

have never been seen, and in which accordingly treatment has never been practised; in others the infection is limited apparently to two or three adjacent pens. It is possible that a rancher starting afresh could by taking proper precautions, the nature of which will readily suggest themselves, stock his pens in such a manner as to harbor not a single worm, and could maintain them indefinitely in that condition. With this problem, as with that of distemper, preventive measures should in the future assume a predominant role. It should, for instance, become a matter of routine to examine for eggs the feces of an new fox, which it is proposed to introduce into a ranch; and in case these are found, to subject the animal before admission to the most efficacious course of treatment that can be devised. Laboratory control of some sort would of course be necessary to the complete success of such a plan.

(b) **HOOKWORM.**—The Health of Animals Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture has recently found that many domesticated foxes are infected by the hookworm. The presence of this parasite cannot fail to have deleterious effects upon the health and vitality of the animal harboring it. Just how extensive and how serious these effects may be remains to be determined. In any case it will be necessary in the future for the fox breeder to pay attention to this hitherto unsuspected enemy, and to initiate measures for effectively controlling its spread. He can hardly do so without the advice of an expert, and the assistance afforded by a readily accessible laboratory.

3. FOOD POISONING.

Acute food poisoning has on several occasions been responsible for serious losses among both young and adult foxes. This could occur only when the rancher had not taken sufficient care to ascertain the fitness for consumption of the meat he was feeding. It would obviously be to the benefit of the industry as a whole if it adopted some general co-operative system, whereby all meat intended for foxes should be first inspected, and then properly stored in cold storage plants at a sufficient number of readily available centres.

4. IMPERFECT NUTRITION.

However important the factors of loss hitherto discussed, their elimination would leave the average yield of the ranches still