

Even in recent days just prior to the war and with an organized veterinary staff the losses due to foot-and-mouth disease alone in European countries were immense. "In August, 1911, 37,000 outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease were recorded in Germany; in July of the same year 12,000 were recorded in Belgium, and 4,000 in Holland; in France there were 16,000, and there it was estimated that the loss would amount to over fifteen millions sterling." (Sir Stewart Stockman.)

In those earlier days before the advent of a State veterinary sanitary service it is not surprising that contagious diseases of animals should have spread from country to country, and one has only to read the theories of the etiology of what we now know to be specific contagious diseases to understand how entirely uncontrolled and, indeed, uncontrollable they appeared to be. So long as "spontaneous generation" was believed to be possible, and when mysterious miasmatic and telluric influences were thought to be all-sufficient factors in the causation of disease, preventive measures were clearly impossible.

Now, this inability to control the spread of disease coincided in point of time with a very natural desire on the part of colonists in different parts of the Empire to import high-class pedigree stock from Great Britain in order to establish purebred studs and to improve stock generally. Thus the chances of introducing into Australia and New Zealand the prevailing animal-diseases from Europe were considerable, and it is probably owing mainly to the length of the sea voyage that comparatively few of the animal scourges found their way in. On this point it has to be remembered that races of animals which have for many generations been free from any particular contagion are, generally speaking, in a highly susceptible condition should the chances of infection ever occur. This, indeed, makes it the more surprising that in the case of some of the actively contagious diseases which have been introduced into Australasia they have not spread far from the primary infected place.

The wonder is not that bovine pleuro-pneumonia was introduced into Australia in 1858 and spread over the majority of the States (Fleming, vol. 1, p. 407), but that, having been introduced into New Zealand in 1864, it did not become widespread. Equally remarkable is the fact that sheep-scab, having been introduced and spread to several of the Australian States, should have been eradicated. Again, it is surprising to learn that foot-and-mouth disease—that most contagious and most elusive disease of stock—should have been introduced into Victoria in 1872, and yet that the outbreak was confined to the initial herd, and following destruction of the entire herd, on the advice of the late Graham Mitchell, M.R.C.V.S., that it spread no further.

In the case of those diseases with long incubation periods, such as glanders in horses and rabies in dogs, it is extremely difficult to understand the immunity of Australia and New Zealand. Glanders was, indeed, introduced into Sydney in a troupe of circus-horses which had been brought over from America. On inspection at the port the existence of glanders was recognized by the late Edward Stanley, F.R.C.V.S., the affected horses were at once destroyed, and the rest of the animals quarantined on an island. But what a stroke of fortune