

M0016245: Display board: Cope and Horsley, "Reports on the outbreak of Rabies"

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sively proves that Rabies can be conveyed by the bite of the rabid herbivora to another animal, and was a means of transmitting the infection in this outbreak; the absence of upper incisors in these animals must have rendered this method of inoculation very uncertain in its result, and no doubt accounts for the slow progress of the disease among the herd, a circumstance which throughout constituted the most peculiar feature in this outbreak.

Experiment showing that the disease is not readily conveyed by feeding on infected pastures.

There still remained another means by which the disease might have been transmitted, viz., that of feeding on pastures infected by the saliva of the diseased animals. This view is, however, negatived by the following experiment.

Four large red deer were enclosed with one of the infected herds of fallow deer and fed on the same herbage on a circumscribed area, but none of the red deer contracted the disease from eating the infected food. Nor were they infected by the saliva. This may be accounted for by the circumstance that the red and the fallow deer do not associate closely, and did not lick or bite one another.

Finally, in reference to the progress of the disease in these herds, it is interesting to note that the greater mortality in the early part of the outbreak was among the does and fawns; this is accounted for by the bucks protecting themselves with their horns from the attacks of the rabid does. Simultaneously with the shedding of their horns, the mortality increased among the bucks, and during the time the horns of the bucks were in velvet this continued.

ALEXR. C. COPE.

December 7th, 1887.

Report by Professor Victor Horsley, B.S., F.R.S., &c., Professor Superintendent of the Brown Institution, &c., &c.

The following is a brief account of observations and experiments made by myself upon certain deer sent to the Brown Institution from the infected herd in Richmond Park, by the courtesy of Mr. Sawyer, to whom I am also indebted for much information respecting the outbreak, and tissues from the same animals, submitted to me for examination and opinion by Mr. Cope.

I have watched the course of the disease as described by Mr. Cope in the foregoing report in four of the affected animals, and will now proceed to enumerate such symptoms as were exhibited by each as far as they could be observed in a loose box, the only accommodation possible at the Brown Institution.

I. CLINICAL REPORT.

DEER No. 1.—Admitted into the Brown Institution from Richmond Park, sent by Mr. Sawyer, at 6 p.m., 18th April 1887. When removed from the box in which it was brought the animal was very excited, but evidently very ill.

19th April, 9.30 a.m.—When seen this morning it had not fed since admission, and was lying on the ground apparently but semi-conscious. The position was peculiar, namely, the legs were stretched straight at right angles to the trunk, while the head and neck were strongly retracted (tonic spasm?).

When touched it staggered up on to its feet, markedly parietic in its hind limbs. It was nevertheless still very excitable, for it flew at the stick with which I touched it with much fury. In doing so it fell down owing of course to the commencing paralysis.

20th April.—Animal weaker, but still aggressive. The hind legs were more obviously paralysed. Occasionally there was a general tetanoid spasm specially marked in the hind quarters. This spasm fixed the animal in a remarkable position, in which, while the forelegs were vertical, the hind limbs were stretched far back and partly separated. The same attitude may often be seen in a similar stage of the disease in a rabid dog.

21st April, 10 a.m.—Temperature in the rectum 41° C. (about 105.8° F.). The animal was now almost completely comatose; it lay on its left side with marked opisthotonic contraction of the muscles of the back. The least touch caused tetanoid spasm of the limbs in extension. There was, in addition, a constant rhythmical chewing movement of the jaws. (It, however, had not

A.C. Cope and Victor Horsley, Reports on the Outbreak of Rabies among Deer in Richmond Park during the Years 1886-7. London, H.M.S.O., 1888.

Open to show the introduction to Horsley's clinical report.