

Some commonly-met-with disorders connected with the digestive system will now be considered.

CESSATION OF RUMINATION OR "LOSS OF CUD."

This trouble is merely a symptom, and may be due to any one of a number of digestive disturbances as well as other conditions. It is, nevertheless, a very important symptom, and should always receive careful observation before making a diagnosis in obscure cases.

"DROPPING THE CUD."

In this condition the bolus of food drops from the mouth before being properly masticated. It is usually due to some mouth affection or tongue injury, and is often seen in cases of actinomycosis. An examination of the mouth usually reveals the cause. One such case seen recently was found to be caused by a piece of bone becoming fixed between the molar teeth and wounding the tongue. When the cud is dropped during rumination the fact points to some form of indigestion, and the animal should receive a laxative, followed by twice-daily doses of 2 oz. of bicarbonate of soda mixed in thin gruel. Change of pasture is beneficial.

PICA.

This name has been given to the condition often seen in the cow, in which she chews various indigestible objects, such as pieces of wood, rags, leather, &c. It is a condition of depraved appetite, and is probably only a symptom of disturbance in certain metabolic (changing) processes. It is very often transient, passing off in a few days, but in cases where it persists the cow rapidly loses condition. Treatment consists of a change of feed, securing a properly balanced ration, also giving the cow a mash of bran containing salt daily for a few days, or placing rock-salt for her to lick.

In the foregoing mention of pica I am not referring to the condition which exists in various parts of the North Island of New Zealand, and to which the name of Waihi disease has been given. In this complaint cattle, together with other symptoms, show a partiality for chewing bones and wood. Both the etiology and cure of Waihi disease have been fully worked out, and it is known to be due to soil-deficiency.

TYMPANITES OF THE RUMEN.

This condition is also variously known as "hoven," "blown," "bloating," "dew-sickness," "tympanitic indigestion," &c., and is probably the most commonly observed gastric derangement of cattle. It occurs usually as an acute condition, but is occasionally seen in a chronic or recurring form. Diagnosis is easy. The left flank is enormously distended, due to gas-formation in the rumen, and is drum-like to the touch. The trouble is sudden in its development, and in acute cases may cause death in half an hour or less from asphyxia, due to interference with respiration.

The cause of tympanites, apart from mechanical obstruction of the œsophagus in choking, is due to the nature of the feed. Clover more often gives rise to it than does any other green feed. We are all familiar with the cases which occur when cattle are turned into a paddock of clover for the first time. This becomes especially