

## REMEDY FOR PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

A writer in the Philadelphia North American says :—

It happened that, on the same day on which I first saw the recent report from Massachusetts, I also received my supply of a medical journal from London, containing a narrative of several cases of the epidemic successfully treated by a surgeon in England, and the means which he found effectual as preventive. His report, after detailing the symptoms and medical treatment of two or three cases, concludes as follows :—"It would be superfluous to narrate every case, as there was a considerable similarity in all ; eight were cured, the rest had arsenic every night, and escaped the disease ; four died before I was called in." It does not appear that he lost more than one case, and that under circumstances unfavorable to recovery, while he succeeded, as he states, in preventing the outbreak of the disease in all the other cattle, which, it must be conceded, is a very satisfactory amount of success. The remedies employed in the treatment were aconite, bryonia alba, caustic and ammonia, phosphorus, sulphur and arsenic, and the latter was given also as a prophylactic. \*

The first medicines to be administered in this disease are usually one or two drops of the tincture of aconite in alternation with same quantity of the tincture of bryonia alba also in water, at intervals of two or three hours. Or, if the pulse be not much accelerated and febrile heat not very prominent, caustic ammonia in doses of two drops may be given in water. This remedy alone has cured many cases of the pneumonia of cattle. In other cases, the treatment has been successfully commenced with phosphorus and bryonia the former in doses of one drop of the tincture in a gill of water alternately with the latter, at intervals of two hours.

The remedy selected should be continued for twenty-four hours or more, if improvement continue to progress ; but if in that time the symptoms should not be mitigated, or should remain stationary, it may be succeeded by others.—Thus, if the treatment be commenced with aconite in alternation with bryonia, or with caustic ammonia, let them be followed by phosphorus and bryonia, and then by sulphur in the same attenuated doses as those of arsenic. Other remedies, such as belladonna, thus toxicodendron, cantharides, &c., are occasionally indicated and advantageously employed in this disease ; but it is not to be expected that the benefit capable of being derived from any remedy can be attained to its full extent, except in the hands of a practitioner.

It will be observed that a dose of arsenic was administered to the uninfected cows every night, and I would suggest that two or three drops of caustic ammonia should also be given, in about a wineglass full of water, every morning, for the same purpose. The cattle should be kept dry, and guarded against sudden changes in the weather from warm to cold, and particularly cold and damp weather. The strength of the animals should be kept up by a due amount of nutritious food, and exercise *ad libitum* allowed them through the day.

In the North American and United States Gazette of the 17th, I observe a communication from the Belgian Consul, recommending the inoculation of healthy animals with the virus of one dead with pleuro pneumonia, as a preventive, and which it is said almost invariably secured them from contagion. He cites the authority of a Dr. Williams (qu. Williem ?) who is said to have discovered this means of prevention. In a foreign medical journal, however, now before me, I remark that Dr. Luedersdorf, of Berlin, on exploring the Rhine provinces for the purposes of ascertaining the correctness of Dr. W's assertion, elicited the fol-

\* From the one-tenth to the one-thousandth of a grain of arsenic, prepared by trituration with sugar of milk, would be a sufficient dose.