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January, 1881

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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Trichinosis.

LIFE OR DEATH—WEALTH OR POVERTY.

It is with much regret that we feel it our painful duty to again and again call the attention of those that should devote their attention to the prosperity of the farmers. We extract the following from an exchange:—

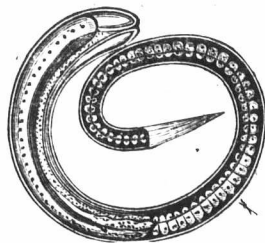
A PAINFUL DEATH—ANOTHER WARNING TO PORK EATERS.

New York, December 8.—A young butcher named Franz Axler, 15 years old, came to the dispensary attached to Bellevue Hospital on November 21st, and asked for medical treatment for rheumatic pains and fever from which he said he was suffering. Dr. Hemmingway, the dispensary physician, sent Axler to the ward of Dr. George H. Muller, jr., where a day or two afterward Dr. Muller discovered that Axler was not suffering from rheumatic pains but from trichinosis. The faculty of the Hospital became interested in the case, and Professor Janeway cut a piece of muscular tissue the size of an old-fashioned three-cent piece from the patient's arm. It was found to contain, when subjected to microscopic scrutiny, no less than thirteen trichinae. On Saturday Axler died, and yesterday an autopsy was made of his body. His entire system was found to be impregnated with trichinae; the muscles and tissues of the body were filled with them, and in his intestines were found parent trichinae in various stages of reproduction. There were millions of parasites in his body, which were subjected to the microscope, when it was found to be fairly alive with them.

TRICHINA SPIRALIS.

We extract the following description from Prof. Law's Veterinary Adviser. This work we consider the best veterinary publication on this continent, and the best authority. We had these accompanying engravings made and copied from his work, and give Prof. Law due credit, and recommend his work to all. We do not think he will object to our copying that; but we will here add, that we trust in future political editors will act more honorably than some have done in the past, and give the ADVOCATE and its editor credit for ideas, plans and suggestions that have been given in this journal, particularly when parties attempt to make capital from them.

This worm, which is capable of being reared in all the domestic animals, is especially common in man, the hog and the rat. Trichinae are almost

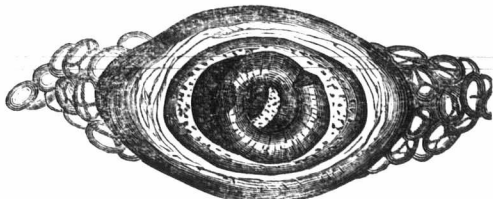


Adult Intestinal Trichina Spiralis, magnified.

microscopic, varying from one-eighteenth to one-sixth inch in length, yet they are among the most deadly worms known. The mature and fertile worm lives in the intestines of animals, the immature in minute cysts in the muscle. The latter can only reach maturity and reproduce their kind when the animal which they infest is devoured by another and they are set free by the digestion of their cysts. When thus introduced into the bowels they grow and propagate their kind, giving rise to much irritation for the first fortnight, diarrhoea, enteritis or peritonitis. The symptoms caused by their boring through the bowels and into the muscles last from the eighth to the fiftieth day. There are violent muscular pains like rheumatism but not affecting the joints, a stiff, semi-flexed condition of the limbs and sometimes swellings on the skin. In man the affection is often mistaken for rheumatism or typhoid fever, in the lower animals the symptoms are usually less marked but are the same kind. There are loss of appetite, indisposition to move, pain when handled and stiffness behind. If the patient survives six

weeks recovery may be expected because the worms no longer irritate after becoming encysted in the muscle.

Treatment. In the first six weeks, but especially for the first fortnight, use laxatives and vermifuges. Glycerine, benzine, Dippel's animal oil, chloroform, alcohol and picric acid are fatal to them in about the order named.



Muscle Trichina encysted, magnified.

Prevention. Never eat undone meat. Trichina survive 140° F. Hams thoroughly smoked are safe. Slightly smoked hams and those steeped in creasote or carbolic acid are most dangerous. Pigs should not be kept near slaughter-houses and especially should the waste of these places be forbidden them. Such hog-pens, indeed all piggeries, should be kept scrupulously clean and clear of rats and mice. The carcasses of swine fed near slaughter-houses or where rats abound should be subjected to a thorough microscopic examination before passing into consumption. Whenever a case of trichinosis occurs in a human subject the pork should be traced to its source if possible, and the pigs reared in the same place killed and subjected to prolonged boiling. The rats and mice should be eradicated and the hog-pens and manure burned.

Farmers, we have in several previous issue called your attention to the following facts:—

1st, That foot and mouth disease has been introduced into Canada on more than one occasion by importing stock from the United States. 2nd, That Canadian cattle have suffered from pleuropneumonia from coming in contact with American cattle.

We have also shown that American pork is allowed to be imported and packed to Canada, and sold as Canadian, English or Irish bacon and ham. We further state that cattle and hogs, both alive and dead, have recently been imported into Canada. This we maintain should have long since been stopped. Our whole country is liable to become infested with the above dangerous diseases. The British consumers are being deceived, and the real value of Canadian produce is being reduced in value by this dangerous plan. In fact, Canadians now cannot be sure they are not eating pork that has trichinae in it, as American pork we know was recently sold in Canada, and we believe it to be at the present time. Who can tell the extent of damage that may arise from animals imported within the past few months? We deem it the duty of every farmer to at once call the attention of their representatives in both the Legislatures to the danger that enshrouds your business. Do not allow any one to attempt to deceive you by saying that there is no danger, that the law is perfect now. The fact is, the law protects the dealers, the packer and the shipper, but the door is left open that it may cause death to you, your family or your stock. In whatever capacity you may be use your utmost endeavors to immediately prevent the possibility of it, should it not be already rooted in our country. It is our impression that we are more exempt from diseases of our stock than any other country. Let us keep it so: We would suggest that any farmers' club, and, in fact, any farmer, ought to know when any of the above diseases have been in existence in Canada. What was done to prevent their spread? This meat question is, or should be, one of the greatest sources of wealth to Canada—perhaps the greatest—and every farmer that understands his business should enquire into this question of these mortal and ruinous diseases pervading the U. S. at the present time. Prevention is better than cure. Let us by every means attempt to maintain the health of our farm stock we have at the present time in the country.

The American Clydesdale Association.

This Association held its second annual meeting at Chicago on the 17th of November last. The meeting was well attended by American and Canadian breeders, and a deep interest was taken by those present in the work of the Association. The Treasurer's report shows the Association to be well supported by breeders, and in a good financial condition. The demand for admission to membership is very rapidly increasing. The Association state the entries for registration in the 1st volume will be closed April 1st, 1881, in order that the book may be published without further delay. The necessity of a better understanding as to the points of the Clydesdale by committeemen judging at fairs, as well as the general public, was discussed at some length, and a Committee consisting of Simon Beattie, of Scotland; James J. Davidson, of Canada, and E. A. Powell, of the U. S., was appointed to prepare a scale of points and make a report at the next annual meeting. After further routine business, a full list of officers and executive directors, were elected. W. A. Powell, Springboro, Pa., U. S. A., was elected President, with Charles F. Mills, Springfield, Ill., as Secretary. We find some Canadian breeders and importers among the executives and directors, viz., James J. Davidson, of Balsam, Ontario; A. E. Johnston, of Greenwood, Ont., and Simon Beattie, formerly a resident of Ontario, who still imports stock into the Province, and has business connections with Wm. Miller, of Clarmont, Ont. We are glad to notice a scale of points is to be adopted by this Association, and, in fact, we are quite certain it would be a great improvement on our present system if all our domestic animals were judged by a scale of points. It would have the effect of making the breeders of the various farm animals more watchful in breeding, and more careful to bring up each point of the animal to the desired standard, thus having a very beneficial effect on the general quality of our animals. At the same time it would bring about a more uniform likeness in each of the respective breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine. Without a scale of points as at present, animals of the same family, bred by different breeders, present quite a different appearance; in fact, you can rarely find two flocks or herds of any one breed which are just alike in all respects. This lack of uniformity is an evil which should be remedied, the sooner the better. While a scale of points would thus benefit the quality of our domestic animals, it would have quite as beneficial influence on the breeder and general farmer, especially on young men, or those just entering the business, few having a clear conception of what constitutes a good animal in every respect; but this system would bring to view each point of the animal, showing clearly its faults as well as its merits, and would be an index to all, increasing the general knowledge concerning our domestic animals. At Canadian shows no stock, with the exception of poultry, is judged by a scale of points, and they only at some of the leading shows. The Americans judge by a scale among most of their animals, and why should not the Canadians introduce this same system. In order to adopt this plan we must either fall in with the American Associations and accept their scale of points, or else we will have to form Associations of our own and make our own rules. The first of these propositions our breeders seem inclined to follow, as they have fallen in with the Berkshire record, Cotswold record, Clydesdale Association, &c. Certainly this is better than attending no Associations, but it would be of much more benefit to Canada if we had our own conventions, from the fact that none but our large breeders can or will attend meetings of Associations so far away, and hundreds of Canadians who raise really good stock never hear of, much less attend, these meetings; but Associations and discussions the Canadian farmers must have if they mean to compete with the Americans. The fruit growers and dairymen have already earned this. That our breeders should go hundreds of miles to attend Associations, to the utter neglect of our own interests, has always seemed strange and unpatriotic to us. If they would but exert themselves and form Canadian Associations, many of the Canadian farmers who breed nothing but scrubs at present would become interested and take a more lively interest in the improvement of their stock, and the influence on the rising generation would be still greater.