

VACCINE VARIOLA—COW POX.

Henry Stewart writes to the *Rural New Yorker*: One of the most annoying diseases to which cows are subject, is pox, or variola. It would be trifling in words to say that it is a disease which it affects the teats and renders milking difficult, or almost impossible; and that when it appears in a herd it goes thro' the whole of it. The disease is an eruptive, contagious fever, communicated by a special virus reproduced by the disease. The history of the disease is as follows:

When the owner of a cow thinks the disease has come, that she is uneasy and restless, and on searching for the cause may find one or more hard nodules in the skin of the teat, which are painful to the cow when pressed. The milk also falls off somewhat in quantity. In a few days these nodules appear at the surface in small, reddish, minute spots on the teats, somewhat raised above the skin, and depressed or pitted in the center. In three or four days the spots are found to contain liquid matter, and, if care is not taken, are broken and may become raw sores which are difficult to heal, which, in fact, sometimes result very disastrously end even fatal.

By hand the contained liquid becomes a thick, yellowish pus which dries into a scab, and this in time becomes loose and falls off, being replaced by newly-formed skin. When one case is out of the way another appears, and in a herd of twenty or more it may spread through the entire mass in less than a week. During the progress of the disease the udder is inflamed and tender, and the teats are quite painful when pressed; so much so that milking in the usual manner is impossible. Because it is then had to milking tubes which are made of silver and carefully inserted into the teat, being lubricated with lard or sweet oil to prevent irritation of the lining membrane of the cow. The milk flows through the tube and the udder is easily drained dry without any inconvenience to the animal.

The disease is readily communicated to mankind and to horses, and spreads from cow to cow, being usually conveyed by the milk of whose hands and clothing soon become infected with the virus. The matter contained in the vesicles is to the touch like a grain of sand, inciting persons as an antidote to the more dreadful and virulent small-pox, and in its effects upon mankind occasions no worse disturbance than the slight fever, and sometimes glandular swellings incident to the operation of vaccination. The virus will often remain permanently in a stable, and will infect the next which comes to milk in it, to continue the disease. What this is to continue to the case the virus should be thoroughly disinfected by burning sulphur in it very liberally, by sprinkling carbolic acid freely over the floors, and by thoroughly white-washing the walls and the stable and other furniture.

The treatment of the disease is very simple. If no persons are used to prevent the rupture or forcible removal of the vesicles and scabs before the contained matter has dried and hardened. This is best done by the use of the milking tubes and by softening the teats and allaying the irritation by cooling, emollient applications, such as the simple cerate of the druggist or the prepared emollient jelly which is a safe and emollient antiseptic, leaving a protection from petroleum. The only medicine required is a daily dose of one ounce of hyposulphite of soda in the feed, given as long as the eruption lasts. The same may be given to the other cows or heifers in the dairy or stable as preventative of or a means of very much lightening the attack upon them. During the continuance of the disease the effect upon the milk is either imperceptible or very light. When at the first outset the udder becomes hard and inflamed, the milk curdles prematurely and will often thicken if brought to a heat of 150 degrees. There will sometimes be white specks in the butter caused by the congealing of portions of the milk, and removed by the presence of a great number of bubbles. There is nothing in the milk that would indicate that the cow was illing in any way. Nevertheless, as the disease is a blood disease and the blood has been subjected to the action of a special virus by which the disease has been produced, and as the milk is a direct product from the blood, it is at least subject to suspicion and should not be used by persons who are particular to the purity and wholesome character of their food, which they are wise in demanding should be above suspicion.

The duration of the disease is from ten to twenty days, and if the cow is kept warm and free from exposure to rain and inclement weather, no complication is likely to occur. In some cases the disease passes off with a very slight eruption, and is followed by the presence of a great number of bubbles. There is nothing in the milk that would indicate that the cow was illing in any way. Nevertheless, as the disease is a blood disease and the blood has been subjected to the action of a special virus by which the disease has been produced, and as the milk is a direct product from the blood, it is at least subject to suspicion and should not be used by persons who are particular to the purity and wholesome character of their food, which they are wise in demanding should be above suspicion.

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DISEASE AND WORRY.—Medical men are beginning to make a pathological estimate of "worry" as a factor in the production of downright acute disease, and of those slow, chronic disorders of function which chiefly wear out the human frame. Dr. L. M. Granville has a paper on the subject in the *Popular Medical Magazine*. He makes the point that it is worth much more careful attention and closer analysis in its psychological and physiological aspects than the doctors have so far given it. The immortal old proverb, "Care kills a cat," which is reputed to have nine lives, is true as gospel, and its common recognition shows that homely wits have long since estimated well at its proper value. The name of "liver bear" for the proverb's sake, too, for "worry" and "worry" have the same identical root. Worry, as the physicians should never forget, while it is most obviously and often the effect of physical disorders, can be, and is nearly as often their cause. The state of mind and body in which one is liable to be easily worried, vexed and annoyed, is as much a cause of disease as is produced by actual vexations, worries, harassments, cares, and solicitudes, which end by breaking down the nervous system to such a degree as to make worry their constant, chronic condition. If medical science can ever attain such a degree of perfection as to enable us to "take arms against a sea of troubles" and not end them by combatting (for the time being) an enemy lurking in, but to steel ourselves against them so as to become magnificently indifferent to the assault, it will have achieved half of the great object of medicine as a science—the prevention of disease. Religion and philosophy are both unequal to cope with worry—let the M. D.'s now try their hands at it.—*Bulletin*.

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