cattle-plague was not suspected. The survivors were transhipped and proceeded on their voyage. Then other shiploads of cattle imported for food purposes came into Antwerp, passed through the quarantine station, and were distributed to various abattoirs. In the Ghent abattoir the disease broke out—but its real nature was still unsuspected—and then by one unfortunate happening the general spread of infection began. A consignment of German cattle sent over for reparation purposes came into the Ghent abattoir, and were then dispersed to various country districts. So the disease spread, and its real nature was discovered. The lessons to be learned are sufficiently obvious.

In addition to these more serious contagious diseases there are a number of parasitic diseases which require consideration at the hands of the State veterinary authorities. Notable examples are the conditions due to the ox-warble (*Oestrus bovis*), the sheep nasal bot (*Oestrus ovis*), and the worm nodule of cattle (*Onchocerca*). The failure of the ox-warble to become acclimatized in Australia, despite its inevitable importation in the early days and its escape from quarantine on several occasions during recent years, is not readily explained. Symons, in a paper read before the Australian Veterinary Association in Sydney last year, brings forward evidence to show that in no country in the Southern Hemisphere is the ox-warble established. On the other hand, the nearly related nasal bot-fly of sheep has got a firm hold in Australia, and is proving a source of considerable loss in lowering the condition of sheep, although it rarely causes any mortality. What are the factors which account for the different behaviour of these two parasites in a new country I am quite unable to say. In the case of *Onchocerca* it may be said that the species common in northern Australia, or nearly related species, are found in many other parts of the world. There is, however, no evidence to show that the infection is spreading southward in Australia, and in Victorian cattle, at any rate, cases are practically unknown. There, again, the life-history and the vital factors are as yet unknown.

But now the question arises, Are we, through ignorance or inertia, or both, allowing the introduction of various fresh contagious diseases of animals into our erstwhile clean country? Are we perpetrating similar disastrous errors to those committed by our forefathers? I think that with regard to at least two diseases of cattle we shall have to plead guilty—namely, contagious abortion of cattle and Johne's disease or pseudo-tubercular enteritis. With respect to the former, the mischief has already been done. We erred through ignorance in the days before definite diagnosis was readily possible. With regard to the latter, we are probably now sowing the seed—largely for want of serious concern—of a harvest whose magnitude it is impossible to assess.

About bovine tuberculosis I have said nothing, since the distribution is already practically world-wide, and also because tuberculin testing of imported cattle is practically universal. Some regulation of inter-State traffic will be called for in Australia if and when a forward movement commences in any State for the eradication of the disease. In this connection the procedure under the accredited herd system and the standardization of the tuberculin test in the United States deserve careful study.