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RABID ANIMALS

Last Year Showed Heavy Increase in Rabid Animals And Persons Infected.

Simple Method Suggested for Eradication of the Germs. Over 9,000 Treated for Rabies Last Year—Rabies on of the Oldest Diseases in the World

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My subject is chosen not because the disease of rabies is one of our greatest problems, nor because I have new facts to present, but because it is the one disease which, at the present time could actually be exterminated if we would but apply the knowledge we possess. We know the germ which causes it, we know the way in which it is conveyed from animal to animal or from animal to man, we know the behavior of the germ in the body and the explanation of the peculiar symptoms; we know how to give protection, and above all, we know how it may be eradicated.

Rabies is one of the oldest of recognized diseases; its peculiar symptoms and the inevitably fatal outcome have always made a powerful impression on the human imagination. Medical literature on the subject extends well beyond the Christian era and in general literature there are many references in ancient writings. There is an excellent description written by Apuleius in the second century in his *Metamorphosis*, and there are said to be references in Horace, Virgil, Ovid and Plutarch. This ancient history is exceptional, for the great scourges of the human race, like tuberculosis, bubonic plague, and influenza, if mentioned at all, can be recognized only with difficulty.

Danger of Superstition

During the hundreds of years in which rabies was recognized as a separate entity, a great mass of superstition had collected around it and remnants of this ignorance still remain in the popular mind. We all know persons who believe that a dog's bite is dangerous only in that season of the year when Sirius, the Dog Star, is in the ascendant. I have not seen a "mad-stone" in several years, but formerly I have been permitted to examine fragments of pumice stone, several pebbles and one bit of pottery from a broken domestic vessel all of which were treasured for their curative power. One ancient therapeutic belief alone stands the test of modern experimental proof; that is the value of cauterization. It was the ancient custom to apply a red hot iron to the fresh wound and many persons were saved thereby. If done early this is still good practice although nitric acid is substituted for the red hot metal.

In common with most other diseases, accurate scientific knowledge begins with the time of Pasteur. Pasteur never succeeded in finding the infecting agent—this was reserved for Negri—but he did begin scientific study of the disease and found an efficient prophylaxis which saves about 99 per cent of exposed persons. Briefly, this is a vaccine made from the spinal cords of rabbits which have been infected with a very virulent form of the disease. The cords are attenuated by drying and by passage through many generations of rabbits. The history of the trial of his vaccine, by Pasteur, forms one of the most dramatic chapters in the history of medicine. The vaccine is still used with only slight modifications. In North Carolina we use the original Pasteur strain of virus and the chief modification is a somewhat larger number of injections.

Germ Discovered by Negri

The germ of rabies discovered by Negri is generally believed to be a protozoan. The examination of a rabid animal can be made rapidly by staining a smear-preparation of a small portion of brain tissue and the round or oval organism shows plainly and distinctly in the nerve cells. A brain which contains these organisms will invariably reproduce the disease if a portion of it is injected into another animal. On entering the body, the germ causes no inflammation and so far as we know it is not carried by the blood stream, but it does find a small nerve tissue and travels through the body in nerve tissue. It apparently at once begins to multiply in this tissue but causes no symptoms until it reaches the brain, where it enters and destroys the nerve cells. It may have taken weeks or months to reach the brain, but once en-

trenched there the final course is extraordinary rapid and the fatal outcome inevitable. The symptoms of madness and paralysis, so apparently variable and inexplicable to the unlightened mind, have the simple explanation that they depend upon the destruction of nerve cells.

The infection not only goes to the brain but also to certain secretory glands, notably the salivary glands, and the infection is excreted in the saliva. It is by means of the inoculation with the infectious saliva, that is by biting, that the disease is spread from animal to animal or from animal to man. All mammals, including man are susceptible.

The dog is no more susceptible than is the sheep, or the cow, or man, but the dog and his relatives, the fox and the wolf, when their brains are diseased commonly exhibit the instinct of biting. The cat only occasionally shows this symptom as does the horse. The rabid dog may be just as belligerent as the dog, but her instinct is to hook or butt, rather than to bite. Other animals exhibit varying symptoms of a diseased brain, but it is seldom that they want to bite.

The problem of the spread of rabies is therefore almost wholly confined to the dog and it is just this animal which has easiest access to human beings. If we could prevent rabid dogs from biting other dogs and other animals we could eradicate the disease.

Not Theory Alone

The statement just made is not based on theory alone. Rabies has actually been exterminated in Denmark, Norway and Sweden for 30 years. Before the war it was unknown in Germany except along the borders, and in England there was no rabies for over 20 years until it was reintroduced by returning soldiers who brought back infected dogs from France. It has now again been eradicated in England. In Australia there has never been a case of rabies, for that continent has always had a quarantine law for dogs and each animal is confined at the port of entry for six months before it can be delivered to the owner.

The contrast of these countries with the United States is not to our credit. Here only sporadic and ineffectual attempts at control have ever been made and for the last decade the disease has been on the increase in the greater part of our country. This is especially true for our own section. The states with the worst records are North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. Virginia's record is considerably better than that of North Carolina and South Carolina, and Georgia's is a trifle worse.

The increase in North Carolina may be illustrated by a comparison of the record of 1909 (the first year of complete statistics) with that of 1925. In 1909 there were 83 rabid animals examined at the State Laboratory of Hygiene, in 1925, 813. In 1909, 157 persons were treated for bites of rabid animals, in 1925 1850. The intervening years show an increase with almost annual regularity.

Deaths From Rabies

Last year we had four, possibly five human deaths from rabies in North Carolina. This number is insignificant if compared with the death from tuberculosis, but if it is true that each should have, and could have, been prevented, they are not a credit to our civilization. We must also charge against this disease an enormous loss of cattle, hogs, sheep and horses, but no accurate statistics are kept of these deaths.

In the far west, rabies has been comparatively rare until within the last few years. In a stock raising country, the predatory dog is never shown much mercy, but with the decline of stock-raising on the unlimited range, dogs have increased. In the Rocky Mountain section the disease is said to be now prevalent among the wild coyotes, and rabies will probably exist in that region until these wild animals are exterminated.

We have seen that certain Euro-

(Continued to last page)

LETTER FROM JAPAN

Sometimes I see reports of local weather conditions in newspapers for the benefit of distant readers—or for forgetful resident readers. So you may wish to know whether we have such a commodity as weather here on the other side of the earth from your abode. While this section of Japan does not have as great variety of weather to the square inch as New England was reputed to have had by a certain writer years ago, we have not been without the thrill and chill of snowstorms. At one time early in January the weather was so mild that fires were scarcely needed for comfort. But the following week snowstorms raged, and the thermometer took a fall like Icarus, the mythological youth, when the sun melted the wax that fastened his wings. The snow fell fast and continued for a long time; but the ground was not cold enough here in the city to permit the snow to become very deep. But on the mountains above us it accumulated to a greater depth, and remained for quite a while. Even now as I am writing I see from my window some remains of snow that fell not long since while there was only rain in the city. Today we have good weather, and the streets are dry. Onigajo (Demon Castle) Mountain, to which I may have made reference in past articles, is over half a mile high; and it is often covered with snow or enveloped with clouds, while we have good weather in the city. However, we may expect it to be chilly here as long as there is a vestige of snow on the mountain.

I read in the daily paper this morning that Hokkaido, just north of the main island, is in the grip of the severest cold spell in forty years. In some places the snow is reported to be over twenty feet deep. And the suburbs of the city of Sapporo, where our butter is made, are buried under drifts to the depth of thirty feet. The paper reports it so cold that milk must be at the boiling point before being taken from the stove to be brought to the table, otherwise it will freeze in transit. On the whole, the snowfall of Japan is very great, owing to the topography of the country. It is largely mountainous. Some parts of Japan are far north, and therefore exceedingly cold. Some parts, on the other hand, are far south, and therefore very warm. Ice is probably unknown in the Loochoo Islands, a part of Japan. A little boy from there was once visiting on the island of Kyushu where he saw a piece of ice for the first time. He wished to take it back with him to his native place; but the ice being wet, he tried to dry it by the fire. The result was highly unsatisfactory and altogether disappointing.

Today I received a letter from Dr. H. B. Newell of Seoul, Korea, now a part of this Empire, stating that the thermometer had gone sixteen degrees below zero there while he and wife were visiting in Japan proper, that water pipes were frozen, several leaks were caused, and the plumbers were rejoicing. Their house plants were frozen to a frazzle during their absence. He said their visit to Japan in January seemed like spring to them after their experience in Seoul.

In spite of the cold weather and snow we have not been without some varieties of flowers being in bloom in our yard. Even the geraniums, growing in the ground in the open, still contain a few blossoms, though the ground was slightly frozen at one time in January. A plum tree in a nearby yard was observed to be in bloom January 5th; and other varieties have continued to favor us for the past month. It is no wonder that the Japanese greatly admire these plum blossoms which defy the cold and snow, and seemingly defy nature by blooming in the coldest season of the year. Of course no such thing as fruit is produced by these early blooming trees. The wind and cold have rent and deadened the leaves or blades of the banana plants in our yard. But the plants, some six or eight inches in diameter and ten feet high, have withstood the test of the cold weather, and will soon put out new leaves or blades five or six feet long and over a foot wide. The fruit does not mature enough to be eaten. The wonder is that this huge tropical plant or tree will grow here at all, when we bear in mind that we are slightly farther north than Charleston, S. C., and only three degrees farther south than Raleigh, N. C.

We have no trouble producing oranges of different varieties in this climate. Yoshida, six miles from here, is a great orange shipping port. The orange trees in our yard produc-

ed several bushels, not very different in shape and taste from the oranges produced in Florida. They were gathered in December and packed in boxes with rice chaff. We have more than we can eat during the time they will keep, which is practically half a year from the time we began using them. In fact, we have lost some of the banking for them which we had forty or fifty years ago when we spied them on sale or in somebody else's possession. This is probably due more to the fact that we are filled to satiety than the effects of age.

However, the greater proportion of the oranges grown in Japan are not of the variety grown in our yard, but what are probably known in America as tangerines or mandarins, the peeling being easily removed with the fingers, leaving membranous divisions or sections very convenient. They are delicious, but do not last as long as some other oranges. What are known as summer oranges grow here in abundance, and remain on the trees through the entire winter, sometimes being left on the tree till the blossoms of the next crop appear. This variety is quite large, and is more acetic than the varieties previously referred to. But they are on the market when other varieties are scarce or lacking. And they make most delicious marmalade. One of my friends manufactures it in the nearby town of Yoshida; and it is quite popular among foreigners.

We have apples in Japan practically all the year. The American varieties do well in northern Japan and in Korea. Even the Ben Davis variety has persisted in its westward course along with some other things that are better and some other things that are worse. Some of you may have heard Mr. B. F. Sparger's version of the story about the apple expert who was able while blindfolded to name the various varieties of apples by tasting. When it came to the Ben Davis the expert was given a piece of cork to chew. The expert pronounced the cork to be a Ben Davis but of a specially good kind. Uwaajima, Ehime Ken, Japan, February 6, 1926.

J. W. FRANK.

CONSIDERS WOMAN'S DRESS SCANDALOUS

Bavarian Highlanders Threaten Force Against "Shameless And Immoral Foreigners."

Berlin, Feb. 13.—Denouncing women's dress, modern dances and American or French origin and other "depraved" importations, 20,000 bare knood, muscular members of the United Leagues of Bavarian Highlanders, dressed in brilliant kilts with feathered tufts in the ceremonial hats, threaten to use force unless the Bavarian diet passes a law prohibiting the "pollution of innocent Bavarian maidens by shameless and immoral foreigners" who visit the Highlands.

The leagues' resolution to the diet declares that "any woman so brazen and depraved as to display herself in public in vulgar and lustful apparel deserves to be punished with imprisonment."

A "respectable maiden," the resolution adds, "has her clothes well buttoned up to the neck instead of gadding about with nothing above and below. We have 20,000 muscular members ready to eradicate these disgusting customs and to eliminate the prevailing scandal by means of sound thrashings."

The "scandalous bathing of tourists of both sexes" in the mountain lakes also comes in for criticism. The resolution says that public bathing should be reserved for days preceding important Catholic holidays. But on other days those who have acquired the "silly bathing habit" are warned to confine it to their bath tubs.

Dog Gets Salary of \$250 Monthly as Movie Actor.

New York, Feb. 15.—Buddy, who made his screen debut at the tender age of five days, encased in a sausage skin to represent an animated hot dog, now receives the salary of a featured player. Buddy is just a plain dog, but because he can register expectancy, fear, love and other emotions he has become a success on the screen. His present salary is \$250 a week. "Buddy is never rehearsed," his owner said. "He goes on the set 'cold,' to use one of our expressions and does just what I tell him from the side lines. Like all stars, he is temperamental. He does his best work when he is playing with people he likes.

WOMAN GOVERNOR SEEKS NEW TERM

"Ma" Ferguson Announces Her Candidacy; Says Name Not Yet Cleared

Austin, Texas, Feb. 27.—Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, first woman governor of Texas, today announced she is a Democratic candidate for re-election. Her platform is further vindication for the Ferguson name from the stigma of impeachment of her husband, James E. Ferguson, when Governor in 1917, which was her principal plea in her successful campaign before. Her two year term expires early in January.

"My experience with the Governor's office has taught me that filling the office is a little too big for one man or woman," she said in her announcement. "It takes both Ma and Pa to get over the rough places. So, in order that nobody may be deceived or misled, I want it distinctly understood that Jim and I will continue to pull together in the same old way."

Another Woman

The announcement places two women and one man in the Democratic race for Governor. Mrs. Edith Wilkins, of Dallas, first woman member of the legislature, has been a candidate for some time.

In her 1924 campaign, Mrs. Ferguson said she would not seek office again "if our prayers for vindication are answered". She now claims that the name of James E. Ferguson has not been cleared entirely of the stigma of his impeachment, and that until she considers vindication complete she will continue in politics.

Fourteen Japs Rescued in Mid Pacific

With food and water gone after drifting more than a month after a storm had rendered their vessel helpless, 14 of the 33 members of the crew of the Japanese steamship Taishin Maru, III, were rescued in mid-Pacific by the Standard Oil tanker Java Arrow. The other 10 of the crew, who left the Taishin Maru in lifeboats, are believed to have perished.

When the Japanese ship with its fuel exhausted and its cargo jettisoned, was sighted by the tanker on its way from Yokohama to San Francisco Thursday afternoon, the 19 surviving members of the crew including the captain, mates and engineer had been without water five days and food, except rats and ship's cat for 20 days.

Word of the rescue was relayed early Friday by the Dollar liner President Wilson, 3,500 miles from the San Francisco port. The Taishin Maru left Yokohama January 17 for Mororan on the Island of Hokkaido, in the northern part of Japanese archipelago, with 50 tons of coal as fuel.

Caught in a storm off Shirwa 150 miles from its destination the Taishin Maru, a vessel of less than 1,000 tons, without wireless equipment, battled head winds until its fuel was exhausted and then with its cargo thrown overboard, to save the ship, drifted southeastward toward mid-Pacific.

On January 19 one lifeboat with 11 men put away from the drifting steamer. Five days later eight men left in a second lifeboat.

Delayed Dormant Spray.

Fruit growers are advised to apply the dormant spray as a delayed dormant spray. The old method was to apply the dormant spray at the time the trees were dormant, but better results will be obtained by applying this spray in the spring before the trees are in bloom.

The delayed dormant spray should be applied to peaches just before the buds begin to swell in the spring. If this is delayed until the buds burst, it will be too late to control leaf curl. The delayed dormant spray should be applied to apples in the spring when the green tips of the buds are exposed.

Scale and aphid will be better controlled during the early spring and growers should follow spray calendar closely. Growers should write for Extension Circular No. 101 "Spray Calendar for Apples in North Carolina" and Extension Circular No. 153, "Control Methods for Peach Insects."—C. H. Bramon, Extension Horticulturist, N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C.

INDISPENSABLE

It has just about gotten so in this country that even a country woman can't get up a dinner without a can opener.

Talks With the County Agent

By R. E. White.

Shary County Farm Demonstration Agent

The meetings held last week in the interest of home grown feed makes dairying profitable were very well attended. Mr. J. D. Kelly of the Southern Railway Agricultural Department helped with these meetings. One dairyman requested a plan for a silo holding enough feed for 25 cows. We can furnish through the Extension Service of State College plans for most any kind of farm building or other constructions needed by farmers. I have just received some new blue prints of poultry houses and brooders. These can be had by applying to this office. I try to keep these on hand all the time and they are popular with poultrymen.

Placed an order for a car of lime last week. If you are planning to use lime on legumes or tobacco you should make arrangements at once as it is now time to broadcast your tobacco land with lime. If you have sand down be sure and use magnesium lime in order to prevent the trouble this year. Treating tobacco seeds does not prevent sand down but will prevent wild fire and angular leaf spot.

What is believed to be the world's record in corn production has been established by Ira Marshall, of Hardin County, Ohio. He produced 1,600.1 bushels of air cured shelled corn on 10 acres, or 160 bushels per acre. Mr. Marshall's record, his second in recent years above 100 bushels per acre, is 25.7 bushels an acre above that set by William Gillmore, of Licking county in 1922. Mr. Marshall will be high man among the 60 or more Ohio farmers who will be taken into membership in Ohio's 100 bushel corn club at farmers' week this year.

Union County, Kentucky appears to be the first in the United States entirely free from scrub bulls, and it is very close to a purebred sire basis with its breeding stock, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The outlook for the early potato crop is very favorable. This applies especially to the potatoes marketed about June 1. A good market may extend as late as June 15. This is however uncertain. The reasons for a present favorable outlook are as follows: 1. The late potato crop of 1925 was about 102 millions bushels less than 1924. This has caused a relative shortage of late potatoes on hand January 1 of this year.

2. When stocks of late potatoes have been short the prices of early potatoes have universally been high.

3. Seed potatoes are selling high at the present time. This may have a tendency to restrict plantings.

4. The tuber moth may cause considerable damage to early potatoes on the Eastern shore of Virginia.

Many farmers have been asking about White Sweet Clover. This clover is a vigorous grower and will put a large amount of nitrogen in the soil. When cut at the proper time it makes good hay but the livestock must form a liking for it and this can be done without so very much trouble. It requires lime and a well drained soil but the soil does not have to be rich but will grow on the thinnest of soils. It furnishes excellent bee pasturage and is worth growing for that alone. White Sweet Clover is especially good for poor run down worn out soils. Probably best to sow about 15-20 pounds per acre early in the spring and you should buy scarified seed which aids germination.

Well Digger Falls 35 Feet With Dynamite But Escapes

Ashville, Feb. 28.—Four sticks of dynamite failed to explode when William Stoner, contractor well digger, fell to the bottom of a new well he is digging near Candler and Mr. Stoner considers himself lucky despite the fact that he is suffering from a broken leg as the result of the fall.

Mr. Stoner was being lowered to the depths of the well in a bucket in which, besides himself, were four sticks of the deadly explosive. The workman lowering him lost control of the conveyance and Mr. Stoner was dropped unceremoniously to the bottom of the well which had gone down about 35 feet.

The full impact of his body, along with the bucket, and the hoisting machinery at the mouth of the well fell on top of the dynamite but miraculously it did not explode.