

[Continued from the September Number]

## EVERY MAN HIS OWN CATTLE DOCTOR.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Inflammation of the Lungs.*

When common catarrh has been neglected, it will sometimes run on to inflammation of the lungs, or the beast may be attacked with this disease without any of the previous symptoms of catarrh. This is a very serious complaint, and requires the most prompt and decisive treatment.

The symptoms are dullness, shivering, and cough that is particularly sore; the ears, roots of the horns, and legs are sometimes cold, but not invariably so, as the quantity of cellular membrane about the legs is often sufficient to keep them warm in spite of the nature of the complaint; the breath and mouth are hot; the mouth is generally open, and there is a ropy discharge from it; the beast will often lie down, and can scarcely be induced to move; the flanks heave very laboriously, and the head is pretruded, showing the great difficulty of breathing. The pulse is not always much increased in number, but is oppressed, and can sometimes scarcely be felt.

Inflammation of the lungs is caused by the perspiration being obstructed from sudden and great changes of the weather, especially when accompanied with wet. Cattle that are driven long distances, and then exposed to the cold and damp air of the night, are particularly liable to it. In most cases it can be traced to the cattle being imprudently exposed to cold, but when the cause is not so apparent, it oftenest attacks those that are in good condition.

Young cattle, and particularly calves, are more subject to this disease than older ones; and in them it must be principally attributed to their being in a state of plethora, that is, having a redundancy of blood in their systems.

Sometimes the membrane covering the lungs and lining the chest is the part principally attacked; the disease is then termed *pleurisy*, and is in this form often complicated with rheumatism, but it is more usual for the substance of the lungs to be affected in common with their envelopments.

Copious bleeding is the remedy most to be depended on for subduing the inflammation, and should be had recourse to as soon as the disease is discovered. The beast should be put into a cool cow-house well littered, and immediately bled. If the difficulty of breathing and other symptoms are not much relieved in six or eight hours after the first bleeding, it should be repeated. A third or fourth bleeding may in bad cases be requisite. In this disease, more than in any other, the person who attends the cattle should be present when the beast is bled. It is impossible, by looking at the patient, and considering the symptoms, to say what quantity of blood ought to be taken away; but as a general rule, and especially in

inflammation of the lungs, and at the first bleeding, the blood should flow until the pulse begins to falter, and the animal seems inclined to faint. The faltering of the pulse will regulate the quantity of the after-bleedings. Little bleedings of two or three quarts, at the commencement of inflammation of the lungs, can never be of service; from six to eight quarts must be taken, or even more, regulated by the circumstances that have been mentioned, and the blood should flow in a large full stream.

A seton should be set in the dewlap immediately after the first bleeding, and the purging drink (No. 2, p. 47) given. Four drachms of nitre, two of extract of belladonna, and one of tartarized antimony, may afterwards be administered twice a day in a drink.

In very severe cases the chest has been fired and blistered with advantage.

Warm water and mashes must be regularly given two or three times a day.

When the beast has recovered, it will be proper, as much as possible, to avoid all those causes which induced the complaint. The animal should for a short time be housed during the night, and, if the weather is very unsettled, kept up altogether, or turned out for a few hours only in the middle of the day.

## CHAPTER VII.

*Rheumatism, or Joint-fellon.*

The early symptoms of this complaint are those of common catarrh, with no great cough, but more than usual fever; by degrees, however, the animal shows some stiffness in moving, and if the hand is pressed upon the chine or any part of the back, the beast will shrink, as if this gave him pain. When the complaint goes no farther than this, it is called *chine-fellon* in many parts of the country; but generally, in two or three days, the animal appears stiffer in the joints; these afterwards begin to swell, and are eventually painful, particularly when he attempts to move. Sometimes the stiffness extends all over the body, and to such a degree that the beast is unable to rise without assistance.

This is generally termed *joint-fellon*. Old cows are very subject to it, and especially a short time before calving; but milch cows and young cattle are oftener attacked by it at the spring of the year. It is mostly occasioned by the animal being kept in a state of poverty during the winter, and suddenly exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather in the spring, or to the inclemency of the north or north-easterly winds, especially in low situations.

This disease sometimes comes on suddenly, and is present in a very acute form, being in fact a severe chill: these acute symptoms may subside, and be succeeded by others, milder but more obstinate. Sometimes abscesses will form amongst the muscles, or the sheaths or bodies of the tendons; and the capsular ligaments of the joints are often distended

with synovia. These symptoms are particularly unfavourable.

In this disease we find the same class of membranes, viz., the serous, diseased throughout the body, and an examination after death sometimes exhibits, in addition to the diseased appearances before noticed, the membrane lining the heart, the chest, and the abdomen, considerably affected, either wholly or in part, and sometimes a considerable effusion of water in these cavities.

As soon as the disease makes its appearance, the beast must be taken to a warm cow house or stable, or some situation sheltered from the severity of the weather. The following purging drink should then be given:—

*Recipe No. 7.—Sulphur Purging Drink.*—Take sulphur, eight ounces; ginger, half an ounce. Mix with a quart of warm gruel. This drink should be repeated every third day, if the bowels appear to require it.

The bowels having been gently opened, a drink which may cause some determination to the skin, and increase the insensible perspiration, should be administered.

*Recipe No. 8.—Rheumatic Drink.*—Take nitre, two drachms; tartarized antimony, one drachm; spirit of nitrous ether, one ounce; anised powder, an ounce. Mix with a pint of very thick gruel, and repeat the dose morning and night, except when it is necessary to give the sulphur purging drink No. 7.

If there should be much fever at any period of the complaint, the sulphur drink must be exchanged for the purging drink No. 2, and three or four quarts of blood taken away.

If any of the joints should continue swelled and painful, they should be rubbed twice a day, and for a quarter of an hour each time, with a gently stimulating embrocation.

*Recipe No. 9.—Rheumatic Embrocation.*—Take Neat's foot oil, four ounces; and camphorated oil, spirit of turpentine, and laudanum, each one ounce, oil of origanum, one drachm. Mix.

Should a scaly eruption break out on the joints, or any part of the legs, after the beast has apparently recovered, an ointment composed as follows will generally clear off the scurf, heal the cracks or sores, and cause the hair to grow again.

*Recipe No. 10.—Healing Cleansing Ointment.*—Take lard, two pounds; resin, half a pound. Melt them together, and when nearly cold, stir in calamine, very finely powdered, half a pound.

If stiffness or swelling of the joints should remain after the inflammation and tenderness are removed, the joints should be well rubbed morning and night with a gently stimulating embrocation. The following will be as good as any:—

*Recipe No. 11.—Camphorated Oil.*—Take camphor, two ounces, and break it into small pieces; put it into a pint of spermaceti or common olive oil, and let the bottle, being closely stopped, and shaken every day, stand in a warm place until the camphor is dissolved.

When a beast has had one attack of rheumatism, he will be always subject to its return, and therefore should be taken more than usual care of in cold variable weather; and should he appear to have a slight catarrh, or to walk a little stiffer than usual, he should be housed for a night or two, and should have a warm