

BOOK REVIEW

I have reviewed carefully the copy of the work, "Diseases of Swine," by Dr. McIntosh, and am convinced that it must supply a long-felt want among raisers of swine. It treats of a subject that has not been given the attention it merits. The swine industry is now a very important branch of agriculture, and the diseases of swine does not hold that place in veterinary literature that it should. The thanks of swine-raisers and feeders are due Dr. McIntosh for the introduction to the public of this valuable work. In it he treats, in plain language, easily understood by the laity, of the causes, symptoms and treatment, both preventive and curative, of the various diseases to which swine are subject. This work should be valuable, not only to breeders and feeders of swine, but to veterinary students and practitioners. The average veterinarian understands little about the diseases of swine and their treatment. The practitioner is not altogether to blame for this, as the facts are, he does not have much opportunity to gain actual experience, from the fact that he is seldom called upon to treat swine. In the majority of cases of sickness in swine, the owner does not consider the patient's value sufficient to warrant him to go to the expense of a visit from a veterinarian. He may consult his veterinarian and be given a dose, but the veterinarian seldom has the opportunity of studying the case and treating it personally. As a consequence of the above circumstances, he gives the subject little attention, and probably practically forgets what he has been taught at college and has read on the subject, but directs his attention to the study and practice of diseases in other classes of stock. It is, doubtless, unfortunate that these conditions exist, but they do, and, so far as I can see, are likely to exist, and such being the case, the work under discussion is especially needed, and must prove valuable. Except for one omission, I cannot speak too highly of the work. I trust the author will pardon me for mentioning this. I refer to the fact that he has not given instructions as to the means of administering medicines to swine. In my experience in some practice, this has been the great trouble, and many pigs have been suffocated or fatal mechanical bronchitis is caused by fluids passing down the trachea instead of the gullet. Of course, when a patient will take his medicine in food, all is well, but many sick pigs will not eat, and it is necessary to drench. All who have had experience, know that he is a hard fellow to drench. About the only way, so far as I have discovered, is to get a rope around the upper jaw, behind the tusks, and with it elevate the head. The patient, in most cases, continues to squeal, and, of course, keeps the epiglottis (the valve that covers the windpipe) open, and if fluids be poured into the mouth, more or less of them will pass to the lungs and cause trouble, and probably death in a few minutes. My plan is to attach to the neck of the bottle about six inches of rubber hose, and place the hose between the molars, when he will usually cease squealing and chew the rubber, when the fluid escapes and is swallowed. There may be as good or better plans than this. If the work under discussion gave instructions on this point, it would be as nearly perfect as possible.

J. B. RYAN.

(Note: "Diseases of Swine" may be ordered through "The Farmer's Advocate" at \$2 per copy, postpaid—Editor.)

GOSSIP.

The champion beef animal at the North York, Edinburgh, and Chicago Fatstock Shows, were Aberdeen-Angus pure-bred or grade. At the Birmingham Show, the records are so hedged around by reservations that the King's red two-year-old Southdown heifer, Mystery, though considered by the judges the best in the show, was not eligible for the champion ship, not having been bred by the exhibitor. The reserve to her, after a close vote was called in to decide amongst four judges, was given to J. J. Crisp's Aberdeen-Angus heifer, Chas. H. 2, a red stamp of the breed. At Inverness, Law's two-year-old Southdown heifer made champion by the vote of a majority. Her weight at 2 years 2 months was 1,112 lbs.

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