

cul. At times the swelling may appear at other parts of the body than a fore or hind quarter; the neck, breast, loin, or flank may exhibit it. The skin of the swollen part is tense, and on passing the hand over it with a light pressure a peculiar crackling is noted, this being due to the tissues beneath being distended with gas. Before the swelling becomes established lameness is noted, and indications of sickness make their appearance. Death occurs quickly in from two to three days from the appearance of the earliest symptoms, and often even earlier. It may be noted that, if the swollen part were cut into, the tissues under the skin would be found to contain a quantity of dark, soft, brownish-red material, while the muscles beneath are very dark-coloured, in places almost black.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

In affected areas any calf showing lameness should be at once isolated and carefully watched. Medicinal treatment, from a curative point of view, is of little or no value, and the one effective measure is prevention. A calf dead from blackleg, or suspected to have died from the disease, should never be skinned, but should with the least possible delay be deeply buried, or burned, with the skin intact. This will lessen the risk of infection of the surrounding soil. At the time of death a little blood, which is very infective, may come away from the nostrils or the anus. A good fire should be burned over the spot where death occurred, and this, if done properly, will ensure safety so far as infection of the soil is concerned.

Apart from these precautionary and preventive measures necessary to be carried out by the farmer, a thoroughly effective means of preventing the occurrence of the disease lies in the inoculation of young cattle with a properly prepared vaccine. This has proved most valuable in Taranaki, and now that it has become necessary to enforce vaccination in the Auckland District there can be no doubt but that it will be equally effective there. The vaccine is prepared at the Wallaceville Veterinary Laboratory, and the work of vaccination is carried out by trained departmental officers, all vaccinated calves being at the same time branded on the neck with the letter "S." This is done entirely free of charge, and all that is asked of the farmer is that he brings his calves to a convenient centre for vaccination. Due notice is always given by advertisement and otherwise, so that as little inconvenience as possible is caused. The hearty co-operation and assistance of farmers in these measures is looked forward to with confidence.