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CASES

ILLUSTRATING THE SUCCESS OF

HOMŒOPATHY

IN

THE CATTLE PLAGUE:

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE NORFOLK TRIAL.

BY

JAMES MOORE, M.R.C.V.S.

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CASES ILLUSTRATING THE SUCCESS OF
HOMŒOPATHY IN THE CATTLE PLAGUE:

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE NORFOLK TRIAL.

By JAMES MOORE, M.R.C.V.S.

SOON after the cattle plague broke out in London last June, I was consulted as to whether or not a preventive medicine could be given to healthy animals, and I experimentally prescribed *arsenicum*, 3rd dilution, 10 drops night and morning. On August 24th, in the first medical work published on the disease in this country, I recommended a trial of this medicine, without, however, expressing any opinion on its efficacy or otherwise. Some time afterwards a number of facts came to my knowledge, which seemed to prove that it really did possess no inconsiderable preventive power. For example, Mr. Heatley, Market Drayton, after losing 29 out of 32 head of young stock, lost one of his cows out of 36 standing in the same range, but after giving *arsenicum* as above, none of the survivors took the disease, and they remained perfectly well when I last heard of them, long after the date when the preventive treatment was commenced. Many other similar instances of the disease stopping, contrary to the rule, in a shippen on the administration of *arsenicum* might be adduced. Still later, however, I was informed of its having failed to protect, and then the question arose whether the *arsenicum* had or had not been given *before* the animals had become infected. Recently, I was called to a lot of valuable pedigree stock, which had been

steadily taking *arsenicum* for two months, and yet the disease seized them in the most malignant form I have yet met with. Either, then, the *arsenicum* is without the slightest value as a preventive, or the disease has a much longer period of incubative latency than is generally supposed. On the whole, after considering all the facts of the case, and after some experience of the disease, I am disposed to doubt very seriously whether the claims of *arsenicum* can be allowed. The Dutch experience of it, during September, as a preventive pointed in the same favourable direction as my own early experience, but probably a wider knowledge of its action would make the Belgian veterinary surgeon and chemist hesitate to pride themselves upon doing so much more in the way of prevention than has been accomplished in this country by the very same agent. Yet *arsenicum*, although of no positive value as an infallible preventive, has not been useless. There is universal testimony, from every quarter where it has been given, in favour of its power on the general condition of the animal, which improves in appetite, in appearance of coat, and in the ability to give a larger quantity of milk; whilst young beasts have been observed to thrive unusually well whilst taking it. So far it is not without value, for it stands to sense that the more vigorous an animal is, the less likely will it be to take the disease, or to die from exhaustion if attacked. On the whole, my conclusion is, that a really preventive *drug* has yet to be discovered, and I very much question, taking into consideration the history of all past epizootics, whether the extension of the cattle plague can be prevented so long as the dispersion of contagious matter has free scope.

In the pamphlet already mentioned, and entitled *The Cattle Plague, with Suggestions for its Treatment by Homœopathy*, I pointed out to the public what I considered to be the medicines most likely to be successful; stating, likewise, that whilst the disease was not absolutely

incurable, a considerable proportion of cases would die in spite of all that could be done. When the pamphlet was issued, I spoke rather from theoretical grounds than from practical experience, for at that time the treatment proposed had not been tried sufficiently to justify the expression of a decided opinion. During the subsequent two months, September and October, I was enabled to test the value of the treatment on a larger scale than had been possible previously. In many cases my advice was requested, and the treatment put into operation, but in London the cattle-owners were either foiled by the inspectors' orders, or sold out their diseased stock at a great sacrifice; so that in the reports which I am about to give, I must necessarily exclude many cases in which the treatment was not tried beyond a day or two, although there seemed at the time of sale or of slaughter a very fair prospect of a successful issue. Up to Nov. 1st, 1865, I was able to collect 73 cases of the cattle plague, which had been treated either by myself, or by others according to my private or public instructions; the result being that 53 recovered, 13 died, and 7 were slaughtered, probably on the eve of death. These facts were first made known to the medical profession at the discussion which followed the reading of Dr. Hamilton's paper on the treatment of the plague in Holland, at the meeting of the British Homœopathic Society, on Nov. 4th last.

I now consider it advisable to lay before the profession and the public a brief description of these cases.

1. Mr. D.,* Belgravia, called me in on Aug. 30th last. I found 9 head suffering from the plague, with well-developed symptoms. In Case 1 the pulse was 72; respiration 50; crepitation in left lung; the membranes of the eye and nose reddened; the nasal wings swollen; the muzzle spotted with purple-coloured spots; running

* Where the name is not given in full, it is to be inferred that I have no authority to publish the facts; but, if necessary, the name and address can be ascertained from me.

from nose and eyes; the vagina reddened; the appetite and lacteal secretion diminished; cudding suspended. This case had *bell.* and *bry.*, was better next day, and gradually improved. Cases 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 presented similar symptoms, and got the same medicines. Cases 2, 5 and 7 had, in addition to the foregoing symptoms, liquid diarrhœa and crepitation in *both* lungs. They were put under *bell.*, *arsen.* and *phos.* Of these 9 cases 3 died, and 6 recovered. A homœopathic physician who has devoted some attention to the disease had attended several cases previously, and they all died.

2. On Sept. 2nd I examined a red cow belonging to Mr. A., Notting-hill, and found it suffering from well-marked symptoms of plague, such as discharge from eyes and nostrils; redness of the vagina in stripes; pulse 76; respiration 64; crepitation in left lung; little appetite; suspension of rumination; diminished secretion of milk, &c. This cow recovered under *phosph.* and *bell.* On the 4th another cow was found to have the same symptoms, and recovered also under *phos.* and *bell.* A third cow was treated for a day or two, and then destroyed.

3. Rev. C. M. sent for me on Sept. 5th. I treated two of his cows for the plague, with *bell.* and *phos.*, and both recovered. Thirty others were put under *arsenicum*, and they escaped the disease for more than three months.

4. On Sept. 7th I saw two cows belonging to C. M., Esq., both presenting the characteristic symptoms of the disease in the most advanced stage. In one the pulse was imperceptible at the jaw, and in the other there was profuse diarrhœa. One died and the other was destroyed after two days' treatment.

5. C. S., Esq., Lewisham, placed a cow under my treatment on Sept. 21st. It died two or three days afterwards. It had been ill several days before I saw it.

6. On Sept. 28th I saw 4 cows belonging to Mr. D., Bermondsey. Two of the cases were in a dying state,

and were destroyed; the other 2 recovered. No. 1 had the following symptoms:—Pulse 72; respiration 60; crepitation in right lung; violent purging of thin, offensive fluid; eyes sunken, and discharging muco-pus; nasal membrane very red; discharge from nostrils; short cough; head protruded; milk gone; cudding suspended; vagina red and mattery. The medicines were *bell.* and *phos.* I was shown 10 *Dutch* cows that had recovered without any treatment. One of the cases I treated was a *Dutch* cow; it recovered sooner than the *English* cow.*

7. Sir Richard Dacres requested me, on Sept. 28th, to attend 3 of his cows. I found them at the point of death, but I nevertheless prescribed for them *bell.* and *phos.* Two died next day, and the third on the second day.

8. Col. Grant, Chislehurst. Four *Dutch* cows had previously died of plague, under the treatment of a local practitioner. On Sept. 28th, 4 heifers were placed under homœopathic treatment, and they all recovered. One was already recovering under homœopathic treatment when I first examined it, and I prescribed *sulphur*; the other had *bell.* and *phos.* Two of the cases I did not see, but I was informed that the same medicines had proved successful. The owner had also blistered the throat of one; but that does more harm than good, in my opinion.

9. Mr. W., Chislehurst. On Sept. 28th I saw 2 cases. One had been ill several days, and the lungs were much congested. I prescribed *bell.* and *phos.* Next day I found the cow's head tied with rope to a beam, and a man pouring Condry's fluid down her throat. This case died. I cannot include it in these returns. The other case was in the fields with others; it was brought up, put into a comfortable place, and had *bell.* and *phos.* given to it. This case recovered.

10. Mr. B. wrote to me on Oct. 16th, stating that he

* The disease is milder and more curable in *Dutch* than in *English* cows. I know of 36 cases of *Dutch* cows, 23 of which got well without treatment. A parallel fact is unknown amongst our native stock.

had cured 12 of his own cows by my instructions, and had given *arsenicum* to his remaining 7 cows, all escaping the disease. He had also cured a neighbour's cow that had been condemned by a Government veterinary inspector.

11. On Oct. 21st I was sent for to see a cow belonging to Mr. Bentall. It had been ill several days, and was severely purged, the discharge being mixed with clots of blood. I prescribed *merc. corr.*, which checked the flux; but the animal died a week afterwards.

12. On Oct. 21st Mr. Naylor, Moor Allerton, near Leeds, wrote to me saying that he had successfully treated one of his cows, by giving *arsen.* when the animal had running from the eyes and mouth, and loss of appetite and milk, and *aconitum* subsequently, when the breathing became quick and laboured. The other cows were placed under *arsen.*, and had escaped up to a time long past the incubation period.

13. Mrs. H.'s cow, visited on Oct. 26th, was one of the worst cases I have ever seen. It was enormously emphysematous all over, except the ears and tail,—so much so that the pulse could not be felt. The respiration was 80 per minute; there was great difficulty of breathing; the paunch was much distended; the nose poked out; and the fæces slimy. I saw little hope of this cow's recovery, but I prescribed a tea-spoonful of *liquor arsenicalis* and the same dose of *liquor ammoniacæ* every two hours alternately. I saw the case again on the 28th, improvement had set in and perfect recovery followed.

14. Mr. Edward Higgin, in his excellent pamphlet on the Cattle Plague, has tried my treatment, and he says he "has treated with some success his own cattle and those of his neighbours. Out of 28 cases, 25 were restored to health—the remaining 3 were in a more or less moribund state when they were first treated." Four of the cases relapsed and died.

Table shewing Results of Treatment up to Nov. 1st.

No.	Owner's Name.	Total Cases.	Cured.	Died.	Killed.
1	Mr. D.	9	6	0	3
2	Mr. A.	3	2	0	1
3	Rev. C. M.	2	2	0	0
4	C. M., Esq.	2	0	1	1
5	C. S., Esq.	1	0	1	0
6	Mr. D.	4	2	0	2
7	Sir R. Dacres.....	3	0	3	0
8	Col. Grant	4	4	0	0
9	Mr. W.	1	1	0	0
10	Mr. B.....	13	13	0	0
11	Mr. B.....	1	0	1	0
12	Mr. Naylor	1	1	0	0
13	Mrs. H.	1	1	0	0
14	Mr. Higgin	28	21	7	0
		73	53	13	7

It will be observed that up to this date the results of the treatment were greater than those that had been obtained in Holland.* Besides, my cases were unselected, many in an advanced stage, a few dying; whereas the Holland cases were, as Herr Vandyk subsequently certified, *selected*. I have not the least desire to pit the one treatment against the other. I merely state a fact.

After the foregoing experience I felt warranted in concluding that homœopathy could deal successfully with this dire pest, and that it might be possible to instruct farmers how to act on the spot when their stocks were attacked. Accordingly, I issued a pamphlet specially adapted to farmers, giving very plain directions as to the treatment and diet. In some parts of the country an attempt has been made to carry my instructions into effect. Subsequently, the Association formed in London likewise issued instructions of a similar kind, and for a similar purpose. I am now of opinion that it is not possible, for various reasons which have little to do with the treatment, to

* The recoveries in Holland were 60 out of 80, or 75 per cent. The above table shows that 80 per cent. of the *cases treated* recovered.

instruct the average run of farmers how they may cope with the disease successfully. They can not or will not detect the disease at the early stage, when it can be best treated; they can not or will not vary the remedy with alterations of symptoms; they can not or will not separate their animals, or keep their shippens clean and disinfected; and ninety-nine out of a hundred of them are not able to comprehend the prime necessity of nursing and dieting. The owners and their men equally persist in giving hay, straw and roots to plague-affected cattle, although warned that such food is positively hurtful. Such is my life-long experience of the majority, not only in the case of this cow disease, but in all others. If one single remedy could be discovered for all cases in all stages, if it could be given without any trouble and bought for nothing, and if no attention were required in dieting, clothing, cleanliness or ventilation, the remedy would become exceedingly popular amongst farmers. Nothing more and nothing less is likely to answer.

I proceed with the narration of cases from Nov. 1st up to the present date.

1. On Nov. 2nd I was called by Mr. Towers, Portland-town, to see his stock. One cow had died three or four days before; 19 remained, all more or less affected; one which had recently suffered from pleuro-pneumonia was hopelessly ill. The owner sold 5 of these cases, although they were doing very fairly; he also sold 6 subsequently that had got over the disease, but did not give sufficient milk to pay him to keep them; 2 died; and 6 recovered cases were kept. In this lot I consider that 12 recovered.

2. On Nov. 16th I visited Norfolk, having agreed with the Norwich Cattle Plague Association to treat cattle suffering from plague, on two conditions—firstly, that two veterinary inspectors should certify each case as suffering from the disease; and secondly, that no case placed under treatment should be killed. I visited four farms. At Mr. Reed's there were 22 cases; 18 were beyond recovery,

and 4 were "registered" and prescribed for. At Mr. Allen's there were 5; 2 moribund, 1 not registered, and 2 registered. At Mr. Atkin's, 1 moribund and 1 registered. At Mr. Carman's, 1 moribund, 3 not registered, and 1 registered. In all, I prescribed for 8 registered cases, and 4, suffering from decided plague, the inspector would not register, on the ground that the disease was not "sufficiently developed"—an extraordinary condition, not mentioned in the original agreement. I never saw these cases again, because I found that the inspectors had resolved not to sanction the treatment of any cases that were likely to recover. In a letter in the *Times* of Dec. 29th last, "C" states that 21 cases were registered, that all parties were satisfied with the day's proceedings, and that the treatment proceeded. I say that these statements are untrue; and Mr. Cadge, surgeon, of Norwich, and correspondent of the *Lancet*, knows that he has stated what is not correct. I wrote a true statement to the *Lancet*, but, as might have been anticipated, its insertion was refused, and a shuffling notice of its receipt given. On Nov. 18th I went again to Norwich, and found that 2 of the 8 registered cases had been killed. Whilst there, I was requested to see 10 cases belonging to Mr. Savory. My opinion was stated to be that only one was likely to recover. Mr. Robert Moore subsequently attended to them; they all died but one. He also attended Mr. Carman's 3 unregistered and 1 registered cases; 1 recovered. On Nov. 20th he also visited 6 cases, 3 of Mr. English's being advanced. Mr. Pratt's 3 recovered—a fact which Mr. Cadge and his friends have studiously concealed. On Nov. 16th I saw 3 cases that had been successfully treated by Mr. Rapier, homœopathic chemist. One of the inspectors remarked that it was doubtful if they had ever been ill! although they had all the symptoms of plague, and one cow out of the same lot had been killed the day before by order of the government inspector. At about the same period Mr. Sayer, veterinary surgeon, of Norwich, treated 17

cases, 8 recoveries and 9 deaths being the result. He adopted the excellent plan of having his own man to attend upon the cases night and day.

3. Miss Taunton, Stockbridge, sent for me on Nov. 21st. The case was a valuable pedigree cow, that had been ill for several days, and treated by the owner, as for pleuro-pneumonia, with *acon.* and *bryon.* It had all the symptoms of plague. I prescribed *bell.* and *phos.* at first, and subsequently I prescribed by letter according to the symptoms furnished to me. This case died in a week after my first and only visit.

4. H. R. Farnell, Esq., C.B., Government Poor-Law Inspector, requested me to attend a cow, on Dec. 28th. It was a case of plague complicated with pleuro-pneumonia of the right side. It had been well treated by Mr. Urell, homœopathic chemist. I saw the animal when the disease was at its height, and it afterwards steadily improved and recovered.

5. Mr. P., Holloway, put a cow under my treatment on Nov. 28th. Another case had died the day before, but I do not know whether it had been treated or not. The case which I treated was doing well when I last saw it; in fact, it was convalescent. Mr. James Moore, jun., subsequently called, and found the improvement maintained, and apparently nothing the matter. I was much surprised to hear by note that the cow had died suddenly several days after my last visit. I cannot account for this unexpected event, except by supposing that sufficient care had not been observed in diet.

6. Mr. C., Wimbledon, called me in on Dec. 31st. Three cases were ill. One had been bad several days; the other two were considered to be well, but I found on examination the usual symptoms of the disease. In all three cases, and particularly in one, there were well-developed pocks, round the roots of the teats, exactly the same as those of ordinary cow-pox. In addition, there was a large crop of small vesicles on the udder, which detached

the cuticle. Similar vesicles were found in great abundance on the surface of the vagina, on the margin of the lips, and at the openings of the nostrils. All three died.

7. On Dec. 28th, I visited 15 valuable pedigree animals. Three or four had previously died. The plague had visited this place on Sept. 3rd, and two cases of recoveries are mentioned in this narration. One took the disease a second time and died. *Arsenicum* had been steadily given to the remaining lot. One of the 15 died the day after I saw it, and another on the second day. I never saw worse cases. Five recovered—a most satisfactory result under circumstances so unfavourable; the more so, as pedigree animals bear the disease worse than others.

8. Mr. B., Edgware-road, had 10 cases ill on Nov. 25th. Eight cases were killed for butcher's meat, and 2 recovered. Mr. B. visited a friend in Oxfordshire whose father-in-law had a bull ill from plague, and getting *bell*. He suggested *phos.* in addition to *bell.*; the same remedies as I had prescribed for his own cattle. The bull recovered. Mr. B's. friend was visited by the disease on the night of his departure; these cattle were put under the same two medicines. Up to my last information the following are the results:—15 two-year olds, 6 cured, 9 dead; 6 one-year olds, 3 cured, 3 dead; 3 bulls, 3 cured; 12 cows, 11 cured, 1 dead. At the same period, Mr. Rolland and Mr. Walker, two neighbours of Mr. B.'s friend, cured, the former 2 out of 3, and the latter 4 out of 5.

9. A neighbour of Dr. Moore's lost one of his two-year olds. Three steers became affected. One was moribund, and died in a few hours. The other two were in an earlier stage, and got *bell*. In one case, diarrhœa set in on the second day, and was checked by a few doses of *merc. cor.* It recovered. The other case died from exhaustion.

Table of Cases Treated from Nov. 1st, 1865, to Feb. 10th, 1866.

No.	Name.	Total Cases.	Cured.	Died.	Killed.
1	Mr. Towers	19	12	2	5
2	Mr. Savory	10	1	9	0
"	Mr. Pratt	3	3	0	0
"	Mr. English	3	0	3	0
"	Mr. Rapiér	3	3	0	0
"	Mr. Carman	4	1	3	0
"	Mr. Sayer	17	8	9	0
3	Miss Taunton	1	0	1	0
4	Mr. Farnall	1	1	0	0
5	Mr. P.....	1	1	0	0
6	Mr. C.....	3	0	3	0
7	Rev. C. M.....	15	5	10	0
8	Mr. B.	10	2	0	8
"	Mr. B's Friend	36	23	13	0
"	Mr. Rolland	3	2	1	0
"	Mr. Waller	5	4	1	0
9	Dr. M's Neighbour	2	1	1	0
		136	67	56	13

Deducting from the total cases the 13 killed, there remain 123 actually treated, of which 67 recovered, being at the rate of 54 per cent.

I now come to give a very brief account of the Norfolk trial, about which so much has been said by friend and foe, and respecting which undue expectation ran so very high. The London Cattle Plague Association employed me to make a trial in Norfolk, under their official sanction. Mr. Emerton and Mr. Robert Moore assisted me. The trial began on Dec. 1st, and ended on Dec. 25th. Mr. Mayer was present throughout, on behalf of the Royal Cattle Plague Commissioners, and reported to that body all the proceedings. The results are easily told. In all, 45 animals were treated; 9 by homœopathic medicines and the Turkish bath conjointly, and the remainder by the former alone. Of these 36 cases, which I shall alone place in the estimates of the result of homœopathic treatment, 6 were convalescent when the trial terminated. The recoveries were, therefore, at the rate of 16.66 per cent. My instructions were to take all cases living and dying, and I

did so. Four of the cases were hopelessly ill; 10 were in the advanced stage, from which I have not known more than 2 or 3 exceptionally recover; 20 were in the second stage, with well marked symptoms; and 2, when I first saw them, were in the incipient stage. If I had been permitted to weed these cases, with regard to their fitness as fair tests for treatment, I should have declined more than one-third of them. The results of the treatment, although much inferior to those which I had previously obtained, do not in the slightest degree shake my confidence in the efficacy of the remedies I first proposed in this country, and used on that occasion. For, although comparatively few recovered, the duration of the disease was unusually lengthened out by the treatment. In 4 cases the symptoms were not influenced, and death took place, on an average, between the third and fourth day; in 9, the symptoms gradually increased in gravity, death supervening between the tenth and eleventh day; and in 17, the symptoms steadily abated, indications of decided convalescence appeared, then a relapse took place, and death occurred, on an average, between the fifteenth and sixteenth day. Contrast this with what allopathy did at the same time, even when favoured by every possible advantage with respect to dieting and nursing. At Ketteringham, in Norfolk, 57 head of neat stock had the disease; 42 died, 13 were killed to save them from death, 1 recovered without treatment, and 1 defied the disease. About 25 beasts that were well were fed on boiled food of the best description for a fortnight, and when they fell ill on linseed gruel, but all died within 5 days from the time of falling off their feed, except 2 buds, which lived nearly a fortnight. Here then are 25 cases, 23 of which died within 5 days, and none recovered; whereas, in this trial, carried on under very great disadvantages, only 4 died under the fifth day, and 1 in 6 recovered.

Again, Mr. Reed, M.P., one of the Cattle Plague Commissioners, had 10 head treated allopathically; all died.

And Col. Fitzroy had 26 head under the treatment of a practitioner from London ; not one recovered.

I am persuaded that a very satisfactory percentage of recoveries would have resulted from the trial, had our efforts not been completely foiled by our being utterly unable to place a large number of the cases in comfortable houses, and in all, to feed them as they ought to have been fed. For a whole week, nothing but hay, turnips and straw could be obtained ; and even when more suitable food was got, the men over and over again persisted in giving as many turnips as the animals would eat. Mr. Mayer even found himself constrained to reprimand one of the men, who retorted with insolence. I cannot enter into all the details in this place ; but I state what the real difficulty, and chief—if not sole—cause of failure was. Mr. Mayer admitted that with such doings there had been no fair trial ; and he told me that he would state *that* as his opinion to the Commissioners. I am quite satisfied to have my own opinion borne out and endorsed by so able a practitioner and so impartial a witness. The reason why I lay the chief blame on the dieting is, that no medicines whatever are of the slightest use, if the patients are allowed to eat what does harm ; and those only who are engaged in veterinary practice know the impossibility of getting even educated and intelligent owners of stock to understand that the most vigilant attention to dieting and nursing is *essential to success* in treating the plague. This is the universal opinion of all authorities, no matter what particular course of treatment they pursue.

The entire number of cases which I have treated myself, or which have been treated with a faithful adherence to my instructions as respects medicines and diet, amount, as far as I have ascertained, to 245 cases, the results of which are represented in the following table. I put the facts more against than for myself, by including the Norfolk cases, although I decline to accept the results of the trial as a fair or final indication of what the treatment can

achieve on a large scale, and with proper attention to details.

Table showing the aggregate Results from Aug. 30th, 1865, to Feb. 10th, 1866, including the Norfolk cases.

	Total Cases.	Cured.	Died.	Killed.
Table first	73	53	13	7
Table second	136	67	56	13
Norfolk Cases	36	6	30	0
	245	126	99	20

By deducting the 20 killed cases, we shall obtain 225 as the total number of animals actually treated, of which, as the table shows, 126 recovered; rate of recovery 56 per cent. If the killed cases be reckoned amongst the deaths, on the ground, as an opponent might allege, that they would *all* have died had the treatment gone on; the recoveries are at the rate of 51 per cent. If the nine cases treated by the Turkish Bath and homœopathy together be added to the 225 cases actually treated, the number will be 234, of which 126 recovered, or equal to 53 per cent.

My late assistant in Norfolk, Mr. Emerton, informs me that he found the remedies which were used in the trial successful in the cases recently treated in York. I also observe from Mr. Pope's paper in the last number of this *Review*, that previously to Mr. Emerton's visit, very much the same remedies had succeeded. There is, then, a very large and irrefragable body of facts which conclusively prove that there are men, even in this kingdom, who can deal successfully with the plague without the necessity of importing Dutch teachers or German repertories.