

bird's cattle were taken sick about two weeks after the calf was brought there, and in about ten or fifteen days died. This section of the town has become entirely depopulated of its cattle.

The examination.

The examinations made on Saturday were in this neighborhood—the first on the farm of Mr. Alden Olmstead. As we passed up the road, but few cattle were seen. Arriving at the farm of Mr. Olmstead they found a herd of fourteen, out of which two had already been killed and seven died. Besides these were four spring calves. The cattle were tied up in the barn awaiting examination. They were feeding, and, to the common observer, there was nothing particular indicating disease. Some of them stood with their backs slightly arched, and their heads drooping a little. What was more observable, on a closer examination, was a certain unnatural expression of the eye, which was slightly glazed and dull, as if the animal was suffering from pain. Otherwise the herd looked well, most of them in good order, and some of them, apparently, in perfect condition. They were all condemned.

The examination is made by sounding the lungs. This is done by rapping with the fingers on the ribs, just back of the withers and near the back bone. If the animal is untouched by the disease, they are resonant, but if the distemper has fastened upon them, they give back a dull sound. Some idea of the extent of these enlargements may be formed by the lungs of one cow, which should have weighed four pounds, but were so much enlarged that they weighed sixteen pounds, filling the cavity completely, and adhering to the pleura.

One cow was led out by the side of one of the "graves." By her stood a man with a sledge-hammer. A crack on the head brought the animal down, the throat was cut, and the hot blood poured into the pit. The surgeons laid bare the lungs and took them out. They were swollen, discolored, and in portions filled with pus, showing an advanced stage of the disease.

Another cow was taken up, in which the surgeons had not detected the disease after a careful examination, although she had of course been exposed. On taking out the lungs they were found comparatively healthy, but wanting in the natural *crepitus*, and with a slight discoloration on the edge, showing the incipient stages of the disease. This animal had a strong constitution, which had resisted the distemper thus far. Another had been attacked, but was thought by the owner to have recovered. The left lung was discolored, and adhered to the diaphragm, but the right lung, as is usual in cases of this kind, was badly diseased, having adhered to the sac. A marked case was a greyish cow which had produced two calves, twins, one of which had died of the disease. The cow was found to be slightly diseased, it having been transferred in a measure to the calves. When the calf was led along he breathed with difficulty, and on examination it was found to be a very bad case.

The Commissioners next proceeded to Mr. Leonard Stoddard's, the farm where the disease first was known. Three were killed here. They were all found diseased. This ended the examinations for the day.

The examinations and explanations by the veterinary surgeons were very minute, and the explanations intelligent. Everything throwing light upon the disease in its different stages of development was examined, and specimens of the lungs were reserved in nearly all the cases. Their investigations will throw much light upon the disease, and though they cannot aid in curing what is incurable, they will apprise the public of the dangers to be apprehended from it, and prepare them for some measures for its extinction.

The number killed, their cost, etc.

The method by which the Commissioners proceed is as follows: whenever there