

REDWATER IN COWS IN NEW ZEALAND.

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As the term "redwater" is commonly used by our settlers to denote a certain condition in cows, and is the one most frequently employed, it will be retained in these notes. It must be pointed out, however, that in veterinary literature technical terms are used which more clearly indicate the nature and cause of the different forms of redwater, and it follows that different causes must have different treatment. This explanation will serve to prevent confusion in the minds of readers of articles dealing with this trouble in other countries, where the cause is totally different from that in New Zealand, and for which the treatment recommended is unsuitable for conditions existing here.

In New Zealand redwater is not confined to any one locality, neither is it dependent upon soil conditions, as it has been found not only upon sour, damp country, but in variations from the heaviest to the lightest of dry soil. No live agent, such as ticks, is required to introduce the trouble into the animal. Redwater may appear upon any farm in the Dominion where cows are kept, but local conditions may be favourable or unfavourable for its development; it may assume a serious aspect, or the attack be so mild as to escape observation.

PREDISPOSING CAUSES.

Local conditions have a certain determining influence upon redwater. So far as we are aware, the disease has not been observed in male animals; but even if it has been noticed, the fact stands out clearly that it is only in cows that it gives considerable trouble and sometimes loss. As already mentioned, no locality is exempt from liability to an attack, the trouble is not caused by the agency of ticks, and male animals are seldom or never attacked. The field of investigation is therefore narrowed down practically to the cow. Here the first thing which will strike the practical stockman is that the trouble is closely associated with breeding-stock, and is more frequently observed just before calving or in a few weeks thereafter. There also would appear good reason for suspecting that some cows are more susceptible than others, as evidenced by the fact that with a number of animals upon the same feed and under the same conditions some become affected and others do not. It is further observed that the trouble cannot be put down to any one kind of feed, but that it can be definitely traced to excess of one kind of feed—be that turnips or young green feed. Even then, generally, all the cows are not affected, and their bodily condition does not appear to play a very important part in the matter.

We have therefore to fall back upon the idea that some animals are more susceptible to the trouble than others. This is an important point, and should be noted by all good stockmen who are building up a herd. Animals which suffer this year should be carefully identified for observation next year, for in building up a good milking-herd it is not sufficient only to note the external general appearance for