

ANTHRAX.

This disease, which is much dreaded in European countries on account of the sudden and serious losses which it occasions, has, fortunately, been scarcely known to exist in Canada till the present summer (1901) when several rather serious outbreaks occurred, as will be seen by referring to the reports of the Cattle Quarantine Inspectors published as appendices to the report of the Minister of Agriculture.

This bulletin is published with the object of informing stockmen of the nature of this disease and its cause, of how it is spread among herds, and of the measures necessary for its prevention. A careful study of it will convince the reader that if the disease is left unchecked and preventive precautions are neglected, not only may present serious losses be experienced, but the land itself may be rendered infective for fifty or a hundred years; already certain farms and districts both in the east and in the west are known to be anthrax infected, and the disease breaks out on them at irregular periods, the animals dying with alarming suddenness.

It is well known that the spores of the bacillus in some way get into the ground, and that they may remain there in a dormant state for many years. According to Crookshank: 'By some means or other the spores contaminate the grass, and hay imported from an anthrax infected district may start the disease at a farm on which it had never been known to occur.'

'The skin, hair, wool, hoofs and horns of infected animals, if soiled with blood, are contaminated by the bacillus.' It is an infection which is the very reverse of that of contagious pleuro-pneumonia, which requires the contact of living diseased with living healthy animals, whereas anthrax infection rarely takes place from living animals, unless the blood containing bacilli is allowed to contaminate the food, or inoculate a wounded surface. It is the carcass that is to be dreaded as the source of infection.

ANTHRAX BACILLUS.

The immediate cause of the disease is the entrance into the bodies of healthy animals of rod-shaped bacilli or their spores, either in food or water or by inoculation through an abraded surface or open wound.

The bacilli themselves are easily killed, but their spores resist ordinary germicides and even such degrees of heat as kill all other spores of bacteria.