THE FARMER.

Hog Diseases.

During the last year or more a very destructive epizootic has prevailed among the hogs throughout considerable portions of the Ohio Valley. From the sudden and great fatality which attends the disease, and its similarity, in som respects, to the cholera in the human family, it has been called the hog cholera or plague.

It is a little remarkable that when such imense numbers of valuable animals have been so suddenly swept off by this disease, that so few men of science have taken upon themselves the duty to investigate its cause and character, with a view to find out a remedy or preventive.

The accounts that have reached us of this disease, have generally been confined to the hogs fed at distilleries, but whether it had its origin in these establishments or not, we have no authentic information. That fatal diseases should originate among swine, kept as they are at these places, is not at all to be wondered at; the wonder is that they are not more frequent. But whether this disease had its origin in the distilleries or not, it has not been confined to them alone, for it has prevailed on many of the neighboring farms throughout the infected districts, and large numbers of valuable animals have been lost by it.

The only description of the character of this disease, that has reached us, is from the pen of George Sutton, we presume an M. D., of Aurora, Ind., which appeared in a late number of the Cincinnati Gazette. He appears to have made quite a thorough investigation by repeated examinations of the internal organs of the diseased animals, and finds that their appearances are various, as the symtoms are different. From an examination of forty seven hogs that died of this disease, he scarcly found two that presented precisely the same appearance.

We have not the space to give the full details of these examinations, but we will furnish our readers the most important facts, with some suggestions touching the means of prevention and cure.

So far as information has been received by Mr Sutton, that disease has prevailed in Indiana in the counties of Ohio, Switzerland, Ripley, and Dearborn. In Ohio in the counties of Montgomery, Butler, Hamilton and Clinton. In Kentucky in the counties of Kenton, Boon and Gallatin. We have heard of some instances where it has extended to the interior among a considerable number of farmers.

To give an idea of the number of hogs that have died, the losses at the following places are stated: At Ingraham's distillery from the 1st of August to the 24th of October, 1,285 had died. At the distillery in Petersburg, Ky., since the 18th of October, 2,576. Mr. Pate, of Rising Sun, lost 500; Mr. Slumer, of Covington, 500, Messrs. Gaff, of Aurora, 4,546. At New Richmond, since the disease made its appearance, 10,435 have died, and in the vicinity of Aurora, 6,000 have died, making an aggregate; so far as accounts have been received, of 60,000 hogs, valued at $300,000 and when fatted would have been worth $650,000.

From experiments made at Aurora, it is stated that the disease is more violent upon hogs that are fed on dry corn than those fed on slop. The average number that died in the pens, that had been fed on slop, was from 33 to 55 per cent. The avarage number fed upon corn, that died, is put down at from 60 to 75 per cent.

It is proved that the disease is contagious, and that the latest period of contagion is about thirteen days. It is also ascertained that the pens in which diseased hogs have been in will retain the infection, in warm weather, for more than four days, and probably from ten to twenty. Another very important fact has been ascertained: that a hog is not subject to the disease but once. Not an instance has been noticed where one has been attacked the second time.

In one instance, one hundred hogs were put into a pen by themselves and fed on corn and water for thirty days during which time they all remained well. They were then put into pens with diseased hogs, and in fourteen days the disease made its appearance among them. Dr. Sutton innoculated eight hogs with blood from diseased parts of hogs that had died of this disease; in fourteen days they were all unwell, and one died, and all died within a week of each other, with the exception of one, which recovered.

Although this disease proves so infectious to hogs, it seems very conclusive that it cannot be communicated to the human system. While dissecting the diseased hogs, Dr. Sutton several times wounded his hands, which readily healed without any extraordinary inflamation, and the men who were constantly at work among them were not affcted by the disease.

As a preventative, it is suggested that, diseased hogs should at once be separated from the healthy ones, and when disease is prevaling in a neighborhood, farmers should keep there hogs from runing at large, as the disease has been clearly traced in extending from farm to farm.

To destroy the infection in a pen, it is recommended that the parts be well washed with a strong solution of sulphate of iron, nitrate of lead, or sprinkled with chloride of lime.

As a remedy, ladanum and linseed oil is recommended, when the disease asumes the form of diarrhœa or dysentary. Some farmers speak highly of a solution of soap, in which sulpher is mixed.

Mr. Rann, residing in Ripley county, Indiana, states that he lost a large number of hogs with the disease last fall. He drove the remainder of his stock into a neighboring creek, and made them swim about in the water, and fed them in the water, and that, after receiving this treatment, the sick hogs rapidly recovered, and he lost no more.

Light upon this subject, can only be obtained by intelligent, careful and thorough examination; and we hope that wherever the disease occurs, persons qualified for the task, will thoroughly investigate it and give us the result.—If the same pains had been taken in every neighborhood where the disease has appeared, that Dr. Sutton has taken, much valuable information could have been derived, which would prove of vast importance to the public.—[Valley Farmer.

Poultry.

Nearly every family can, with very little trouble, have eggs in plenty during the whole year; and of all the animals domesticated for the use of man, the common dunghill fowl is capable of yielding the greatest profit to the owner.

The Hen-House should be warm in winter, well ventilated in summer, white-washed and kept clean. Roosts of sassafrass poles are less infested with lice. Have no ground floor. Supply slacked lime, fine gravel or ashes, or burnt oyster shells, &c.

Feeding. They will sing over Indian corn with more animation than any other grain The hen must have secrecy and mystery about her nest, watch her and she will forsake her nest and stop laying.

[This is not always the case. We have known hens to come into the kitchen, when permited, and lay upon the mats, or in the wood-box.]—Ed. Valley Farmer.

They eat less, if allowed to help themselves to what they want, than if fed in the usual way, for, in the latter case, each tries to get as much as it can, and thus burdens itself; but finding in the former case, that they have an abundance they eat but little, and the generality in the morning early, and in the evening before going to roost.

A farmer may keep an hundred fowls in his barn, may suffer them to trample upon and destroy his mows of wheat and other grain, and still have fewer eggs than the cottager who keeps a single dozen, who provides secret nests, chalk eggs, pounded brick, plenty of Indian corn, a few oats, lime water and gravel, for them; and who takes care that his hens are not disturbed about there nests. Three chalk eggs in a nest are better than a single nest egg, and large eggs please them.

A single dozen of fowls, properly attended, will furnish a family with more than 2000 eggs a year, and 100 full-grown chickens for fall and winter stores. The expense of feeding the dozen fowls, will not amount to 18 bushels of corn. They may be kept in cities as well as in the country, and will do as well shut up the year round as to run at large, with proper care.

A Fact.—Eggs the nearest to roundness, produce females, and those pointed at one end, always produce males.

For Fattening.—Boiled Indian corn, wheat and barley, are better than oats, rye or buckwheat. One-third is gained by boiling.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

Killing Rats.—This is at any time a disagreeable business. If you are successful, the dead rats decay in their hiding places, and diffuse a horrid and almost pestilential stench; and the presence of active poisons on the premises, is not without danger to other animals, and to children. But if the due precaution is used in these respects, or if you are willing to run these risks, the spring is a good time to destroy rats; they are hungry now, for food is scarce; besides, in killing them now, you prevent there increase for the year. Any one of the following poisons may be used:

Take of hog's lard and of carbonate, baryta enough of each; mix well togather. Smear the mixture on the inside of a pot or kettle, and place it inverted, so high from the floor that the rats can gat under, but so that cats and dogs cannot get at it. The rats like the lard. The baryta is without odor, and is a powerfull poison.

Another poison: Take of orpiment or king's yellow, one ounce, and of lard, four ounces. Mix well, and use as above, or spread it on bread.

Another still: Get some good strychnia; mix a little of it with Indian meal, or rub a little on small bits of cheese, and place it where the rats can find it.

The use of one, or all of these poisons for a time, will thin out the rats.—[Ohio Farmer.

Horn Ail in Cattle.—Take a piece of alum as large as a walnut, pulverize it and put it into about a wine glass full of sharp vinegar—turn up the head, and pour it into one ear. In two or three days pour the same quantity in the other ear. A third application is seldom necessary.

Domestic Yeast.—Boil one pound of good flour; a quarter of a pound of brown sugar, and a little salt, with two gallons of water for one hour. When milk warm, bottle it and cork it close. It will be fit for use in twenty-four hours. One pint of this yeast will make eighteen pounds of bread.

Greese Spots may be removed from books, gloves, cloth, and all other fabrics, by rubbing with a piece of new fine flannel soaked in benzoil, which is for sale at any druggist's.

Furniture Polish.—Mix together a pint of mastic varnish and a pint of pale, boiled linseed oil. It is to be rubbed on the furniture with a piece of soft linen or flannel.

Prairie Farmer

FOR 1857—VOL. 17.

A WEEKLY FAMILY JOURNAL.

DEVOTED TO

Western Agriculture, Horticulture, Mechanics, Education, Literature, Markets, and General News.

EDITED BY

CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

JOHN A. KENNICOTT, Corres'ing Editor

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THE KNICKERBOCKER MAGAZINE.

Edited by Louis Gaylord Clark.

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