

the amount above mentioned, as the price of improved land in that State. The want of timber and all building material, the absence of snow in winter and the scarcity of water in summer, the scattered population, the distance from market and the consequently low prices of produce so far west, must in the opinion of a Canadian turn the beam in favor of his own well-to-do and more eastern domicile.

HRUBERFORD, August 12, 1860.

Pleuro-Pneumonia.

EDITOR AGRICULTURIST.—Observing that you have an interest in publishing anything that will lighten your readers on the Cattle Disease, which made its appearance in Massachusetts last year, I have concluded to place an article at your disposal, which you are at liberty to publish if you think it worth while. There seems to be a diversity of opinion as to whether Pleuro-pneumonia is contagious. Judging from the reports that have appeared in various public journals of late, there could scarcely be a doubt to its epidemic character. The symptoms attending the disease—chills or shivering, followed by feverish heat, shortness of breath, and prostration—give it more the appearance of holed Pneumonia, than of Pleuro Pneumonia; the post mortem appearances—suppuration, effusion, hepatization, gangrene, tubercles, &c.,—are clearly indicative that it is holed Pneumonia.

The disease is simply a determination of blood to the lungs. The pleura, or inner membrane of the cavity of the lungs, would naturally become more or less inflamed, which is, probably the cause of the term pleuro-pneumonia having been applied to it. Those that have seen animals were attacked with it, say, that for several days preceding the attack, the animal presents the symptom of fever; and in order to ascertain whether the above named disease is contagious or not, it is necessary to find out the cause. They are produced by poisons, unwholesome food, a superabundance of healthy food, improper exercise, impure water, vitiated cleanliness and atmospheric vicissitudes. Contagions may also be classed among the exciting causes of fevers, although, as far as observation and experience have extended, I do not consider that, where the predisposing causes mentioned above are strictly guarded against, there is any danger of either fevers or pneumonia being propagated by contact. Pneumonia in horses has been a common complaint in my neighbourhood for many years, although I never considered contagious. I will mention a case in point. In June, 1856, I took one of our horses, and started on a journey of 40 miles. When I had proceeded about half that distance, I halted, to refresh myself and animal; feeding my horse, I went to dinner, and on returning found him exhibiting symptoms of

pneumonia. I remained with him, and employed the services of two Farriers, and notwithstanding we did all that they considered advisable, on the eighth day his sufferings terminated in death. I returned home the next day, and three days after two others were attacked with the same disease. These were doctored as usual, and, after losing much of their flesh, recovered in about three weeks. The remaining one was equal in condition to the others before they were attacked: his feed was reduced, and a little attention was given that he had proper exercise, and he was not attacked. As there were no other horses in the neighbourhood attacked with the disease I instituted a thorough investigation as to the cause of ours being attacked, and found that after breaking up our summer fallow, the hands that had the care of the teams had continued to feed them the same as when they were at work, while at the same time they had been standing most of the time in the stable. I may here observe that for two years previously I had given my own attention to the care of the teams, and when they were not at work, gave them proper exercise, and the result was that there was not a sick horse of our own on the place during the time.

It is much to be regretted that of the many reports that have been given of pleuro-pneumonia among cattle, there is nothing said about the habits to which the animals had been subjected. In many localities, and especially in Massachusetts, where the disease first made its appearance, it is a common practice to keep cows shut up, soiling them, or feeding them on still slop, or the coarser kinds of grain ground and fermented, which without exercise, would very soon vitiate the blood, and thus produce disease. The object that owners of cows have in treating them thus, is to cause them to produce a large quantity of milk; but the evil effects of this pernicious habit were made painfully visible in the celebrated "swill milk exposure" which was so ably conducted by Frank Leslie, in his *Illustrated Journal*, in the spring and early part of the summer of 1858.

In treating this subject, it may not be out of place to investigate the nature of disease. Disease has been defined by an eminent modern author to be "*remedial effort*," or *an effort of the vital or life principle to expel foreign or dead matter from the system*. In order, then, that animals should be healthy, they should partake of no more food than they can assimilate, which should be of the healthiest kind to prevent contamination of the blood. It is, also, necessary that the animal take enough exercise to carry off all the matter that is produced by the wear and tear of the system. All the matter which has been used by the system and returned to the blood to be taken away by the depurating organs, the skin, lungs, liver, kidneys and bowels, the office of which organs is to protect the living organism by carrying off all foreign substances.