

regarded as the greatest of good luck. Nevertheless, every precaution must be taken, although this is rendered doubly difficult by the long incubative period in rabies. An instance is on record of a dog developing the condition in England after release from a six months' quarantine. The surreptitious bringing in of dogs by servicemen, either by ship or plane, has been a worry during the war, and several dogs introduced in this way have been followed up and destroyed. Fortunately the landing of dogs from the United States for training for war purposes was obviated. As an added precaution the introduction of dogs from England was prohibited in 1944, a prohibition which will continue until some time after the war. This action followed a similar prohibition enforced by Australia.

### Horse Diseases

New Zealand has remained immune from serious horse diseases. Glanders has never occurred here, yet it was introduced to Sydney years ago in a troupe of circus horses which had been brought over from America. On inspection at the port the existence of glanders was recognised by the late Edward Stanley, F.R.C.V.S. The affected horses were destroyed, and the remainder quarantined on an island. This happened before the Mallein test had been introduced, and it was fortunate that the disease was clinically manifest—another instance of the debt due to veterinary control.

In dealing with horse diseases mention must be made of precautions taken against the introduction of enzootic encephalomyelitis, a disease which has resulted in enormous losses

in the United States of America within recent years. In 1938 no less than 184,662 cases were reported, while in 1941 reports were received of 32,872 cases and 8,210 deaths. The importation of horses into New Zealand from the United States and Canada was prohibited in 1939; the relaxation of this measure will depend on the demonstrated efficacy of immunisation, which is now largely practised in America.

### Foot-and-mouth Disease

The possible introduction to this country of foot-and-mouth disease is of outstanding significance because of the very great distribution of the disease and the numerous avenues through which the introduction of the virus is possible complicate the administration of quarantine safeguards. This responsibility has been greatly increased in recent years, when war conditions and various implications and dislocations have seriously endangered control measures.

Recent research has thrown much light on the characteristics of the virus of foot-and-mouth disease. Knowledge regarding its vitality and longevity outside the animal body has been disseminated, all undoubtedly assisting in the formulation of preventive measures, yet at the same time causing a degree of wonder at the immunity experienced by New Zealand and Australia over the years. The work of the Foot-and-mouth Research Committee in England previous to the war, published in a series of reports, included invaluable information regarding longevity of the virus on inanimate things outside the

animal body, the duration of infectivity on hay, straw, fodder, and other commodities, occurrence in the rat and hedgehog, and its vitality in the carcasses of animals slaughtered and passed for human food in the early infective state, the last-named throwing considerable light on its repeated occurrence in England, and again em-

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