

Stock Department.

Chloroform and the Cattle Plague.

CHLOROFORM is the latest remedy for cattle plague and a correspondent of the *Norfolk Chronicle* writes of it as follows:—

The most hopeful of all the remedies yet proposed for the cure of the cattle plague seems to be chloroform, which has been tried with marked success by Dr. Dickson, author of the *Fallacies of the Faculty*. I say the most hopeful, though doubtless many will shake their heads, having long ago lost heart and faith in so-called specifics, even in the latest, Mr. Worms' treatment by assafœtida; yet if I am right as to the true nature of the disease and its primary symptoms it is the most hopeful. While medicines for the most part fail because they do not touch the disease, chloroform seems by a short cut to come on the track of it, and suspends its undermining and death-working operations. Moreover, it is as subtle as the subtle poison itself, instantaneous in its action and instantaneous in its results—very important points in such a disease: pain of course ceases, and appetite returns, as we shall see.

First, then, as to the facts. If my memory serves me, Mr. A. Hammond stating that acting under Dr. Dickson's advice he saved, by chloroform, a great portion of his valuable herd; and last week there was a most interesting account by Mr. Blyth, who saved his cows—the only animals he did save—by the same treatment, and all for the small sum of about fourteen shillings. Mr. Blyth spoke, as he himself said, practically, not scientifically; nor did he pretend to say chloroform was a specific, only it was worth a trial. There is no doubt the disease upon his cows was fever, which, unchecked, would have unmistakably resulted in, if it was not actually *Rinderpest*. In this opinion the inspectors in attendance agreed, and though they at first pooch-pooched the use of chloroform, yet they were equally satisfied with himself that the cows were entirely cured by means of it. At first none of them knew how to administer it, but at last, as it was found impossible to give it in a standing position, the cows were cast. Was this really necessary? I have been told that the best way is to fill a nosebag lightly with hay and sprinkle the chloroform (say an ounce) on it; then tie the nosebag on as usual; the beast must inhale the contents and so goes down of itself; the effect takes place in about five minutes, and lastly from ten to fifteen. Mr. Blyth found eight to twelve doses requisite, and these extended over fourteen to sixteen days. Now as to the reasons. Did the doses of chloroform cure? doubtless they did so indirectly. Some of the cows that were off their food before, as soon as the effects of the chloroform had passed off got up and were ravenous and others, which gave forth a constant low moaning which lasted upon them for hours, in about ten minutes ceased to moan, the moaning, I conceive, was but the outward expression of inward pain, and pain we know chloroform by its narcotic effects instantly stills. But what caused their appetite to return so quickly? simply, I think, the suspension of the active principle of evil, that was at work within, by which means nature recovered her failing powers, and all for the time went well again. But it was only for a time, the fever, it seems, returned in 12, 24, or 48 hours (as this the nature of the fever?) then Mr. Blyth chloroformed again, and at last the fever found its master and left altogether. Mr. Blyth also states he fed his cows on oatmeal gruel, linseed tea, &c., &c., easily digestible food, by which means he was told they were kept from scouring. But was that the reason? Was it not rather that the chloroform suspended the action of the poisonous matter which is the cause of the purging, purging being simply natural elimination process to get rid of the poison out of the system. Now, whether the poison be generated by the body itself, or be imported into it, matters not; poison inhaled or engendered is the cause of all that follows, so that that point may still be left an open question. The only point I am now insisting on is whether the above is the true scientific explanation of the process of cure. It is certainly very much such a result as might be expected from the well-known effects of chloroform. There is instantaneous

action and instantaneous relief, and the relief comes in two ways—there is not only arrest of the action of evil, but there is also reaction for good; for I learn from another source that profuse perspiration follows inhalation, and I have all along held that cutaneous action is one of the first requisites. It seems, therefore, to me that chloroform cures in both these ways, in stopping evil and assisting nature to work her own cure, by opening the pores of the skin, the safety-valve of the system, so that the poisonous gas may escape before it has done its deadly work.

Mr. Priddison remarked that he had tried chloroform on a heifer but the animal died, and that subsequently he treated a cow, but he was obliged to have her killed. It would have been a satisfaction to know in what stage of the disease the chloroform was administered, and whether it was administered properly; and also whether and how often it was repeated. If I am right in saying the main use of chloroform is to suspend the action of evil, it must be borne in mind that the disease may have got too much ahead for nature to recover herself, and restore her depressed vital force. Mr. Blyth, I observe, calls the disease in his cows fever, just as Mr. Woods calls the prevailing disease in sheep fever. Would it be better to call the disease fever and not *Rinderpest*, which word now, like cholera, frightens a good many nervous people; but perhaps, after all, that's the intention of it—to name by wit, and laugh to find it gain."

Pig-Feeding.

"Under proper management," says the Editor of the *London Field* in reply to a correspondent, "pig feeding will be found profitable even though we have to purchase the food. As to the particular mixture best adapted for growing and fattening pigs, much depends upon the state of the markets. There are one or two articles, however, that may be specially alluded to, because they are not generally known. The first of these is the comparatively new food, palm nut meal, obtained from grinding the African palm nut kernels, which are extremely rich in fatty matter; the whole nuts contain between 55 and 60 per cent., and of this upwards of one-third remains in the meal. This fatty matter is quite solid at ordinary temperature, and much resembles lard in appearance, and is almost identical in composition with butter. The influence of such an ingredient on the health and growth of a young animal is very marked. All our natural foods are rich in such materials. The value of milk as an article of nutriment greatly depends upon the presence of the fatty globules and the saccharine principle, both of which are largely represented in this meal. Of course it is necessary that the flesh-forming element, the nitrogenous compounds, should be present, in order that a food may be complete as aliment for growing animals. We have in palm-nut meal as much nitrogen as is found in good barley meal, and, lastly, we have no more woody fibre (useless insoluble matter) than in the best linseed cake. Our opinion on the value of this for pigs is not merely theoretical; if so, it would be entitled to no weight. Analytical results are not always a safe criterion as to feeding value. Two descriptions of food may appear by this test equally nourishing, and yet the results may differ widely in consequence of mechanical differences rendering one more digestible. The value of this meal has been proved by practical experience, both as carried out by ourselves and others. We remember one very striking case, in which the pigs (porkers) were being fed on a mixture of ground wheat and palm-nut meal. The former fell short, and in the interval before more could be obtained the pigs got nothing but the meal. They improved in so marked a manner that the gentleman determined to finish them off with nothing but the palm meal, which he did most successfully. Now, it is our belief that a handful of this meal distributed through the wash and grains on which stores are commonly fed would produce a marked effect and be found a cheap addition. Although comparatively a new article, having been introduced about two years, the demand is so considerable and the supply so limited that it is with difficulty customers are supplied. This difficulty has lately been increased by the loss of a large quantity of kernels at sea. The meal is made by A. M. Smith and Co., Liverpool, and the present price is £7 a ton.

Another article that might be more frequently used is Indian corn which, when good, is capital pig food, especially suited to growing animals. When this article can be bought at from £6 5s. to £6 15s. a ton it will do. Some give it raw, throwing the corn down on the floor—a bad plan, as the hard skin is

very indigestible. Others cook it first, which is better; but the best of all is to grind it fine and mix it with other materials. Barley, when low, should form the staple of our mixtures. The store must live principally on offal and natural food. It is doubtful policy to cook much for store pigs; at any rate the food should be given cold. If we have potatoes or other roots they may be steamed or boiled. The pigs should find great part of their food in the fields. When well rung they may be turned out in grass or clover, folded if necessary, and night and morning receive a small quantity of their food. They are thus kept growing, and are far more likely to do well than if always confined. Mangolds in summer are excellent food for store pigs. It may not be generally known that the pig prefers his food sour to sweet—so far convenient that we may mix up any quantity of stuff without fear of waste. The art of breeding and feeding is to keep the store always improving, never allowing it to get into the hungry, hollow-bellied beast which most have seen. A small quantity of extra food, say 8lb. to 10lb. weekly, will keep the pig thriving. The improvement in the animal and the value of the manure will leave a good return for the money."

Pigs—Success in Raising.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Prairie Farmer* gives the following experience about raising pigs:—"Your correspondent wants to know what is the matter with his pigs that they all die, and particularly the best first. I had the same trouble for years while I kept sows in pens and fed exclusively on corn. I got almost discouraged in trying to raise pigs. One sow was kept until she had one hundred and twenty-seven and she did not raise twenty-five in all that time.

"A few years since in building a new barn-yard fence, my pig-pen interfered so I pulled it down, intending to rebuild it at some future time. In the meantime I allowed my hogs the range of a four acre clover lot in summer with use of the barn-yard and straw stack summer and winter. I fed a few beets in winter, and most of the corn fed to them went through my neat cattle. I have also reduced the Suffolk in the stock with a cross of the Chester white. And now I have no trouble in raising pigs, and my neighbors compliment my hogs and ask what breed they are of, &c., &c.

"I never allow my hogs to root a great while at a time; sometimes I cut the nose and sometimes I ring with wire. Could I have a ring where both ends would turn in the snout I should prefer it to cutting, as when cut young they sometimes grow up, and when re-cut break out at one side."

DOGS—PROTECTION TO SHEEP.—A. A. Stewart, DeGraffe, Ohio, writes to the Farmers' Club that he is satisfied that no dog law, however stringent it may be, will ever be properly enforced. Therefore farmers must seek remedies from some other source. He states that three remedies have been employed with good success in his vicinity, which are powder and lead, strychnine, and fox hounds. The last mentioned I consider the most effective. A pair of active, pure-blooded fox-hounds can be trained so that they will be a terror to all straggling curs that may come within their reach. By their scent they detect the presence of a cur at a great distance; and one note of their music is sufficient to send the wandering thief flying homeward, perfectly terrified. We have kept fox-hounds for twelve years past, and have never lost a sheep by sheep-killing dogs. I have never known a fox-hound, after he was one year old, kill a sheep.—I allude only to pure-blooded fox-hounds. Any mongrel cur will prove to be a sneaking, contemptible sheep-thief.

GOOD GROWTH.—Mr. E. B. Perry, of Rhode Island, is interested in the recent statements from our correspondents as to the weight of young cattle, and says he has a Short-Horn bull calf, four months old May 4th, which weighed on that day 418 pounds, and measured 4 feet 6 inches in girth. On the 30th of April he weighed 396 lbs., thus gaining 22 lbs. in 4 days, or 5½ lbs. per day; and "if any one has a calf of either sex that girths more, weighs heavier or grows faster, in proportion to age," Mr. P. would be glad to get the figures.—*Country Gentleman*.

FIVE LAMBS AT A BIRTH.—The *Berlin Telegraph* says:—A ewe, the property of Mr. Ephraim Wilson, jr., about four miles from Berlin, gave birth a few weeks ago we are told, to five lambs!—three black and two white. They were all born dead and the ewe died shortly after giving birth to them.