

kills whole herds. Like cholera, it is both contagious and infectious. By these terms I mean to say it is communicated from one animal to another by the physical imposition of the virus upon any animal from any object containing the virus; and also that the virus may be carried in molecules in the air, and thus produce the disease. It evidently did not originate *de novo* in England, but was carried there by ship loads of cattle from the Russian Baltic ports. If this theory is correct, then all importation of cattle from abroad should at once be prohibited by Congress, if not otherwise possible to be prevented. And it would pay well to call Congress together for that purpose only. No ship having a cow or sheep on arrival from Europe, or countries having the pest, should be allowed to land in America without sufficient quarantine. Every disease must at some time have originated from a violent disregard of the natural laws, and this as others. But I am of the opinion that there is nothing in the management of cattle in Great Britain or America to generate the disease; so also no sanitary precautions can arrest it short of absolute non-intercourse. I believe it to be a species of bloody murrain, aggravated by the marshy nature of northern Russia and the utter disregard of all the laws of health which is known to man and beast, especially in regard to ventilation and cleanliness, which prevails in these cold climates, where great expenditure of heat is needed, and fuel and food scarce. The same causes are producing now the aggravated typhus fever here, which is called outside of Russia "the plague." England was warned long since of the danger of direct importation of cattle from Russia; but failed to heed the advice. I trust our country may be more wise, and more fortunate.

THE CATTLE DISEASE.

THIS terrible scourge may not be altogether without beneficial results if it leads the farmers of Great Britain to a higher estimate of the value of agricultural statistics. We perceive from the Scottish Farmer of Nov. 1st, that the "Veterinary Department of the Privy Council Office" is collecting returns as to the progress and ravages of the disease, for the different census districts of England, Scotland and Wales. We have not space to give the table for the several dis-

tricts, but the aggregates we condense below:

Number of cases for week ending Oct. 14th.....	1,054
do do Oct. 21st.....	1,729
Total cases from commencement of disease.....	14,083
Of which were killed.....	5,119
died.....	6,711
recovered.....	707

Our contemporary, however, thinks there are now "signs of an abatement of the plague; cases having become fewer and less virulent in some parts of the country where it has been very deadly. Mr. Gibbons stated at a recent meeting of the London Court of Common Council that the disease was abating in London. It has also been milder in Edinburgh, it is reported to have disappeared altogether from the Kelso district, and we believe it has become much more moderate in other parts of Scotland. At the same time, we must say that in England, as well as in some parts of Scotland, it is still continuing to make great ravages among stock."

VALUE OF PIGEONS AS FARM STOCK.

THE following article, published in Our Young Folks, suggests some truths worthy of the attention of a good many that are not young: "No matter at what time of year a pigeon's crop may be opened, it will be found to contain at least eight times as much of the seeds of weeds as of wheat, or rye, or corn, or other grains. It is also very remarkable that the grains thus taken from the fields are the defective ones. They take only the worthless seeds. For these reasons these birds should be regarded as the best weeders that a man can employ; for while he merely chops up a weed, often when it is so well grown that it ripens its seeds on the ground where he may have left it, the pigeons come along and make clean work by eating them. The farmer removes merely the weeds, but the pigeons remove the cause of them.

Any one who has kept these birds on his premises must have noticed how fond they are of pecking among the rubbish which is thrown out from a barn floor after threshing wheat or other grain. They will search there for many days together, hunting out the shriveled grains, the poppy seeds, and cockle, and other pests of the farm, thus getting many a good meal from seeds that barnyard fowls never condescend to pick up. When the latter get into a garden they scratch and tear up everything, just as though they were scratching for a wager;