

Even more insidious was the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease virus in vaccine ("Vaccinia") lymph imported commercially into the United States from Japan in 1902 and 1903. The long period during which the vaccine remained infective, and the very mild type of foot-and-mouth disease set up, increased the difficulty of proof, and remain serious factors to be reckoned with in the importation of biological sera and vaccines from abroad. Many more recent outbreaks of this disease in Great Britain are of unexplained origin, but with the great prevalence of the disease in neighbouring countries this is not so difficult of understanding, and we in Australasia can reckon on a much greater immunity because of our much greater distance from infected places.

Another disease of some concern to us must be mentioned—namely, dourine of horses. With its pristine home in Asia, this disease has also been prevalent for a long time in North Africa, and was apparently introduced into Europe by means of Arab stallions in the early years of the nineteenth century. The disease was first suspected in the United States in 1885, and recognized by W. L. Williams in 1886. The introduction was traced to a Percheron stallion imported from France in 1882. From Illinois State the disease spread to Nebraska, and for over twenty years various outbreaks—more or less serious—were traceable to this primary importation. Canada became affected in 1904, but by strenuous measures had the disease well under control by 1909, and eventually successfully stamped it out. A fresh outbreak was discovered in the United States in 1911, in Iowa, and this in turn was traced to the importation of a Percheron stallion from France in 1909. France is being continually reinfected by the movement of stallion asses to and from Spain, where the disease is commonly prevalent.

The recent introduction of rabies into Great Britain after a period of freedom lasting many years is not difficult of explanation. The extraordinary traffic to and from the Continent during the war, and especially the home-coming of many thousands of soldiers anxious in many cases to retain canine pets and mascots, readily account for the introduction of so wily an invader as rabies. Australia and New Zealand ran considerable risk of suffering the same invasion, but the strictness of the authorities and the general good sense of officers and men returning home were successful in preventing what would have been a very serious occurrence. The veterinary authorities in Great Britain are to be congratulated on the success of the energetic policy of control and eradication, and once again Great Britain can be declared free from this disease.

The last outbreak of contagious disease to be mentioned in this group of surprise importations, and in many ways the most dramatic, is that of cattle-plague in Belgium, in August, 1920. This disease had been unknown in Western Europe since 1870. It had been the cause of the initiation of veterinary sanitary services in most European countries, and all chances of its reintroduction were thought to be well guarded against. The facts are that a cargo of zebras from British India and consigned to Rio de Janeiro touched at Antwerp, where the animals were disembarked at the quarantine station pending reshipment on another boat. Some of these animals died in the quarantine station, but no *post-mortem* examinations were made, and