

GREAT CATTLE PLAGUE IN ENGLAND.

The English Agricultural Journals of the past month (August) are filled with discussions, reports and details of the great cattle plague. In one month the London Dairymen alone have lost £30,000 sterling. The London cow-keepers held a great meeting to adopt remedial measures. The National Association for the Prevention of Cattle Diseases has been meeting daily at 48 Pall Mall. The disease is chiefly confined to London and the Essex Marshes, but is spreading, and has already reached Dublin. It is said that it is arising in some places without contact with diseased animals, caused by over-crowding in cow-houses and camers, bad ventilation, &c. Lime wash and chlorine are used to purify the atmosphere of cow-houses, and are said to be very beneficial.

The government is doing all it can possibly do at the outset.

An order in Council has been issued which, reciting the Act of Parliament under which it is issued, directs that all persons who keep cattle and find any of their stock affected with this disease, shall immediately give notice of the same to the clerk of the Council at Whitehall, when an inspector will be sent to report upon the case and the circumstances attending the disease. Neglect to comply with this regulation will subject to a penalty of £20. The Commissioners of Customs have also transmitted to the collectors at the various outposts special instructions to exercise the greatest care in the examination of all cattle which may be brought into the country, and in the event of any disease being discovered, to adopt all necessary measures to prevent its introduction and diffusion.

In its chief features the present outbreak resembles the Russian "pest," and Prof. Gamgee seems to regard it as identical with that disease. He described it as a "catarrhal affection, producing in the blood an impurity which had a tendency to work itself outward in every direction, and any exhalation, even through the pores of the skin, of an animal affected with the plague was, he said, highly infectious. This disease was in the vast majority of cases, incurable. An animal attacked by it might succumb in two or three days, or might last a week or more; but he was generally doomed from the outset. The origin of the plague was infected foreign cattle brought to Islington Cattle Market.—Sound cattle coming in contact with them, there caught the malady, and in their turn transmitted it to others, so that it was spreading in a rapidly widening

circle. It had been but just a month in this country, yet even in that short time he calculated that nearly 2000 cattle must have suffered. It was much to be regretted that prompt measures for its eradication were not taken on its first appearance. He showed how, though we had antidotes for mineral, we had none for animal poisons of the blood, and therefore it was rather to prevention than to cure that attention should be directed in cases like that under discussion. All beasts that were evidently affected should be killed, or at least, at once and effectually separated from all healthy animals. He went on to show that although the cattle plague was not contagious to human beings, yet that indirectly it might produce typhus and other fevers and diseases, because, after a lengthened period of bad or insufficient food in any country, the people of that country were sure to suffer in health. There was no cattle disease better known than this. So far from being new, it had existed for centuries. In 1747 thousands of cattle perished or were destroyed, the Government compensating their owners. This, however had to be discontinued on account of the numerous frauds committed. Mr. Gamgee alluded next to the sheep small pox in North Wiltshire in 1861. He showed how, as long as farmers concealed the illness of their sheep, the disease spread with great rapidity; but when they subscribed to pay for the destruction of all that were diseased, and thus encouraged each other to speak the truth, the sheep small pox was put an end to in three weeks. It would be more difficult to bring the cattle plague to a termination, but the same course was the proper one to pursue. The cow owners should put their shoulders to the wheel at once, form a provisional committee, and take steps to carry out the most advisable measures."

We have observed in the newspapers notices of the outbreak of disease among cattle in the United States and Canada.

Horses have been suffering from something of the same kind in Prince Edward Island.

AGRICULTURE IN NEW YORK STATE.

The numbers for March, May and June, of the New York State Agricultural Society's Journal, came to us addressed: *Halifax, New Brunswick.*

We thought our own Journal of minimum size, but find the New York one to be just half as big. However, it displays much literary taste and typographical beauty, and there are some items of intelligence that cannot fail to interest our readers.

THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR FOR 1865.

The annual fair is to be held this year at Utica, on 12th to 15th September.—The subjects for discussion are: "On cutting grass and preparing hay," "On cultivating and curing tobacco," and on the following question, on which some of our readers might give us their views: "Ought pastures for the dairy to be kept permanently in grass, or to be renewed by ploughing and re-seeding?" The premiums in the several classes of the Utica exhibition are on a liberal scale. Among other articles, the Utica *Herald* sees no reason why a thousand cheeses from their factories and best private dairies may not be exhibited, and the various apparatus for cheese manufacture tested by making up the curds and shewing the uninitiated how good cheese is manufactured.

BENEFITS OF BEING RECOGNISED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

The Schoharie society complains of being unable to pay its debts, as the balance of its funds (\$179.79) has been wholly required as taxes to pay bounties to volunteers in the service of the States. We commend this fact to the attention of those few of our own societies who think they do not receive sufficient aid from the legislature.

ABORTION OF COWS.

In Herkimer and adjoining counties, great trouble is experienced from abortion in cows. Dr. Copeman has been investigating the matter. He does not recommend fumigating the stables, but directs ventilation and the removal of everything infectious. He did not think it was caused by anything the animals ate or did not eat. That the bad habit is due to ergotized grasses he thinks absurd; but we cannot help thinking that the experiments he details are not sufficient to counter-balance the well-known physiological action of ergot. It may be that the disease in Herkimer is due to another cause, and certainly it seems to be infectious; but ergot will, nevertheless, cause abortion likewise.

So prevalent is this habit in cows, that the president of the Farmer's Club, Little Falls, says: "What is to be the result, if it continues, is no matter of doubtful speculation. The farmers of Herkimer must, in that event, abandon the business of dairying, or conduct it at a loss." The Herkimer county herds are spoken of as very fine, and greatly superior to those of New England.

DR. MACGOWAN IN EASTERN ASIA.

Dr. Macgowan, already well known for his labours in China, being about to visit Eastern Asia to pursue his explorations in behalf of the industrial and agricultural interests of the United States, the New