

### The Diseases of Live Stock.

In considering the many diseases to which the live stock of the farm are now liable, the *Massachusetts Ploughman* asks—Did they use to have these troubles with the horses and the cattle? And he answers in the negative. "The question," he says, "would not be asked at all if these were not new things entirely." The question has arisen in many minds, and the impression is widespread that many of the diseases with which people and all domestic animals are afflicted are new. From this opinion the writer's is different. There are several diseases that have been of old time, and that, having disappeared for a period, return at intervals, diseases sometimes increased in malignity, and diseases known in former years, but now disguised under other names than those they had been known by. It is true that the higher civilization of the present time has its accompaniments in greater debility. There is less power of endurance, a greater susceptibility to the effects of extreme heat and cold, and of fatigue. The native cow of England, roaming in the forest unhoused and unpampered, is free from many of the diseases to which the high-bred and high-fed Durham or Ayrshire is subject. Nor has the epizootic broken down the spirit and enfeebled the body of the wild horses of the Pampas. Much reason as we have to be thankful for the blessings of increased civilization, we cannot close our eyes to the attendant evils. And civilization brings not these evils as a matter of necessity. To man is given the ability to ward them off, and if they do come, to diminish their force.

This year there has been an unusual prevalence of disease among the farm stock of Europe and America. The condition of the atmosphere that has been so favorable to vegetation, has been the reverse to the health of our live stock. Very heavy rains and high floods succeeded the drouth of the earlier season, and the great heat and alternate cold have been trying to the constitution, whose vital force has been weakened by feeding and treatment not accordant with nature. In England the "foot and mouth disease" has been very prevalent, though not fatal in proportion to the numbers affected. In one county, Dorsetshire, not less than 8,000 cases were reported in a single week. Throughout the whole southern kingdom disease and death are among the herds, and farmers are alarmed by their rapid increase. For some years the country has never been wholly free from the disease, and it is thought the wet weather has caused it to spread over the kingdom and increased its virulence. The most active measures, authorized by the Government and the Legislature, have failed to "stamp out" the disease. Medical skill and the most assiduous care of stock-breeders have failed in their endeavor to check it. Not only are horned stock liable to it, but sheep also and pigs have been smitten by it.

The *Am. Agriculturist* says the disease has appeared at times at several places in America, though no serious outbreak has, so far, occurred; it adds: "Neither do we think such an occurrence probable, on account of our more favorable and healthful climate, our less luxuriant pastures, and our less artificial style of feeding." A writer in the *Markham Economist* affirms, on the contrary, that the disease by which cattle in various parts of the United States have been suddenly stricken, is not the same as the foot and mouth disease so destructive in England. He says: "The two diseases are entirely different; while both are blood diseases resulting from specific poisoning of the blood, their symptoms are widely unlike and readily distinguishable." Whether the disease in the American herds is the foot and mouth disease, as some affirm, or the less contagious disease—the

"splenic fever," or "splence fever," as it is said by others to be, it is well for every one interested in stock raising, as all farmers are, to be prepared for it, to be able to detect its first symptoms, and to apply the remedies. As the wetness of the season has always been a cause of increased virulence of the disease in England, so is the state of the atmosphere a cause of anxiety for the health of our flocks and herds. Sudden changes of temperature, with warm days and cold nights, a damp, lowering atmosphere, with dense, chilly fogs—such weather, in short, as is provocative of typhoid fever in man, is apt to be a means of the introduction of these blood diseases into a neighborhood.

In the "foot and mouth disease" the feet and mouth are affected, as the name implies; there are blisters on the lips and tongue, blisters on the coronet around the hoof, blisters on the heels and between the divided parts of the hoof. In all blood diseases there is high fever, the breathing is difficult, and the disease accompanied with stupor, sometimes with convulsions; parts of the body are highly inflamed and often gangrenous, and the condition of the animal is altogether depressed, so much so that it cannot walk or stand. After some days the disease may have exhausted its virulence, and the animal may recover. Such seems to be the case in the great majority of cases in England at present, where few attacks are terminating fatally, but death may ensue very rapidly after the attack.

The diseases of the class in which splenic fever is included are not considered contagious, though great precaution is necessary to prevent its being communicated from the diseased animal to others by contact with the excretions, or by other means. It is said that man even may be affected by such contact. The foot and mouth disease is contagious, though there are instances in which it is not communicated; this, however, is known to be applicable to every contagious disease. Of the cases referred to by the *Agriculturist*, "the first symptoms are a fit of shivering, followed by a cough, indisposition to move, fever and a desire to get away from other cattle." The presence of fever is easily detected by the usual symptoms—a rapid pulse, quick breathing, inflammation of the eyes, and dryness of the muzzle and of dung. The following treatment is recommended by the *Agriculturist*:—"The proper treatment is to give a gentle purgative, as 2 oz. of Epsom salts with 2 oz. ginger, in sweetened water, at once. Then careful nursing is all that can be done. The mouth should be washed frequently with a mixture of one quart of water and one ounce of myrrh. In the absence of myrrh, one ounce of alum may be used, with an infusion of a handful of sage leaves in hot water. The large blisters on the tongue and lips should be opened with a sharp-pointed knife. The feet should be washed with warm water and carbolic soap, and bound up in cloths wetted in a solution of two drams of chloride of zinc in one pint of water. Warm bran and oatmeal slops should be given, and an infusion of linseed oil, but no solid food."

Care must be taken that the animal affected be separated from all other stock, that their stalls be perfectly clean, and in case of death or recovery, that the stall where the affected animal was be cleansed with hot lime wash and that no effluvia or the slightest particle that might possibly communicate the disease remain on the premises. The flesh and every part of the animal are poisonous.

Stimulants, in case of great weakness of the animal, are recommended to be given at regular intervals as needed. In such a case half an ounce of carbonate ammonia may be given every second hour.

### November on the Farm.

To every season its own work; seeding and planting, haying and harvesting have each their seasons. If there be any time in which the farmer has little to do—little to occupy his mind or hands—it is not the month of November. When the gathering in of the produce of the harvest has been completed, and the harvest home enjoyed; and when the fall seeding has been finished in good order, we can turn our thoughts to the many things that claim our attention before the winter storms are upon us. The short evenings, and the grass crisp and crackling to the touch of the foot in the late morning, warn us that there must be active preparation for the winter now nigh at hand.

Potatoes and mangolds are stored before Halloween, and this season the root houses are well filled generally throughout the country. Potatoes especially have been an abundant crop. The disease has in places done some injury in clay or wet soils, but on the whole, not only has there been a good crop, but it has also been well saved.

The turnip crop is generally allowed to remain in the ground till this month. It grows well in the cold weather, and by not taking them out of the ground till November they acquire a greater bulk and maturity, and could we reasonably anticipate favorable weather for storing them, there is a profit to be made by not taking them up earlier.

In pitting roots, care is always necessary to allow no water to remain in or on the soil. When properly pitted and securely covered, there is no other method by which roots can be kept safer or fresher than by pitting. For keeping seed potatoes we have found it especially advantageous. The seed should not only be sound; it should also be as fresh as possible. The seed that remains in the ground makes a vigorous growth.

Manure may in this month be applied to young wheat as a top dressing. It will nourish the tender plants and be beneficial as a mulch in protecting them from the winter and spring frosts. Some farmers have mulched with straw and have found it of service.

Add to the manure heap. This should never be neglected. The Scotch farmer says: "Where there is muck there is luck." Leaves of trees, weeds, if they are to be had, droppings from cattle—all should be used to increase the heap of manure; it will add to your granary in autumn and to your heaps of roots in the fall.

The cellar should be thoroughly cleared before any roots or vegetables be stored in it. This is a very important matter. The foul air ascending to the dwelling rooms of the house is highly injurious to the health of their inhabitants, and the mustiness from unclean walls and floor and from decaying vegetable matter will infest the roots and vegetables stored. See that windows and door are made tight, and bank the walls carefully. Timely precaution may save you much trouble and loss.

Fences should now be examined, and stakes, rails and boards replaced wherever needed. All should be put in good order. This will aid greatly in the preservation of the materials of the fences; it will prevent the straying of the stock off the farm and the trespassing of cattle, and will save more labor in the hurry of spring. When attending to the fall overhauling of fences, we should not neglect the farm buildings. They generally want an overhauling at this season. Let us see that the houses for our stock are in order, warm and dry, and at the same time well ventilated.

Where there is an earth closet it is well to store up some barrels of dry earth to use in it during the winter. Dry earth may also be found useful in your cellar; it is an excellent disinfectant, and carrots, beets and seed potatoes, if there be such in the cellar, will keep fresh if they be mixed with dry earth.

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