

MILK FEVER IN COWS.

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PUERPERAL APOPLEXY, "milk fever," and "drooping after calving," as it is variously called in different localities, is one of the most fatal complaints that breeding animals are subject to. The cure and treatment of this complaint have been very variously stated by veterinary writers, and it is perhaps owing to a misconception of the cause that it has been so universally fatal. It has been by many confounded with inflammation of the womb, and very generally ascribed to inflammation of the spinal cord; but the true cause is congestion of the brain.

Milk fever usually occurs after calving, from four hours up to two or three days, but very rarely after the third day.

It is more common in old cows than young ones, and generally at the birth of the 3rd or 4th calf. Cows are more liable to it in summer than in winter. Cows in high condition, and those in the habit of giving a large quantity of milk, seem to be especially singled out as the objects of attack, although occasionally those in poor or low condition will suffer from it. The breed of Alderneys is said to be especially pre-disposed to it.

The symptoms, if noticed in the very earliest stage, are characteristic and peculiar, and it is in this stage alone that treatment is likely to be attended with any success. The cow, if standing in her stall, will be observed to have a peculiar restless movement with her hind quarters, she will be shifting them frequently, and throwing her weight first on one hind leg and then on another, and, if made to walk, a weakness will be noticed in her hind legs. She will have lost control over them, and, if forced to walk any distance she will fall, rising again with some difficulty. After several hours the weakness will increase, and she will fall and not be able to rise, although she makes frequent attempts to do so; her pulse is now increased in number and full, her breathing is accelerated, and she is hoven; the brain, too, becomes affected at this stage of the disease, which may be known by her throwing her head about, and occasionally pointing it to her side, from which it can be but with difficulty withdrawn; the hind limbs, if pricked with a pin, will be found insensible to pain, and the pupils of the eye dilated, and not contracting with the stimulus of light.

As the disease advances, the brain becomes more and more affected; the head is either obstinately pressed to the side, or thrown completely back, with the horns resting on the ground, the eyes are not only insensible to light, but may be touched by the finger without the animal evincing consciousness; the breathing is

stertorous, and attended with difficulty, and the power of swallowing entirely gone. Obstinate and unceasing constipation is seen from the commencement.

Treatment.—There has been much difference of opinion as to the propriety of bleeding in this disease. This, however, will much depend upon the stage of the complaint, and the character of the animal. If blood be taken, it must be taken early, or not at all. If the disease is observed coming on before the animal has fallen, and she is in a plethoric condition, bleeding may be sometimes attended with advantage. As a rule, however, it is to be condemned.

One of the earliest measures to be pursued, is the exhibition of a powerful purgative, combined with a stimulant, and, from the state of torpor into which the bowels are plunged from the withdrawal of nervous force, a large dose will be required. Say Epsom salts, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., Aloes Barbadoes, in solution, $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., Croton oil 20 to 30 drops, and give in $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon strong ale. This may be followed up in half an hour by the administration of the following draught, mixed in strong ale,—aromatic spirit ammonia, two oz., ether spirit, nitric, three oz., and repeated every half hour. The liniment of croton should be well rubbed into the spine, and the rectum unloaded with repeated glysters.

If the coma increases, and the brain becomes still more affected, stronger stimulants should be given; an alcohol in the form of strong whiskey or brandy should be administered in doses of from half a pint to a pint, and given at intervals of two hours. If no improvement be manifested after the third or fourth dose, recovery may be regarded as hopeless. I feel sure the reader will think that the amount of stimulants recommended is preposterous, but I rest assured that many apparently hopeless cases have been recovered, from the effects of strong doses of stimulants.

Should purgation ensue, and the brain begin to assume its functions, we may hope for a favorable termination. There is often a good deal of debility supervening, even in the most favorable cases, and the medicine, when it does begin to act, often acts violently. This will best be counteracted by mild tonics, generous, though soft diet, and good nursing until convalescence has been established.

In conclusion I may add that such a disease should not be allowed to happen on any kind of farm whatever, as the preventative means are simple and not expensive, but if left to ignorant cow-leeches and farriers, death in 99 cases out of 100 is the result. It is easily prevented by giving the cow, a week previous to calving, a pound of salts, with a carminative.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION BUILDINGS AT HALIFAX.

At the recent joint meeting of committees, appointed by the Sessions of the County, the City Council of Halifax, the Town Council of Dartmouth, and the Halifax County Agricultural Society, a draft of a bill was considered, the main feature of which was that it empowered the Court of Sessions for the County of Halifax to add to the yearly assessment for County purposes a sum sufficient for the purchase of lands and erection of industrial and agricultural Exhibition Buildings, the assessment to be apportioned and collected in the City of Halifax, Municipality of Dartmouth, and other districts of the County, in the same way as County rates.

Whilst all agreed as to the propriety, or rather necessity, of erecting Exhibition Buildings in or near the City, yet there was some difference of opinion as to the mode proposed for carrying this desirable object into effect. Moreover, the bill did not specify whether the buildings were to be erected in the city limits or merely in the county. After several hours' discussion, during which the views of the various bodies interested were very fully expressed, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, It is the opinion of this meeting that the proposed Exhibition Buildings should be erected within the City of Halifax, and owned by the Corporation; and *whereas* the largest proportion of expense would be borne by the City, even if the cost of construction became a County charge;

Be it therefore resolved, That a committee be appointed to draft a *permissive* bill to enable the City Council to have the construction and management of said buildings, and that the bill be introduced at the present session of the Legislature.

The committee appointed for this purpose met on Thursday afternoon, 21st March. Present—Alderman Fraser, Chairman; Alderman DeWolfe, Alderman Reid, M.P., Alderman O'Connor, Professor Lawson, Secretary.

Professor Lawson submitted a draft of an Act, prepared by Mr. Motton, empowering the City Council, if they shall so determine, to erect suitable exhibition buildings on vacant land owned by the City, or, if necessary, to purchase land for this purpose, and to borrow the necessary money upon the credit of the city, provided the same shall not exceed \$20,000.

The bill was read, clause by clause, and considered in detail. Amendments were made on several of its clauses, and it was finally adjusted.

On motion of Dr. Reid, seconded by Alderman DeWolfe, the bill was adopted and ordered to be submitted to the Legislature.