

Rabies Vaccine Fails

Medicine

The hope that rabies, dreadful disease that makes dogs mad and has the same effect on humans bitten by them, might be wiped off the earth by anti-rabies vaccination of dogs is dealt a severe blow by the statement of H. W. Schoening of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry that this vaccination has not proved 100 per cent. effective.

Work has been done at the Bureau, using the method of the Japanese discoverers of the vaccine and also using a vaccine of killed organisms. The results are peculiarly irregular, which is true of all experimental work on rabies, but they indicate that the killed vaccine is not 100 per cent. effective in giving the dogs immunity.

Reports from state and city veterinarians in localities where vaccination of dogs has been practiced show a similar disappointing result. In the case of many dogs which have been vaccinated and have not subsequently developed rabies, Mr. Schoening points out that these are generally pets that are well cared for and not often exposed to rabies.

In communities where compulsory vaccination is in effect, good results have been attained, as evidenced by a reduction in the number of cases of rabies. However, these communities also have compulsory regulations as to licensing, destruction of stray dogs, quarantine and other effective measures against rabies, so that it is difficult to determine what part vaccination has played in the control of the disease.

Figures on the prevalence of rabies in non-vaccinated dogs and the number of persons exposed indicate that the vaccinating which has been done has not been successful in reducing rabies and its menace to human beings.

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Manila Watches Cholera

Hygiene

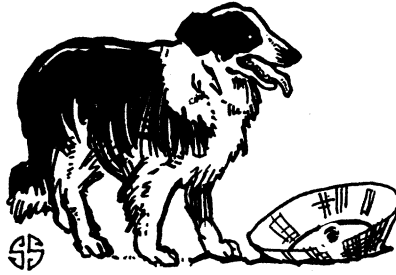
Preparations are now under way for a fight to prevent a serious outbreak of cholera. Surgeon R. W. Hard of the U. S. Public Health Service, in charge of public health in the Philippines, has cabled the Surgeon General of the occurrence of four cases of cholera in Manila between July 19 and 21. This is the first outbreak of this disease in Manila for some time and all necessary precautions are being taken to prevent its growing to an epidemic.

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NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

Natural History



Dog-Days

According to the official calendar of the ancients, today is the last of the dog-days. The Romans reckoned this period as starting on July 9, when Canicula, the Little Dog Star, rose with the sun, and as ending on August 11, when it set with the sun. Due to astronomical changes, this no longer occurs, but the official dates remain as they were under the Cæsars.

However, with all of August and perhaps a couple of hot weeks in September yet to come, there is no good excuse for relaxing your vigilance over your dog's temper, nor yet your care for his comfort. A dog has a sorry time of it in hot weather anyway. Covered with a heavy coat of hair and unable to perspire except on a square inch or two of his nose-tip, he is a regular physiological furnace. You'd be snappish yourself if you were in his skin.

Dogs may literally go crazy with the heat during dog-days, but even if a dog does run amuck and bite somebody, that does not necessarily mean that he has hydrophobia and must be shot. That can not be determined except by bacteriological tests conducted by a competent physician or laboratory scientist. As a matter of fact, dogs develop hydrophobia just about as frequently in January as they do in August. Hydrophobia has no necessary connection with hot weather.

Until cool weather comes, all dogs should be kept muzzled and chained up in as cool and shady a place as possible. They should have plenty of water, and not too much to eat—no meat at all. They should be allowed moderate exercise in the evening, and should get a few kind words and pat on the head several times a day. Then dog-days will be endurable even for a dog.

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Hoof and Mouth Serum

Bacteriology

Hoof and mouth disease in cattle is being combated with serum in Germany. Since the disease has become thoroughly established in Europe the drastic eradication measures resorted to in the United States are out of the question, and preventive and curative treatment applied to animals exposed to the infection are the only practical means open. Officials of the Province of Brandenburg are much encouraged by the results so far achieved.

The serum is prepared from animals which have been made immune to the disease by constantly increasing doses of the virus. It is carefully tested before delivery, and is good for at least one year.

Inoculation is practiced in three ways. The first is a protective inoculation which is only temporary in its effect, rendering the animals immune for only about ten days. This treatment is given to animals when protection is desired against the danger of infection for a limited time, as at cattle markets or fairs.

The second type of inoculation is that given to cattle simultaneously with an artificial infection of the disease virus itself. The immune serum must be administered in the very earliest stages of the animal's reaction to the infection, before any other symptom than a slight fever has manifested itself.

Finally, a curative inoculation is given to cattle that have contracted the disease, if it has not yet reached an advanced stage. This curative inoculation is commonly one-third heavier than the preventive ones. Satisfactory results are reported when inoculation is given during the earlier stages of the disease, but cases in which inflammation of the heart muscles has set in are usually regarded as incurable.

As a result of this experience, it seems evident, said Dr. Halpern, that goat serum gives efficient protection in a large number of cases and offers the advantage of being more readily available than human convalescent serum, which has seen considerable application for the same purpose, since it can be produced in quantities to meet all necessary demands.

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Of the 740,000 oil wells which have been drilled in the United States in the past 69 years, 319,000 are still producing.