

of their herds, the injury to their agriculturists by contagious diseases, led them at the close of the last century to expend large sums of money on their veterinary colleges, to organize regular systems of veterinary sanitary science, and police controlled by the Government, and in this way gave the profession a social status which slow England has not yet awakened to the necessity for. What is the consequence? When contagious diseases of cattle were imported from the Continent, where they had worked havoc among their herds for generations, few among the members of this neglected profession, which had been left by their Government to drag along uncared for and unencouraged, without means to pay competent teachers (most indeed of the pupils requiring to work for their existence while they struggled at their studies), recognized the enormity of the danger, and while they discussed the question of the contagiousness of the disease, and the Government turned a deaf ear to their warning voice, pleuro-pneumonia and foot and mouth disease rapidly spread, and soon gained a permanent foothold in the country. Again, when from neglect of quarantine regulations, the dread rinderpest reached the shores of England, the same blundering took place, and the profession, with a few exceptions, notably Prof. John Gamgee, proved themselves incapable, from the same cause, of dealing with the question, and the Government maintained the same masterly inactivity. The disease meanwhile spread from end to end of the land, decimating the herds and completely paralyzing the agricultural community, producing death and starvation among the labouring classes, and causing the destruction of over a quarter of a million head of cattle. Who will hold a Government blameless which would trifle with such a weighty matter? Who will deny that the persistent neglect of veterinary science by the British Government has a very direct and important influence on the condition of her agriculturists to-day? Their means destroyed by cattle disease, which ruined many and seriously crippled the majority, could they be prepared to stand a few bad years of indifferent crops and low prices from American competition? Who will deny that the neglect of veterinary science in Britain will