

task sometimes, but one in which the tact or clumsiness of the attendants has ample opportunities to become manifest. For "when two do the same thing, it is by no means the same thing." Always teach a nurse that a child cannot swallow so long as the spoon is between the teeth; that it is advisable to depress the tongue a brief moment, and withdraw the spoon at once, and that now and then a momentary compression of the nose is a good adjuvant. That it is necessary to improve the taste as much as possible need not be repeated. Syrup will turn sour in warm weather, glycerine and saccharin keep; the taste of quinine is corrected by coffee (infusion or syrup), chocolate, and "elixir

simplex," a teaspoonful of which, when mixed each time before use, suffices to disguise one decigramme—one and a half grains—of sulphate of quinia. Powders must be thoroughly moistened; unless they be so, the powder adhering to the fauces is apt to produce vomiting. Capsules and wafers are out of the question, because of their sizes; pills, when gelatine-coated, or otherwise pleasant and small, are taken by many. The rectum and nose can be utilized for the purpose of administering medicines in cases of trismus, cicatricial constriction, or obstreperousness. Both of these accessories it may become necessary to resort to for weeks in succession.

STATE MEDICINE

Anthrax.

The recurrence of anthrax in the Guelph district at an earlier period than usual this year, again brings this disease into prominent notice.

In the Annual Report of the Privy Council's Agricultural Department for 1887, anthrax returns were published for the first time and they showed the disease much more prevalent in Britain than was before supposed. Formerly supposed by many to develop especially under certain atmospheric conditions, the returns show that this idea is not borne out by facts since the quarterly returns show 56, 58, 61, and 61 outbreaks respectively. Another popular notion was that it was confined to certain low-lying districts, more particularly the fens of Lincoln, etc.; but the returns for 1887 show it to have been more prevalent in some other countries. The statistics do not confirm popular notions regarding the influence of soil and climate upon the development of the disease.

During 1887, 57 counties reported *re* anthrax: 38 in England, 1 in Wales, and 12 in Scotland. Of 236 outbreaks reported, 213 occurred in England, 1 in Wales, and 22 in Scotland; and of 636 animals affected, 581 were in England, 6 in Wales, and 49 in Scotland. Only 43 animals recovered, while 515 died, 61 were slaughtered, and 17 remained alive at end of year.

Anthrax is not, like pleuro-pneumonia, limited to one species of animals, but may be seen in all the animals of the farm, including the horse, and may be communicated to them by the human subject.

It would appear that carnivora are almost exempt. The animals attacked were 451 cattle, 37 sheep, and 184 pigs. The greater number of cattle attacked indicates a much greater susceptibility on their part to the virus of this malady than is the case with horses and swine. When horses or swine have become affected it is usually after some cattle or sheep have died from the disease, and accidental inoculation or contamination of food or water with the blood of diseased animals are considered the usual means of communication to the horse, while the consumption of the flesh, blood, or offal of the affected cattle or sheep, is the common mode of its transmission to the pig. As illustrative of the crude ideas which are held in districts where the disease is rare, regarding its nature, the following outbreak near Chelmsford at end of January, may be described:—"As frequently happens in such cases, the disease was first discovered by the death of an animal which had apparently been well only a few hours before. The whole of the cattle on the farm were then bled and some medicine administered; but these measures coupled with the post-mortem examination and exposure of unburied carcasses, only spread the infection more rapidly, and death after death occurred in quick succession, until the owners fearing they would lose the whole herd, slaughtered seventeen healthy cattle and removed six others to another farm at some distance, leaving only three lean cows on the premises where the outbreak took place. Of the six cows removed to the other farm, five died.