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FOR BULLETIN NO. 46 IT'S FR

COMMON DISEASES OF LIVE STOCK.

A CONSIDERATION OF THEIR CAUSES, PREVENTION AND CURE.

I.-An Introductory Word.

The Editor of The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant has asked me to write a series of articles on the common ailments of domestic animals. I have consented with some reluctance, owing to the difficulty always experienced in conveying technical knowledge to those who have had no special training in the particular line under consideration.

To treat a disease is much more simple and easy than to diagnose it. In fact, the real difficulty in the practice of medicine is to find out just what is the matter. To enable any one to do this, no education is too thorough. A knowledge of the healthy animal is plainly essential. Anatomy and physiology are foundation studies and chemistry is scarcely less important. It also goes without saying that a knowledge of drugs is necessary if one is to prescribe them with safety.

After this there is the study of the diseases. Their nature, causes, symptoms and treatment in all their different stages, complications and variations must be studied with care and keen intelligence if good is to result from an attempt at their medicinal treatment.

Of course the giving of such knowledge as we have indicated cannot be attempted in the proposed series of articles, and consequently the scope and probably the usefulness of these articles will be limited to an extent fully appreciated by the writer.

The object of these articles, therefore, will be to convey information such as everyone who has the care of live stock should possess, and if as they progress it occurs to the reader that not enough of the actual medicinal treatment of disease is given, I beg him to remember that in the opinion of the writer medicines should never be given unless the one prescribing them knows their full and different effects and also knows just what ails the animal to which they are to be given. It is probably a fact that more harm than good is done to our live stock by the medicines they now receive. I believe they would be better without any medicine than with what is now given. Live stock suffer from hundreds of different diseases, and if we are to guess at a diagnosis of their ailments the chances for error are too great. And then, if after we have guessed at the disease, we must again guess at the appropriate remedies the danger of our dumb servants and friends is still further increased. Better by far let them alone and give nature, that greatest of healers, a chance to repair the injury. For we should not forget that every living thing has within it a tendency and power which operates to repair any injury to its body. If left alone probably nineteen out of twenty cases would get well; then by all means be careful that no medicines are given that will lessen the power of the animal to get well. It will not do to depend on the ability of the animal to get well in spite of our treatment, as I fear is now frequently the case. There is one other consideration which must operate to make such an attempt as is proposed still more difficult. Nine-tenths of those who have handled live stock for any considerable length of time imagine they are competent to treat their common diseases. The writer believes that it requires just as much knowledge to know how to treat the diseases of domestic animals as to know how to treat the diseases of I man, and that it takes the same sort

of study and effort to obtain that knowledge. That is, he does not believe that a liveryman, or any other man who has cared for live stock for a term of years, is because of such experience any better fitted to treat the diseases of live stock than is a man who has associated with men for a like period qualified to treat their diseases.

In conclusion, our first lesson should be to learn what not to do, or if we do not know what to do, let us insist that the best course is to do nothing; that is, let the greatest doctor, Nature, have the case without interference on our part.

TAIT BUTLER. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

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H. A. MORGAN, Chairman, College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

Nash County Alliance Changes Date.

Please announce in The Farmer that the Franklin County Alliance will be held with New Port Sub on first Thursday in January instead of second, as formerly announced.

> Fraternally, W. H. STALLINGS, Secretary.

Nash Co., N. C.

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