

FOOT-AND-MOUTH

There was reference in the January number of *Homœopathy* to the sad and serious situation caused by foot-and-mouth disease among cattle and farm stock in this country, which apparently has to be dealt with by the wholesale slaughter of infected animals.

Drastic measures do at times achieve success. Stern segregation of lepers, rigid isolation of sufferers from smallpox, relentless quarantine regulations for dogs, have all proved of great value in limiting or virtually wiping out the spread of leprosy, small pox and rabies in this country.

But it is disturbing that, in spite of the stern measures adopted, *The Times* has to report on December 31, 1960: "The foot-and-mouth disease situation is not clearing up as quickly as could be expected, said a statement yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture. During the past week there had been a disappointing increase in outbreaks".

In view of this unsatisfactory state of affairs and bearing in mind the undoubted value of the nosode preparations in relation to various types of infective disease, for instance distemper in young dogs, a recent communication from no less an authority than Dr. Pierre Schmidt of Geneva is of very great interest.

Success in Switzerland

Dr. Schmidt reports on the "success of a nosode in Switzerland". He relates that in a very bad outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in certain areas of Switzerland in 1960 a veterinary "pupil" of his has had "magnificent results" with homœopathic prophylactic treatment of cattle.

On one farm there were about 50 animals infected with the disease, while a similar number on a neighbouring farm were not infected. The latter were given the appropriate nosode in ascending potencies, a dose night and morning of 30 c, 200 c and 1 m c on three consecutive days. In addition to these six doses, administered in "a glassful of water", NITRICUM ACIDUM 6 c was added to the water in the drinking trough.

The use of NITRICUM ACIDUM is analogous to the use of, say BELLA-DONNA in the prophylaxis of scarlet fever, for the symptoms induced by this drug in provings bear a close similarity to those of foot-and-mouth disease.

What is of self-evident importance is the further statement that *none of the animals treated in this way developed the disease although they were dosed and looked after by the same cowmen who cared for the infected herd.*

Need of Open Minded Study

An occurrence such as this is too striking to be passed up; and it is to

(Continued on page 571)

For the benefit of the readers of your esteemed Journal, the relevant information can be published in any form liked by your goodself. With many thanks.

Bhumananda

REMEDIES FOR LUMBAGO

(Continued from page 562)

Serious diseases affecting the spinal bones like cancer and other tumours (some removable) tuberculosis (curable nowadays) blood disorders, softening of the bones, spondylitis, arthritis, aneurysms, must be eliminated. Even a gastric or duodenal ulcer situated on the posterior wall can sometimes cause severe pain only in the back. Because of these possibilities I strongly deprecate amateur manipulations of the spine, which in tuberculosis for instance might lead to permanent damage with paralysis.

Careful manipulation by a trained osteopath after X-ray examination is another matter and some acute lumbago cases have been given dramatic relief by this means. Where disc displacement is massive however, manipulation is dangerous because of possible damage to the delicate tissues of the spinal cord, and open operation may, though rarely, be necessary.

With knowledge of the few remedies listed one can do a great deal for acute lumbago, and the cases that resist this simple and safe medical treatment can be considered for manipulation after an X-ray.

Homœopathy, Feb., '61

FOOT-AND-MOUTH

(Continued from page 563)

be hoped that members of the veterinary profession who are concerned with this pressing problem and allied challenges will look into the Swiss experience with open minds.

Dr. Schmidt wisely suggests that it would be a good plan to make fresh nosode potencies each year because of possible variation in the strain of the "genus epidemicus". As he says, saliva from infected animals in the regions where the disease is still rife could be used.

An interesting feature of this report is that the means used as a prophylactic was orally administered, thus eliminating the expense, the fiddle-faddle, and the risks inseparable from the injection method—a considerable gain though albeit a subsidiary one.

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