

contaminated by phthisical patients, and, above all, by the continual ingestion of tuberculous products of human origin. (2) The capital point seems to us to be the arrest in the development of the tuberculous process coincident with pregnancy; and especially the amelioration continuing after parturition, despite very prolonged lactation, and without the chances of infection having been diminished. Is it necessary to recognise in this result a consequence of the well-known influence of pregnancy on phthisis; or, rather, a proof of the considerable resistance presented by the organism of the cat to the evolution of the malady? It is probable that one ought to make allowance here for both these factors.

From the day when the cat became pregnant, a disease which seemed to evolve rapidly, and ought to have terminated fatally after a brief interval, had been suddenly arrested. On account of this respite the organism, very refractory to tuberculosis, has power to gain the upper hand, the return of appetite can reinforce this resistance, repair in part the havoc produced, and favour a recovery which very probably would be confirmed by the sequel.

It would be interesting to observe analogous cases, and perhaps at the autopsy of the animals that have presented at one period of their existence suspicious symptoms, one might find pulmonary lesions indicating that the tuberculosis had terminated in recovery. For, finally, if the organism of the dog and the cat is as refractory as is generally admitted to the transmission of tuberculosis, it is logical to suppose that it ought to resist not less vigorously the evolution of the declared malady.

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### PASSAGE OF A FOREIGN BODY FROM THE STOMACH OF A COW—RECOVERY.

By ANDREW REID, M.R.C.V.S., Auchtermuchty.

CASES of death in cattle as the result of a needle or other foreign body passing from the stomach are by no means uncommon. A little experience of such cases enables one, perhaps, not to diagnose with certainty what he has got to deal with, but at least to suspect the presence of a foreign body, with the chances of being right in a large proportion of instances.

It is well known that when wires, nails, needles, and such objects are swallowed by cattle, they almost invariably become, in the first instance, arrested in the reticulum or second stomach. It is thought by some that the situation of this stomach, beneath the gastric end of the œsophagus, renders it extremely likely to become a receptacle for heavy foreign bodies, these dropping naturally into it by gravity. It is more likely, however, that such objects, unless swallowed alone, will, in the first instance, gain the rumen. The active movements to which the food is there subjected may keep the body from coming to rest in that compartment; but as there is a frequent interchange of materials between the first and second stomachs, the body is likely soon to find its way into the reticulum. Here it settles toward the lower part of the cavity, and by prolonged contact with the wall of the stomach inflammation is set up. As a result of this, the reticulum

and diaphragm become adherent; and the body by a process of ulceration works its way through both stomach and diaphragm, and gains the thorax. In most cases its further course is towards the heart, and death ensues from severe pericarditis. But, as the following case will show, an absolutely unfavourable prognosis need not be given in every case.

The subject to which I am now referring was a cross-bred cow. When I first saw her she did not exhibit any prominent symptom beyond refusal of food, and varying but persistent tympany of the rumen. For a fortnight thereafter the condition of the animal remained almost unchanged, save that there was progressive emaciation, the appetite being almost totally in abeyance. The general condition now became aggravated, the temperature was elevated, pulse quickened, respiration hurried, and accompanied by a short grunt expressive of pain. Pleuritic friction sounds were now discernible on the left side.

I now for the first time suspected that I had to deal with a case of "foreign body." The symptoms of pleurisy became less acute, and at the same time a swelling was discovered in the pectoral muscles on the left side. The swelling was evidently of an inflammatory nature, being hot and painful. I had it fomented for a few days, and then applied a counter-irritant. It rapidly increased in size and matured; and in opening it I was surprised to come upon a large "sacking-needle," measuring about five inches in length. After the removal of the needle the cow made a rapid and complete recovery.

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## Abstracts and Reports.

### GLYCERINE IN THE TREATMENT OF CONSTIPATION.

DR ALTHAUS, in the columns of the *British Medical Journal*, has recently called attention to the great value of glycerine as a rectal injection in cases of constipation. The quantity required in the human subject is about a tea-spoonful, introduced by means of an ordinary glass syringe, and an evacuation generally follows immediately, or within a few minutes. The larger the accumulation of fæces, it is said, the greater the effect. No discomfort or pain is caused by the injection, which appears to act reflexly by abstracting water from the rectal mucous membrane, and thus bringing about powerful peristalsis through irritation of the sentient nerves of the rectum. It ought to be equally serviceable in constipation with fæcal accumulation in dogs.

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### VOMITION IN THE HORSE: ITS RELATION TO RUPTURED STOMACH.

IN a recent number of the *Quarterly Journal of Veterinary Science in India*, Mr R. H. Ringe, A.V.D., publishes notes of a series of cases bearing on this question. The writer says that his attention has frequently been attracted by the fact that in a great number of cases of ruptured stomach the so-called