FOETID PURULENT ABSCESS IN THE NECK OF A CAT— BILATERAL PLEURISY AND DISEASED LUNG.

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Subject.—A male tabby cat, aged about five years.

History.—I attended it on April 25, 1892, for catarrhal fever with sore throat; recovery was uninterrupted. It had also bilateral otacariasis, but for this the owner would not allow the ears to be dressed. With the exception of the ear trouble the animal seemed to be apparently well until a fortnight before I was again consulted, which was on Sept. 3, 1892.

Symptoms.—It had been noticed for the last fortnight to be restless and in pain, the appetite was capricious, and there was slight vomition at times; the right side of the neck from the jaw to the shoulder commenced to swell; the swelling was painful and fluctuating, and had commenced to point.

Treatment.—The abscess was opened an inch below the seat of pointing, so as to afford a better drain, and about six ounces of foetid pus were evacuated. I then washed out the cavity with a very weak solution of creolin. Sublimated wool was kept applied to the wound to absorb the subsequent discharge, so as to prevent it soiling the carpets. The ears were dressed with one part of ungt. hyd. (Shoemaker), rubbed up with ten parts of vaseline. Up to Sept. 6, the appetite and general condition of the animal had improved, the abscess cavity had got very much less, and the granulations appeared healthy.

On Sept. 7 it did not seem so well, and on the 8th it was again brought for my inspection. I explored the cavity, and removed a piece of grey worsted about three inches in length from it, and I then sought for the needle, which I found to the right of the splenius muscle, the eye being uppermost and on a level with the superior border of that muscle and two inches from the head; it (the needle) seemed to take an oblique direction from above downwards and forwards towards the vicinity of the pharynx; its colour was black and its length two inches.

Sept. 10.—Was reported to be dying, and when again brought for my inspection was found to be dead.

Autopsy.—This was performed a few minutes after its death. The pleural cavities contained eight ounces of a hæmorrhagic purulent exudate, which had a very strong odour, and contained a few flakes of lymph. This exudate after being exposed for a few minutes formed into a jelly. Some flakes of lymph were slightly adherent to the pleura pulmonalis, and the mediastinal pleural membrane was inflamed, thickened, and friable. The whole centre of the right lung had undergone consolidation. Petechia on the epicardium could be seen through the pericardium. The whole of the alimentary viscera, etc., seemed normal, with the exception of a gland near the inferior ligament of the liver, which appeared cheesy. The diseased lung was examined by Professor M'Fadyean; it contained no tubercle bacilli, but an immense number of other organisms, chiefly micrococci.