

Such data must be considered in its bearing on the industry surrounding captive foxes, and given its proper weight when dealing with protective problems.

*General Considerations in the Prevention of Infectious Diseases.*—It has been my effort throughout in the preparation of this report, to point out some of the underlying principles which will prevent the introduction of infectious disease, rather than to enter the field of dealing with the treatment by drugs or otherwise, of every disorder to which the fox is heir. Such descriptions, to my mind, would only increase the uncertainty concerning the disorder or the method of treatment which should be adopted.

For these reasons I have considered it wise to give a great deal of attention to the location, construction, and protection of the ranch. The dead lines will effectively prevent the spread of infectious disease from pen to pen unless the infection is carried by the keeper. I have personally observed keepers passing from a pen in which worms had been found in the deposited excreta, directly to another pen without giving any attention to the cleansing of his boots, which would carry thousands of eggs. This seems to me to be an unwarranted chance where such valuable animals are concerned and, as had already been stated, such verminous infestation should be eliminated from the adult and the ranch. The value of the animals warrants this step being taken. A simple inexpensive precaution is that of having extra rubbers for the keeper, as these can easily be cleansed and disinfected.

On account of the dangers which may attend the promiscuous visiting of ranches by curious strangers, I believe that it would prove a wise precaution to permit them to view the foxes from a point of vantage that will eliminate the danger of introducing infection. If necessary, it would, in my opinion, be an economical procedure to build a suitable observation walk that could be sprinkled with a suitable disinfectant. Visitors introduce a hazardous factor which should be provided for to the fullest extent.

*Malignant Growths, Tumours, Cancer.*—Such growths have been found in a number of foxes examined at the laboratory under my charge. At the moment I cannot suggest the significance which should be placed on their occurrence, or the danger that may be anticipated. The subject of cancer has, within the past few years, received a great deal of attention from various investigators. The most recent work seems to indicate that diet may play an important part in its occurrence. In a number of experiments it has been shown that the experimental cancer has failed to grow when the series of animals was given a restricted diet, while another series allowed a liberal dietary was severely affected. It has not been possible to secure full details of the cases among foxes coming to our notice in routine laboratory work. I merely mention their existence to indicate a possible danger from this source which will naturally increase with the domestication of the fox.

#### XII.—TREATMENT OF DISEASES.

I have already pointed out that disorders should be dealt with by some person (preferably a veterinarian) skilled in the diagnosis of disease among animals, and in the use of drugs. With foxes, as with other animals and the human being, proprietary remedies should be regarded with suspicion as they are liable, in inexperienced hands, to do more harm than good. The manufacturers of specifics are anxious to sell their goods, and it is but natural that they should consider their particular formulæ specifics for the disorders described in their literature and booklets.

In my opinion drugs should only be used when the symptoms indicate the necessity, and then only under skilled direction. In diseased conditions we know of but few specifics, and these are of such a powerful nature that the greatest care must be exercised in their administration.

All disorders should be treated from the symptomatic standpoint after a correct diagnosis, and never given a drug on a chance shot, save in extreme cases.