

The weather in Baffin's Bay and indeed during all the way to England was extremely tempestuous. The only place for the dogs was on the topgallant forecandle, where they were constantly wet and rendered cold by the wind out of the head-sails. Under these circumstances it is scarcely to be wondered that many dogs and pups died. She had a slight fit and rolled overboard. Five out of the six pups died. At Disco we landed all the dogs excepting my pup "Hans" or "Boxer," as the men called him. After leaving Disco he was removed to a warmer and less exposed position on the upper deck and appeared to be doing well. About the 5th September he had an epileptiform fit, foaming at the mouth, and all the legs drawn together; this lasted a minute, and he then appeared quite well. I noticed his evacuations were "pitchy," so gave him six grains of calomel, with the best results. He remained quite well for nearly three weeks, when he again had "pitchy" and offensive evacuations. Calomel was again given with equally good result, and he was kept in the engine room, where he had spent much of his time lately. In the course of three or four days he being on deck in the sun, I heard him give a whine such as is common with these dogs when in pain. I went to him, and whilst patting him he had a most violent tetanic convulsion lasting nearly five minutes and leaving him apparently lifeless. I happened to have a bottle of chlorodyne in my hand, and as he lay on his side with his mouth partially open I poured about a drachm into it, most of which he retained. In a few minutes he lifted his head and looked at me, wagging his tail feebly, and then lay quite quiet. I repeated the dose, and in a few minutes he got up and went into his kennel. He had eaten very little food for some weeks, as he seemed to dislike the preserved meat on which he had been fed since leaving our winter quarters. I tried him with scraps from our table, but he ate very little, and as he appeared in great pain he was kept under the influence of morphia. The bowels were confined. The usual dose of calomel having failed, another was given (16 grains in 24 hours), the only result of which was to produce salivation. A drop and a half of croton oil was placed on his tongue, which operated in an hour, the evacuation being a large quantity of perfectly transparent slime and some blood. He from this time improved, took his food well, even ravenously. The day before reaching Ireland his stools again became dark and scanty. Calomel was again given with benefit. At Queenstown I left the ship, which proceeded to Portsmouth, but before the vessel arrived the pup had died in a fit.

From the above cases, it will be seen that this disease differs from rabies in there not being the same inclination to bite, and in the animal taking food and water eagerly. Whether dogs bitten by one suffering from the disease become diseased in their turn is a question very difficult to determine, inasmuch as there was not one amongst our pack but that was scarred in numerous places by bites. Case No. 7 I look upon as an exception; that was evidently rabies, and to the circumstance of his early confinement within my "hospital" we owe, in all probability, the safety of our dogs as well as of ourselves. A brief summary of the foregoing cases may assist us in arriving at an opinion on this most important question.

Twenty-five apparently healthy dogs were embarked on board ship in the middle of July 1875, subsequently increased to 27 by the addition of two young ones. We were given to understand that feeding twice a week was amply sufficient, that the worst possible personal treatment was too good for them, and meat in any stage of decomposition a perfect luxury to their fastidious palates.

Seven-and-twenty animals confined to a space where the utmost attention was scarcely sufficient to keep habitable, constantly quarrelling and fighting for dear life, exposed to sun, snow, dew, and wet generally, and without a chance of a run ashore, it was not to be wondered at that they began to show signs of disease. The first attacked was a young female 25 days on board, and she had a fit and died in 13 days. Others became attacked. One was summarily shot, one ran away and was seen no more. Two were accidentally drowned; seven died from the disease; six recovered; one died mad.

Of the whole number, 12 only were under medical treatment; one had rabies and died; one so far recovered as to have two litters of pups, and then died ten months after her first fit, and two or three days after her last litter. Two fell into the water when in fits and were drowned. Two died notwithstanding everything that was done to cure them, and six recovered and were landed at Disco.

The symptoms were disinclination to move, accompanied by a very contracted appearance of the loins, which, however, were not tender to the touch tenesmus, and scanty pitchy stools.