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GEO. W. A. REBURN,

Massawippi, Que,

Tuberculosis in H gs.

The Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States has recently published a bulletin dealing with the question of tuberculosis in swine, which appears to be prevalent to a considerable extent in the Western States, and is impossible of detection from outward appearances, except in very rare cases, and the problem of preventing its spread is a puzzling

The first part of the bulletin in question is a discussion of the use of tuberculin as a means of finding out whether hogs have tuberculosis or not. Tuberculin is now regarded as a reasonably accurate test of its presence in cattle, the presence of the disease being manifested by marked rise of temperature in a few hours following the injection of tuberculin. The difficulty in applying it to hogs is twofold. First, the normal variations in the temperature of individual hogs is very great, and it would seem at first sight that it would be utterly impossible to use tuberculin as a test. Second, hogs cannot be handled as readily as cattle, and the excitement due to the injection of tuberculin would naturally make the rise in temperature very rapid. Hogs differ from cattle in this, that the hog is ordinarily incased in a thick layer of fat, which is a poor conductor of heat, and in which there is very little circulation of the blood. The skin of the hog is intended to keep the heat in, but it does not take a prominent part in regulating the temperature as in cattle or horses. The conclusion of the bulletin is that while tuberculin is a reliable test of tuberculosis in hogs, it is only when a hog is kept quiet both before the injection of tuberculin and afterwards; and under any circumstances it requires a competent veterinarian. In the hands of the ordinary farmer it would be entirely useless.

The second object of this experiment was to determine by what means hogs naturally become affected with tuberculosis. The fifty-eight hogs in the experiments were divided into five groups:

First-Twelve were infected with tuberculosis by feeding them partially with milk to which virulent tubercle bacilli had been added.

Second-Four were fed behind cattle that were affected with natural tuberculosis.

Third-Four were fed behind cattle affected with tuberculosis by adding tubercle bacilli daily to their drinking water. Fourth-Twelve hogs were infected with tuberculosis through subcutaneous inoculation with virulent tubercle bacilli.

Fifth-Twenty-six supposedly normal and healthy hogs.

The entire number was tested with tuberculin.

Of the twelve fed on tuberculous malk, some for three days, others for thirty days, all but one were found when slaughtered to be more or less affected with tuberculosis. Their general condition at the time of slaughter, some two months after being tested with tuberculin, and three months after being put on their ration, was most excellent, all of them being fat, and yet all but one of them more or less affected with tuberculosis. In all of them affection was principally about the glands in the throat and neck. The one showed no marked rise of temperature when the tuberculin was injected.

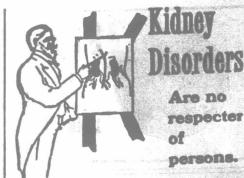
Of the four hogs fed behind cattle affected with natural tuberculosis, only one when slaughtered showed any indications of tuberculosis, and these slight.

Of the four hogs fed behind healthy cattle that were being fed tubercle bacilli in their drinking water, all showed tuberculous lesions except one, and all were in excellent condition.

Of the hogs that were inoculated with virulent bacilli germs, and which were killed afterwards, but one was found healthy, the rest all having distinct evidences of tuberculosis, generally at the seat of inoculation, but also in the lungs and liver.

The conclusions drawn from this experiment are: First, that the application of the tuberculin test is practical in the hands of a careful and experienced veterinarian, provided the hoge are of such a disposition that they can be kept quiet some time before beginning and throughout the entire test, but not practical for

(Continued on next page.)



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