

that the disease should have been in a clinically recognizable form in these pre-mallein-test days! For the detection of these enemy aliens and their prompt suppression great credit is due to the early veterinarians. Even the first outbreak of contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia in Australia was diagnosed by the late Henry Wragge, M.R.V.C.S., while still confined to one herd, and slaughter of the entire herd was advised. Action was, however, delayed pending inquiry by a Royal Commission, and the delay proved fatal indeed.

One factor of importance in limiting the spread of contagion in Australia a generation ago was probably the sparseness of the cattle population and the comparatively few sales and transfers of stock as compared with conditions in Europe.

There are, unfortunately, other diseases, insidious, unknown, unsuspected at the time, which have succeeded in getting in, piroplasmiasis or tick-fever being a notable example. In this case there is no authentic information as to how and when the cattle-tick [*Margaropus australis*] was introduced into Australia, but according to the evidence collected by Gilruth it appears probable that Asiatic Brahma cattle imported from Batavia in 1872 were responsible, although the first serious mortality to be recorded was not till 1880, in a mob of cattle introduced from Queensland into the Northern Territory.

But now consider some more recent outbreaks of contagious disease in countries where the diseases were—although for the time being foreign—quite well known, and therefore more or less thoroughly guarded against. The return of army horses to the United Kingdom after the South African War coincided with an increase in the number of outbreaks and number of animals attacked with glanders, and this marked increase continued from 1901 to 1907. But, besides the dispersal of ex-army horses, another factor operated and was probably of greater importance—namely, the failure of the authorities to deal with “in-contacts” after discovering a clinical case; and the private use by the owner of the mallein test, followed by the sale and dispersal of apparently healthy reactors. Therein is a lesson which is capable of application in connection with other diseases.

A further disease of horses, epizootic lymphangitis, was introduced at the same time from South Africa, and it is highly creditable to the veterinary profession that within a year or two it had been completely eradicated and is now unknown in Great Britain. Still another example of unconscious introduction of disease into a country is furnished by New Zealand, in the case of anthrax conveyed in bone manure from India and elsewhere. The success of the practice of bone-sterilization and the freedom of the Dominion from anthrax in recent years are greatly to the credit of the veterinary staff of the Department of Agriculture and to our old friend Dr. J. A. Gilruth.

Foot-and-mouth disease has furnished many examples of unconscious introduction despite all kinds of precautions, among them an outbreak in Edinburgh some years ago, which was eventually put down to infection by means of hay or straw either intended for fodder or used for packing eggs from Holland. This latter possibility is one which is not easy to guard against, but must remain under suspicion, to be investigated whenever unexplained outbreaks occur.*