

And this country now supports a million horses, seven and a half million cattle, over 26 million sheep and nearly three and a half million pigs. Egg production in the parasite has been evolved to provide against light stocking - for sheep in the hills and horses in the dry plains. The chances of individual reinfection were slight - about one in a million - and so *Ascaris* learned to produce some 30,000 eggs daily and *Taenia* 150 millions yearly so that even one might return to continue the race. We have confined the range of our animals, the eggs have been concentrated and parasitic infection has become so heavy as to produce disease. It must not be thought that the parasites are harmful naturally. A large proportion of such pathological lesions as do occur are due to larval forms. No adult worm desires to injure its host and so sacrifice its own life. It is only when through accident, that numbers increase beyond the supporting capacity of the host, that disease commences. Practically all wild animals carry worms; few suffer from worm-produced disease. That is a penalty we pay for our disturbance of the balance of nature.

It is difficult to estimate just what this disturbance is costing us. Sheep and horses suffer more from parasitic disease than from any other cause; pigs and carnivores nearly as much. We know that Liver Fluke costs this country at least a million pounds yearly; even more costly are the losses due to the small intestinal trichostrongyles, to hook worms and to lung worms in sheep. Probably we would not be far from the mark if we estimate that about ten per cent of all sheep (especially lambs) die yearly from worms - directly or indirectly.