

Briefly, the symptoms were as follows: The first which were noticed were described as "tremblings." What I saw was a continuous twitching of the muscles of the foreshoulders, occasionally extending to the flank, with now and then a tremor. These twitchings grew fainter as the disease progressed, and nearly or quite ceased before death. Watery eyes appeared very early, and before long, in most cases, they had a heavy look, with swollen and drooping lids. In one case a film appeared at a late stage. At first the dejections were natural, then diarrhœa set in which soon passed into dysentery, with fluid and very dark discharges, not very offensive, and some blood. Tenesmus frequent. Urine very deep colored, and passed with difficulty. Temperature variable; at first feverish, especially about the horns, then colder. Coat staring. Rumination irregular and soon suspended. Some appetite for a day or two, but not later; water was freely taken at all times. Pulse feebler and quick; after two days could hardly be felt. Respiration short and quick. In more than half there was a thick discharge from the nose. With several a sickly smell was noticed. In no case was there any moaning, violent motions, or any other indication of acute suffering; but in all a rapid prostration of strength and loss of vitality. Death ensued in from three to six days—one living until the ninth day.

The morbid appearances were: Windpipe inflamed (this was noticed equally in one which showed no discharge from the nostrils); lungs and heart healthy; liver, spleen, and kidneys but little affected; rumen (paunch) healthy and ingestion natural; contents of omasum (manifold) rather hard and dry, but not very much so. The passage from this to the abomasum (or fourth stomach) was highly inflamed, as well as the lining membrane of the whole of the fourth stomach, and of all the remainder of the alimentary canal. The gall bladder was distended to unusual size, and its mucous membrane much inflamed. The lining membrane of the bladder exhibited a high degree of inflammation, and its color was rather darker than of the others. The chief seat of the disease appeared to be the fourth stomach and intestines. The lining membrane of these showed an unusual lilac or pale purplish hue.

One word more and I leave the matter. In Prof. Simond's report occurs the following: "It is evident that the morbid matter on which it depends, having entered the system, \* \* \* soon acts upon the blood, by converting some of the constituents of that fluid into its own elements." &c. If this be so, it must belong to the class known as "contagious diseases; in which progress is made by healthy atoms being converted into diseased ones by catalytic action."

ner analogous to the changes which take place in fermentation. Now it is well known that the alkaline sulphites will arrest fermentation; and, according to a late alleged discovery of Prof. Polli, of Italy, they also arrest morbid action of the sort above indicated. It occurred to me that here might be an opportunity to test their efficacy. Accordingly, on my second visit, I took a quantity of sulphite of soda, and requested the owner to administer small doses twice daily to the remaining beasts, which he did—and the plague stayed—whether in consequence of giving a harmless salt, or merely coincident with it, I cannot tell. Nor is any opinion expressed whether it was the veritable rinderpest or not. So far as I am advised, it bore a considerable resemblance to it, and was unlike any previously observed in New England.

S. L. GOODALE,  
Sec'y Maine Board of Agriculture.

SACO, June, 1866.

#### HALIFAX BRANCH OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

**PROSPECTS.**—The frequent occurrence of cases of cruel usage of animals, having called the attention of several persons to the necessity of adopting some means of checking such inhuman practices, a preliminary meeting was held, at which the following resolutions were adopted:

From a correspondence which was laid before the meeting (with the Secretary of the Royal Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, in London), it appeared that the Royal Society would aid an association in Halifax for that object, by every means in their power, and they recommended that such association be a branch of the Royal Society; whereupon it was unanimously resolved, that a society be formed in Halifax, to be called "The Halifax Branch of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

It was then resolved that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to be the Patron of the Society.

It was resolved that an annual subscription of not less than Five Shillings constitute a member.

The following officers of the Society were appointed to act until others are appointed by the subscribers at their first annual meeting, viz.:

**President.**—The Hon. Wm. Young, Chief Justice.

**Vice-Presidents.**—The Hon. J. W. Ritchie, Solicitor General; Col. Francklyn, (Emscott).

**Committee.**—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop, the Hon. C. Tupper, Provincial Secretary, Hon. M. B. Almon, Hon. S. L. Campbell, William Cunard, Esq., Lt.-Colonel Stanley, J. C. Haliburton, Esq.,

Hon. E. Kenny, J. C. Cogswell, Esq., Hon. Mr. Justice Johnston, Rev. Dr. Hannan, His Worship the Mayor, Rev. G. M. Grant, Rev. G. W. Hill, Stephen Tobin, Esq., with power to add to their number.

**Honorary Secretary.**—P. Carteret Hill.

In order to accomplish the object of the association, it will be necessary to apply to the Legislature to amend the law on the subject of cruelty to animals, as at present it is in a very vague and unsatisfactory condition. No difficulty is apprehended on this point. It will also be necessary to employ in the first instance a constable or other officer of the Society, to report any violations of the law which may come under his notice, and to aid in enforcing it. Information will be diffused by the circulation of books, pamphlets, &c., (which the Parent Society have kindly offered to furnish), and it is hoped that the clergy will lend their powerful influence by appeals from the pulpit in impressing upon the community the humane and considerate treatment of animals as a christian duty now universally recognised.

An annual income will of course be necessary to carry on the operations of the Society, for which purpose the subscription of 5s. will, it is hoped, suffice.

The committee earnestly hope that all those who sympathize with the brute creation, will aid them in their effort to alleviate the misery which the dumb animal is itself unable to avert or to mitigate.

#### THE FRUIT CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the August number of the *Gardeners' Monthly*, Mr. Mehan gives the following rather unsatisfactory account of the prospects of the fruit harvest in the States:

Friends were there from New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Maryland, as well as from the various districts of Pennsylvania. From conversations with these gentlemen we learned that, except in New Jersey, fruit crops have been almost a total failure this year. Dr. Warder said the scarcity at Cincinnati was such that Strawberries that usually brought from 3 to 5 cents per quart, (pretty low if reported right,) brought this year from 30 to 50 cents.—The *hardy* Raspberries, as well as the "other" kinds, had been killed by the winter. The Grape crop was the only one promising much.

Dr. Massey, of Maryland, said there would be about one-third of a crop of Peaches. Pears and Apples were better.

E. Satterthwait, of Montgomery County, gave a discouraging account of all his fruit crops.

Parker Earle, of Cobden, Illinois, referred to Dr. Hull's orchard, who grows