

viscera perfectly healthy, not a sign of tuberculosis being present. The experiment, though far from conclusive, is, nevertheless, a very severe test.

I know nothing about dogs, but the following accidental experiment may be of value as dealing with the digestion of bacilli. A fox terrier, going round the wards of an hospital with its master, was observed to be feeding on something by the side of a patient's bed ; it turned out that the filthy creature had consumed the entire contents of a vessel into which the man (in the last stage of consumption) was expectorating. The dog is still alive and apparently in perfect health, though the incident occurred a little more than three years ago.

It is reasonable to believe that this sputum contained countless bacilli, but they evidently succumbed to the digestive juices of the dog.

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### OBSCURE DISEASE IN HEIFERS.

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DURING the spring of this year I have been called in to a number of heifers showing the following symptoms, for which I am puzzled to account, never having within the same period seen so many cases with the same history. The first thing noticed amiss by the attendant was staggering during movement, dulness, and loss of appetite more or less marked. When called in I usually found the staggering very pronounced, the animals almost falling at every step ; if lying down, on being made to rise they could only do so with difficulty, and sometimes only with assistance.

The treatment adopted was first a laxative, followed by fairly large doses of ammon. carb. and nucis vomica, with an abundance of easily digestible nutritious food, and a blister to the poll and down the spine.

This treatment seemed to have no beneficial effect whatever, the animals gradually getting worse and losing flesh, so that in most cases the owners had them slaughtered for market, considering this the most profitable way out of the difficulty.

In the cases that were treated for any length of time the heifer would walk continuously around the yard or box in one direction, and in one case this went on so long that the horn was worn down to the skull by friction against the wall, leaving a nasty wound.

I only know of one case in which any improvement occurred, and that after about eight weeks from the commencement of the attack ; although now much improved, it still shows want of power in the limbs during progression.

In every case to which I refer the animal attacked was a heifer, and the symptoms were always noticed from two to three days after copulation. Whether this had anything to do with the causation or was only a coincidence, I know not ; it is at least worthy of note.

I regret that I was not afforded any opportunity to make a *post-mortem*, but, as already stated, when death became imminent the owner always consigned the animal to the butcher.