

VETERINARY MEDICINE

"Kill-And-Bury" Campaign

Dread foot and mouth cattle disease strikes in Canada. Border is closed to meat and cattle imports to prevent spread of epidemic in U. S.

➤ THIS TIME it is a "kill-and-bury" fight against a dread cattle disease north of the border. Foot and mouth disease has broken out in the frigid plains of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan.

Not since this disease appeared over a large area in Mexico in late 1946 has there been an invasion so close to the United States. The border is closed to imports of cattle and meat from Canada. Dr. M. S. Shahan, a veteran foot and mouth specialist of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, is in Canada to assay the situation and give informal help. Dr. Shahan led the fight against aftosa, as the Mexicans call the disease, in the Mexican outbreak.

Whereas the United States has spent \$100,000,000 cooperatively with Mexico in bringing the cattle plague there under control, it is not expected that such aid will be needed by Canada.

The Canadians, some of whose experts were in Mexico in the early days of that outbreak, are well equipped to fight the outbreak. A slaughter-and-eradicate policy will be followed.

Ground frozen six to eight feet deep, with many subsidiary roads made impassable with heavy snow, will hamper the eradication campaign in the 2,900 square miles now under quarantine.

Europe this past year has had the greatest increase in the foot and mouth disease since 1938-39. Laboratories engaged in research upon the disease in Denmark, Holland and Great Britain have been taxed to their limits with routine testing. U. S.

cooperation has been extended to these laboratories because the disease is considered too dangerous even to study within the borders of the United States.

In Europe and many other parts of the world the disease is endemic and always present, kept in check by vaccinations of cattle. The United States, Australia, New Zealand, Central America and the West Indies are the only large areas free from this cattle ill.

While north of the Canadian border there is trouble, the experts are encouraged by the progress south of the Mexican border. There is hope that the aftosa there is "plum licked," as one expert expressed it. The Mexican invasion covered some 200,000 square miles at its greatest extent, but for some time now there have been no fresh cases. Vaccine was used until about August 1950 when it was stopped so that lingering infections would show up. The disease seems to be eradicated and the U. S. veterinary staff now in Mexico has been cut to 40.

Foot and mouth disease is a devilish disease for the Devil himself, with his legendary cloven hoofs, would be susceptible to it. Only the cloven-hoofed animals contract it. Horses are not affected, for instance, and it does not infect man.

Because cattle raising and dairying are multibillion dollar industries and the American people like their steaks and milk, any outbreak of this cattle plague is of great concern to American agriculture and industry.

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PSYCHIATRY

Don't Coddle Neurotics

➤ STOP CODDLING neurotics.

Neuroses could be cured more quickly and more could be done to prevent such emotional illnesses by teaching people to take the consequences of what they do instead of letting them blame their troubles on something done to them, such as a rebuff or hurt in early childhood.

This view of neurotic diseases and their treatment, which is the opposite of much present-day thinking and teaching, was presented by Dr. O. H. Mowrer of the University of Illinois at Urbana, Ill., at a New York Academy of Sciences conference.

His theory will not be popular with the neurotics, Dr. Mowrer admits. But, he said, it "will fit facts and produce results."

Neurosis, he said, is a "perversion of the problem-solving function" in learning, rather than a matter of learning by wrong conditioning.

The neurotic, Dr. Mowrer said, is "a person who in one or more important areas of his life has learned to deal with conflicts between desires and the social consequences of gratifying them by means of evasion and duplicity."

"This strategy," Dr. Mowrer explained, "drives him into a downward spiral of personal inconsistency, self-condemnation and disorganization."

The neurotic, he said, must come to see his troubles as largely the result of what he himself has done and is doing, instead

of as a consequence of what has been done to him. He must see himself as needing to grow up instead of "having his fears and moral scruples scaled down."

Confusion with respect to sex, the tendency toward homosexuality, unmanliness or unwomanliness, is usually secondary to character defects, Dr. Mowrer stated.

A person need not become neurotic through trying to conform to social values, nor need he give up creativity and originality. On this point Dr. Mowrer said the following:

"One can be as much of a non-conformist or innovator as one wishes and remain mentally healthy, provided one does not 'cheat,' that is, does not try to have the advantages of conformity and of non-conformity simultaneously."

Treatment of the neurotic, he said, should be seen as "adding something to personality and character," not taking some excess of feeling away.

Science News Letter, March 8, 1952

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