

Commissioners were notified by the Select-men of Milton, of the existence of the disease in that town in a herd from which two animals had died within a few weeks, and two had been killed by order of the Select-men, being beyond all hope of recovery. The Commissioners entered upon their investigations on the 27th of February, 1862. As investigations progressed, the truth, not only of the existence, but of the contagiousness of the disease, became so apparent, that notwithstanding previous opinions, and the circumstances under which their commissions were granted and accepted, those opinions and prejudices have vanished before the light of truth, and the Commissioners are quietly but faithfully performing the duties of their office, and in my opinion should be spared the odium which some have endeavoured to throw upon a former Board, and should receive the support and co-operation of every friend to the prosperity of the agricultural interest.

I proceed to state briefly, the rise and progress of the disease as developed in this vicinity during the past year, beginning with a pair of oxen sold in Brighton market, in February or March, 1861, one of which was, in the opinion of persons who saw him sick at the time. These oxen were purchased by J. F. Eaton, of Quincy, and taken into his herd. During the next few months not only these oxen, but several animals of his previous herd died; others were sold and taken into other herds, carrying the disease wherever they went; or, if to change the expression will leave the question more open, I will say, the disease followed wherever animals from that herd touched. At the present time, the disease has exhibited itself in twenty different herds, and in every instance is traceable to the Eaton herd either directly or through other herds connected with it. I am in possession of the names of the twenty individuals of those herds have been thus affected.

I am of the opinion that the names of some of the parties who have been instrumental in the spread of the disease, might justly be exposed; but there are others who have ignorantly and innocently contributed in some measure to its diffusion, who have themselves been sufferers, not only in the loss of stock, but in the derangement of their ordinary and legitimate business.

Least the publication of names should add to the already severe losses of this latter class, I will at present withhold entirely all not already given, holding myself in readiness, not only to give them, but to show, most conclusively, the connection between all of these herds. I deem it proper also to say, that upon different occasions many members of the legislature have witnessed cases of the disease; and I am not aware of an instance where individuals have thus put themselves in the way of ascertaining facts, that they have not only been fully satisfied of the existence of the disease, but also of its contagious-

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Miscellaneous.

NERVOUSNESS OF PARROTS.—Parrots are marvellously nervous birds, and, while young, will often throw themselves into such paroxysms of fear at the mere sight of a stranger, that they will even endanger their lives. They have an odd and unpleasant habit of scolding on such occasions, uttering loud, rough, grating cries, as piercing to the ear as the sound of a file or a saw, and stretching out their beaks with ruffled feathers and agitated gestures. Some birds retain this extreme timidity for a very long time, spite of all attempts to conciliate them. I have known a single parrot that was given quite young to a family well skilled in the management of birds, and particularly kind to their feathered pets. Yet, after the lapse of seven or eight months, the bird had only learnt to be tolerably familiar with the feminine portion of the family; and the approach of any man or boy of the same family, or of any stranger whatever, was sure to throw him into a paroxysm of terror.—*Every Boy's Magazine*.

MINOR EFFECTS IN MONEY SPENDING.—A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* writes as follows on a subject of much interest. "There is one thing I would be glad to see more parents understand, namely, that when they spend money judiciously to improve and adorn the house, and the ground around it, they are in effect paying their children a premium to stay at home, as much as possible to enjoy it; but that when they spend money unnecessarily in fine clothing and jewellery for their children, they are paying them a premium to spend their time away from home—that is, in those places where they can attract the most attention, and make the most display."

RELATIVE VALUE OF FOOD FOR MILK COWS.—Several French and German chemists estimate the relative value of several descriptions of food for milk cows as follows: That 100lb. of good hay are worth 200lb. of potatoes; 450lb. of beet root with the leaves; 350lb. of Siberian cabbage; 250lb. of beet root, without the leaves; 250lb. of carrots; 80lb. of clover hay, Spanish trefoil, or vetches; 50lb. of oilcake or colza; 250lb. of pea straw and vetches; 300lb. of barley or oat straw; 400lb. of rye or wheat straw; 25lb. of peas, beans or vetch seed; 50lb. of oats; or 500 b. of green trefoil, Spanish trefoil, or vetches.

YELLOW COLOR IN FLOWERS.—This is the most-predominant color in flowers, and is the most permanent. The yellow of the petals is the only colour which is not discharged by the fumes of sulphuric acid. If, for example, a lighted match is held under them, the purple or any other color will disappear, but the yellow will remain unchanged. Yellow is also a color which, more than any other, baffles the skill of the Photographer.