

showing that the action of the poison is both insidious and cumulative. Little is known of the actively poisonous principle, but it is evidently one or more of the alkaloids which have been isolated from various species of ragwort.

SYMPTOMS: In regard to the cases of poisoning in Canada it was found that the disease was progressive, and to the careful observer certain premonitory symptoms were visible sometimes months before more characteristic manifestations appeared. In one case reported upon by Pethiek, by actual experiment which lasted eighteen months and twenty-one days, death occurred only forty-four days after the first visible symptoms. "In this case," he says, "as indeed in nearly all others, we noticed a peculiar bleached appearance of the hair, which seemed to have lost its lustre, a desire to be alone, irritation of temper or nervousness, occasional chills, although in a moderately warm stable. This animal would stand and shiver while the healthy members of the herd appeared comfortable. The bowels are irregular, the pulse at this stage is fast although quite strong, temperature slightly above normal." Later and more characteristic symptoms are: visible mucous membrane pale, eyes amaurotic, slight diarrhoea, emaciation, followed by great weakness, staggering gait, inability to rise, and finally death.

REMEDY AND MEANS OF CONTROL: Although strychnine and iron may be used in incipient cases with beneficial results, it was shown by these experiments that measures of this kind are of little real value. The best means of controlling the disease is through the eradication of the weed, and for this purpose (Report Veterinary Director-General, 1911), "The farmers in the counties of Pietou and Antigonish, as also those portions of Prince Edward Island where the weed and the disease existed, were strongly advised to make use of sheep as an economical and profitable means of eradicating this troublesome plant. Numerous farmers followed this advice, but many other methods of eradicating ragwort were also inaugurated, while the practice of removing it from the hay when cut was almost universally adopted. As a consequence, loss from the disease has become almost unknown."