is therefore opened up in which local boards of health may work with much profit. Many who are very apathetic in regard to health as it relates to only human creatures, will become fully awakened when danger threatens their domestic animals.

Animals require pure air, pure water, good wholesome food, exercise, sunlight and other essentials of health just as much as do mankind; yet how universally are many of these essentials denied them. Cows and horses especially are housed in small, dark, dirty stables, often made as close and secure as possible against the entrance of fresh air, and without any special means whatever of ventilation; and it is a common practice to provide them with water from wells near the stables and manure heaps, strongly contaminated with washings from their own excreta.