DISEASES PREVAILING AMONG COWS AND OXEN.*

A CORRESPONDENT, a medical practitioner, who resides in Robert-street, Chelsea, has forwarded to us a communication, from which we make the following extract :—

“A disease has been raging to a very great extent for more than four months past, especially amongst cows and oxen, in London and its environs. Only an allusion to it, at present, I think, has been made in the public journals, but it appears to be still very prevalent. A report should be made to the Legislature respecting it, that steps may, without delay, be adopted to suppress the sale of any milk, or flesh, of such beasts as are diseased, and attempts made to discover its cause or prevention. I accidentally found it out by discovering a peculiar taste in some milk whilst at tea; the smell and taste were so disagreeable that my family and myself were obliged to have the cups of tea, to which a little of the milk had been added, removed. The following morning I had some conversation with the dealer who had left it, and he told me that many of the cows, where he obtained his milk, had the prevailing distemper, and had been physicked for it, but before the action of the medicine had ceased, their milk had been sold to him. I have recently been informed, by several highly respectable butchers, cow-keepers, and milk-dealers, that the disease is still very bad, and that some cow-keepers about London have had many, as from 20 to 30, of their cows affected by it, and that numbers of oxen are to be seen in Smithfield Market, &c., in a similar state. Last week a man was driving a bullock along the street in which I reside, when it was so exhausted by the distemper as to prevent it proceeding, and it was, in consequence, killed in my butcher's slaughter-house, for its owner. I have heard the disease called *murruin*, the *rot*, &c.; and also have been informed that it prevailed much more than a century ago, in a milder form; that it then affected the fore feet only, but now it affects all the feet, and also the tongue in most instances, and that the beasts appear in perfect health when they leave the graziers, and continue so until they reach within ten or twenty miles of London; and that any cow-keeper who purchases a fresh

cow at market, is almost sure, as soon as it reaches home, to have all his cows affected by the disease. The disease exists in country places, and on the Continent, though not to the same extent as in London and its neighbourhood.”

MULLER'S ANALYSIS OF DIABETIC BLOOD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR :—The changes that the blood undergoes in diabetes are evidently very great, although it has not been successfully analysed in this country or abroad. Hitherto the most celebrated chemists that have made experiments on it have been unable to detect sugar in diabetic blood; and that it contains sugar has been many times contradicted, because sugar has not been procured from it. It has, however, for some time, occupied the attention of M. Müller, the celebrated physiologist, and has been subjected to experiments and research by him to ascertain its composition and the changes it undergoes. I beg to forward to your valuable Journal the following results of experiments on diabetic blood, made by M. Müller, and published in the “*Philosophical Magazine*,” which I think will prove a highly interesting communication for your scientific readers. I have the honour to be, your very obedient servant,

J. LILLIE THORNTON.

1, Oxford-street, April, 1840.

M. Müller's Results on Diabetic Blood, obtained by Venesection :

Twelve ounces of the blood gave

	oz.	dr.	gr.
Chloride of sodium.....	0	0	24.5
————— potassium.....	0	0	13
Sulphate of potash.....	0	0	9
Carbonate of potash.....	0	0	17
————— lime.....	0	0	6.75
————— magnesia.....	0	0	9
Phosphate of magnesia....	0	0	10
Carbonate of soda.....	0	0	11
Phosphate of soda.....	0	0	0.5
————— iron.....	0	0	22.25
Sugar.....	0	1	5
Albumen.....	1	3	27
Hæmatosin.....	1	5	24
Liquid fat.....	0	0	19
Crystallizable fat.....	0	0	33
Fibrin.....	0	0	26
Extractive matter.....	0	0	22.5
Carbonate of lime.....	0	0	7.5
Water.....	8	1	33

* If our correspondent will refer to the late numbers of the “*Veterinarian*,” edited by our talented and amiable friend Mr. Youatt, he will find the “*epizootic disease*” amply discussed; and for more intelligence on the subject we would call his attention to the next Number of *THE LANCET*.—*Sub. Ed. L.*