

Mr. Pratt Sinclair's red cow—A six-year old milk cow of a fair size, in very thin condition. She is feeding, but delicately, although she ruminates naturally. The eyes are prominent, bright and glassy. Diarrhoea is a prominent symptom, it being black and offensive. The belly is largely distended by effusion. Pulse, 66; temperature, 102 deg.; respiration, 20 per minute.

Such were the symptoms as observed in those I had an opportunity of examining.

Other symptoms, however, were described to me by the owners of stock who had lost by the disease. Thus, according to the statements of Foote, Fraser, McDonald and others, the first symptom which attracts attention is the peculiar and "dunghy" taste of the milk, which is also said to emit a strong odour of the stable.

Squire McKonzie's son illustrated this fact by the following incident:—

He says:—"The first circumstance which led to the discovery of the disease in our stock was from the taste being noticed by an invalid whom we supplied with milk. He came over and told me that our cows had 'the disease,' he knew from the taste of the milk, and sure enough in three weeks we had."

In some cases, in the last stages of the disease, the diarrhoea gives place to total inaction of the bowels from paralysis, followed by violent cerebral symptoms, the animal running about as if mad, bellowing and boring the horns into the ground. In some cases tympanitis becomes a complication during the end of its course. In many cases impaction or the mannyplies leads to a complication of the symptoms.

DURATION OF THE DISEASE.

So conflicting were the statements made by the different sufferers from the disease, that without a thorough series of experiments it is impossible to arrive at any correct information as to the period of incubation and duration of the malady. Thus, Mr. Donald Fraser, Pictou, says: "a cow having strayed from town, and died near his farm, was left unburied on the roadside adjoining his pasture field, and, within a week, two of his young cows were affected." In his opinion they will live from three days to eight weeks after being affected. Mr. James Foote was of the opinion that the disease was contracted during winter, but did not show any symptoms till summer. He thought that they lived from four days to a month after the appearance of the first symptoms. Mr. James R. McDonald, Merigomish, says that, in his opinion, they only live from three days to three weeks from the first appearance of symptoms; while Mr. J. H. Lane says: "death generally occurs in from ten days to a

fortnight from the appearance of the first symptoms."

POST MORTEM.

Accompanied by Dr. Stewart and Mr. David Matheson, of Pictou, we proceeded to the farm of Mr. David Foote, and, having arranged for the slaughter of a three-year-old steer suffering from the disease, we made a post mortem examination with the following results:—

Ante-mortem condition and symptoms.—A light coloured steer two and a-half years old of the native breed, small in size and in fair condition. The muzzle moist, the eyes bright and prominent, mucus membrane pale, bowels very much relaxed, fires black and offensive, temperature, 102°, pulse, 30° and irregular, respirations 30 per minute. The animal was killed by concussion of the brain.

Post mortem.—On removing the skin, the muscular and other tissues were very pale. On cutting through the abdominal wall a strong stream of perfectly clear, almost odourless, serum escaped, which measured fully five gallons. There was no suprapertoneal fat; in its place was a layer of semi-gelatinized serum about half an inch thick. On removing the abdominal viscera, the sublumbar fat usually found round the kidneys was also degenerated into a transparent semi-gelatinous layer which, on the pressure, ran off into clear fluid.

The paunch was one third full of undigested food, its mucus membrane black, its muscular walls thin, the submucus tissue oedematous. The reticulum was in a similar condition. The mannyplies were full of food but in a moist condition; the coats presenting similar conditions, the muscular thin and pale, the mucus one being separated by the oedematous effusion.

The abomasum presented these changes in the most marked degree. The muscular layer very thin and pale, while the mucus coat was separated from it by a layer of serous infiltration in some places three quarters of an inch thick, presenting numerous small ulcerated patches, due apparently to its being deprived of nutriment by the sub-mucous infiltration. This viscus was so much swollen as to be about double its natural size.

(Continued in next number.)

Advertisements.

Resolution of Provincial Board of Agriculture,
3rd March, 1882.

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March 6th, 1882.

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