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THE MURRAIN, OR CATTLE PLAGUE.

Much alarm is felt in Great Britain at the progress of the "murrain," among the cattle of Northern Europe. Steps have been taken by the British Government to prevent the importation of hides or cattle from the infected countries. We cannot regard ourselves as safe from the disease in this country, but we are not aware that we can do any thing to prevent its approach. If it reaches the United States, it will be apt to visit us also. The following description of the disease is from the *London Times*:—

There are three complaints which, on the continent, are popularly called "Vieh-seuche" (cattle plagues). The first is a catarrhal affection of the lungs; the second a pulmonary complaint with typhoid symptoms; and the third a highly contagious typhus (*typhus bovinus contagiosus*). In letters which have appeared in the *Times*, Mr. Redcliffe speaks of the pulmonary complaint with typhoid symptoms; Mr. Gamgee of the contagious typhus, which is the real cattle plague (Rinder pest,) or Murrain of the Steppe; and Dr. Greenhow of the "lung disease," which may mean either the simple catarrhal affection of the lungs or the pulmonary complaint with the typhoid symptoms. As it is doubtful which of the murrains is now raging in those countries from which cattle, hides, &c., have recently been exported to England, the distinctive symptoms of all three will now be described. The principal symptoms of simple catarrhal affection of the lungs are—first, shivering at the commencement of the malady; second, sadness and prostration of strength; third, the pulse is quicker than usual, and there is fever; fourth, the skin feels dry; fifth, the cough, which is first dry and hollow, and comes by fits and starts. After a lapse of four or five days the cough gets "loose," and there is a discharge of phlegm; a rattling noise is heard when the animal draws its breath, and a frothy mucous escapes from its nostrils when it allows its head to droop. It is only under unfavourable circumstances, such as immoderate excitement, a naturally bad constitution, or injurious treatment, that the catarrhal inflammation of the lungs ends fatally, but a chronic secretion of phlegm and asthmatic cough often remain for a considerable time after the animal is convalescent. The "lung disease," combined with typhus, may be divided into three periods. The symptoms of the first period, during which there is no fever, are—sadness and prostration of strength; secondly, drooping head and pendulous ears; thirdly, eyes fixed, without loss either of lustre or of colour (in vigorous animals the eyes are often red and fiery, but dry;) fourthly, the skin of the nostrils pale, and the inside of the mouth "slimy;" fifth, the temperature of the body low, with horns, ears, and feet cool; sixth, the skin dry and tense (stretched), the hair lustreless, rough, and bristly, and erected along the spine; seventh, breathing difficult. The first part sometimes lasts a fortnight or three weeks; the second, or feverish period, lasts three or four days. The symptoms