

part under such circumstances, as I have noted such cases where several dozens of animals have been exposed to the same dietetic conditions and sanitary surroundings.

In many post-mortem examinations of the dog I have noted the same marked congestion of liver as present in young pigs, but generally accompanied by considerable softening of structure. I may, however, explain that all, or nearly all, such observations have been made in dogs probably over three years of age, and subjects of recurrent eczema of many months or years' standing.

While I refer to functional derangement and structural change of the liver as a very frequent cause of eczema in the lower animals, I am free to admit that many cases may be due to disturbance, from dietetic causes, of the digestive organs generally, and also renal changes, which, by constantly disturbing the vicarious cutaneous circulation, tend to establish the localized or general congestion which, with a naturally weakened skin tissue, is quickly followed by irritation and exudation.

Prognosis is identical in man, horse, and dog; in each the disease is often tedious and difficult to cure, recurring at irregular intervals of seasons, patients being sometimes under treatment for many months, the ultimate issue largely depending upon the primary cause.

Treatment by comparison is of special interest, and it may, I think, be fairly concluded that success lies in the direction of adoption of general principles, which may be generally followed in dealing with all species. Where causes are identical and the variety of diseases similar, treatment at the outset will be much the same in any animal.

Eczema, in one or more of its many varieties, is probably the most common skin disease by which the horse and dog is attacked; dogs being, in my experience, affected with special frequency and in large numbers during the spring and summer. Chronic recurrent eczema is more common in this species than in any other. Under almost all circumstances local and systematic treatment is necessary, the former, except in one or two chronic phases of local eczema in the horse, being rarely successful alone.

It is not always possible to define the exact cause or causes of each special attack in any given animal, but where a number are affected simultaneously the cause may be generally referred to die-

tetic arrangements, and under any circumstances change of diet is beneficial if not essential. It is necessary to correct any dyspeptic conditions, if existing, and to promote by regular exercise hepatic and cutaneous circulation in order that the normal functions of the skin may be stimulated, and the tendency to localized congestion overcome. I think this 'essential exercise in the treatment of dogs and horses is a point often overlooked and omitted.

A mild saline purgative in the cow and an aloetic in the horse, where the animals are in good general condition, is the best preparatory treatment, followed for a few days by magnesia sulphate and potassium nitras in small doses. If the skin does not resume its healthy condition after the first treatment, a course of iron carbonate or liquor arsenicalis generally effects this result, although in some cases in the horse arsenic appears to be of questionable use. Locally, no drug seems to act so well in arresting the catarrh and irritation as a solution of plumbi subacetate or hydrarg per-chloridum, one part to one thousand in water.

This treatment, as indicated for vesicular eczema in the horse, is equally successfully in the cow. The local mammary form is usually overcome by an unguent of diacetate of lead. In several large dairies in my practice, clients having a supply of this ointment, treat their cases of blister-pox without any constitutional agents except, possibly, a mild saline draught.

At the outset, mild aperients, followed by hepatic stimulants and nerve tonics. I may here draw attention to the action of euonymin. Having found from personal experiments that the drug was capable of producing an enormously increased excretion of bile, I was led to try it upon the dog in eczema, in conjunction with small doses of strychnia, and it acts, in very many cases, with remarkable success. The action of this drug has led me to conclude, in conjunction with post-mortem evidence, that liver congestion is a very frequent cause of eczema, quite apart from any disturbance of the stomach or intestines. During the course of treatment, an occasional aperient is an advantage, also administration of potassium bicarbonate in food. As tonic agents, quinine and strychnia, I think, act the best, given alternately with iron carbonate and sesqui carbonate of ammonia.