

that disposition to cast her young one gradually ceases, that if she does miscarry, it is at a later and still later period of pregnancy; and that, in about three or four years, she may be depended upon as a tolerably safe breeder; he, however, would be exceedingly inattentive to his interest who kept a profitless beast so long.

The calf very rarely lives, and in the majority of cases it is born dead or putrid. If there should appear to be any chance of saving it, it should be washed with warm water, carefully dried, and fed frequently with small quantities of new milk, mixed according to the apparent weakness of the animal, either with raw eggs or good gruel; while the bowels should, if occasion requires, be opened by means of small doses of castor oil. If any considerable period has to elapse before the natural term of pregnancy would have expired, it will usually be necessary to bring up the little animal entirely by the hand.

The treatment of abortion will differ little from that of parturition, presently to be described. If the farmer has once been tormented by this pest in his dairy, he should carefully watch the approaching symptoms of casting the calf, and as soon as he perceives them, should remove the cow from the pasture to a comfortable cowhouse or shed. If the discharge is glairy, but not offensive, he may hope the calf is not dead: he will be assured of this by the motion of the fetus, and then it is possible that the abortion may yet be avoided. He should hasten to bleed her, and that copiously, in proportion to her age, size, condition, and the state of excitation in which he may find her; and he should give a dose of physic immediately after the bleeding. The physic beginning to operate, he should administer half a drachm of opium and half an ounce of sweet spirit of nitre. Unless she is in a state of great debility, he should avoid above all things the comfortable drink, which some persons so strangely recommend and which the cow-leech will be almost sure to administer. He should allow nothing but gruel, and he should keep his patient as quiet as he can. By these means he may occasionally allay the general or local irritation that precedes or causes the abortion, and the cow may get to her full time.

Should, however, the discharge be fetid, the natural conclusion will be that the fetus is dead, and must be got rid of, and that as speedily as possible. Bleeding may even then be requisite, if much fever exists, or, perhaps, the aforesaid comfortable drink may not be out of place. In other respects, the animal must be treated as if her usual time of pregnancy had been accomplished.

Much may be done in the way of preventing the formation of this habit of abortion among the cows. The fetus must be got rid of immediately. It should be buried deep, and far from the cow-pasture. Proper means should be taken to hasten the expulsion of the placenta. A dose of physic should be given; the ergot of rye, as hereafter to be described, should be administered; the hand should be introduced, and an effort made, cautiously and gently, to detach the placenta; all violence, however, should be carefully avoided, for considerable and fatal hemorrhage may be speedily produced. The parts of the cow should be well washed with a solution of the chloride of lime, and this should be injected up the vagina, and also given internally. In the mean time, and especially after the expulsion of the placenta, the cowhouse should be well washed with the same solution, in the manner that was recommended when the treatment of the malignant epidemic was under consideration.

The cow, when beginning to recover, should be fattened and sold. This is the first and the grand step towards the prevention of abortion, and he is unwise who does not immediately adopt it. All other means are comparatively inefficient and worthless. It was the charm by means of which Chibbert arrested the plague which for thirty successive years had devastated the farm of Tury. Should the owner be reluctant to part with her, two months at least should pass before she is permitted to return to her companions. Prudence would probably dictate that she should never return to them: but he kept, if possible, on some distant part of the farm.

Abortion having once occurred on the farm, the breeding cows should be carefully watched. Although well fed, they should not be suffered to get into too high condition. Unless they are decidedly poor and weak, they should be bled between the third and fourth months of pregnancy, and a mild dose of physic should be administered to each. If the pest continues to reappear, the owner should most carefully examine how far any of the causes of abortion that have been detected may exist on his farm, and exert himself in carefully removing them.

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