

During their stay in Illinois, your committee had no evidence presented to them which proved that diseased native animals *had, or had not* the power of infecting others, *because the period necessary for the second incubation of the disease had not elapsed.* However, in the Illinois correspondence of the *Country Gentleman* of the 10th instant, it is stated that; "Cattle continue to die, and it is now generally believed that sick native cattle will infect healthy native cattle. "I have a valuable cow at home, which has never been exposed, and I am now so convinced that she might take the disease from such native cattle, that I would not leave her six hours on the street or public road for half her value."

Your committee found that the most ardent advocates of the theory that diseased native cattle had not the power of infecting others would not run the risk of placing their own healthy stock beside them. They were not willing to subject their theory to this test. It is to be feared that ere long there may be abundant and melancholy evidence of the fact that diseased native cattle will infect others. Nothing short of fatal folly could lead any one to place or allow healthy native cattle to remain with those which had contracted the disease. Entire and continued isolation is the only safe-guard.

THE INFECTIOUS AND MALIGNANT CHARACTER OF THE DISEASE.

Your committee are of opinion that the cattle plague is infectious, and that it is of a malignant character. Some assert that the disease cannot be communicated to animals fed in troughs, boxes, stalls or yards in which Texas cattle had previously been fed, but that it is necessary for cattle to pasture, day after day, on the same grounds, because the virus is specially communicated through the media of the excrementitious or urinary deposits. On the other hand, it is stated that *all* the secretions are powerful as a media of infection, and that cattle may be contaminated by being *anywhere* that the Texas cattle may have been, or where their secretions may have been deposited. With this opinion your committee coincide. They have had unquestionable evidence of the fact that cattle following Texan cattle even on the same *highway*, as in the case of Mr. Shelton's cattle, near Urbana, have contracted the disease. The same evidence has been presented in other cases, and the virus has been known to retain its potency for a period of two months. In the case of Mr. Shelton's calf, a month had elapsed after the passage of the Texan herd before the little beast was driven along the road, and yet it contracted the disease. The committee are of opinion that cattle pasturing in the same fields or commons, travelling on the same highways, in the same cars, feeding in the same yards or stables, coming in contact with the cattle themselves or with their secretions, will contract the disease. Of course it will be understood that in none of these cases disinfectants have been used previous to exposure.

GENERAL SYMPTOMS AND DURATION.

In the early stage of the disease there are no well marked symptoms presented by which it may be distinguished from many other complaints. Where a number of animals are pasturing together, the infected ox or cow is observed to leave the rest of the herd; the walk is slow and finally becomes unsteady, the head is hanging, the ears drooping forward, the eyes dull, and from the nose issues a discharge of dark coloured mucus; the back is arched and the flanks hollow, there are generally involuntary twitchings of the muscles of the shoulder and of the flank; the pulse is quick and weak, varying from ninety to one hundred; the coat is staring, and the general temperature of the body increased; the urine is dark coloured, and passed often, and, when urinating, the animal appears to suffer a considerable amount of pain; the faeces are hard, the breathing is quickened and panting; there is often

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