

and the other probably so. No further abortions occurred in the herd.

Of interest in this case was the occurrence of numerous cases of foot rot in the herd. The inflammation was of a type that would indicate a fungus infection but cultures were never made for the purpose of identification.

Previous cases of abortion due to various species of fungi such as *Mucor rhizopodiformis* and *Aspergillus fumigatis* have been reported. Jungheer reported four such cases, three from one herd. Bendixen and Plum isolated a mold from 15 cows which had aborted in one herd. Inoculation of this mold intravenously into pregnant cows had led to a train of changes which resulted in abortion, indicating that the organism can localize in the fetal membranes.

Merle H. Lang, '54

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Hepatic Abscesses in a Bovine.

On Dec. 1, 1952, a two-year-old Hereford heifer was presented to the Stange Memorial Clinic. The history was that of gradual emaciation, weakness, fetid feces containing mucus, temperature of 99°F. and with a suspicion of traumatic reticulitis. On Dec. 2, 1952, the patient died.

Post-mortem examination revealed multiple hepatic abscesses with a probable origin from traumatic reticulitis. Many of the abscesses had become confluent, varying in diameter from 5 to 20 cm. It was estimated that the liver contained at least a gallon of purulent exudate. Focalized peritonitis was present between the liver and reticulum and areas adjacent to the hepatic abscesses. Death was due to a toxemia, which was evidenced by the presence of numerous hemorrhages in various tissues throughout the body.

Special emphasis should be placed upon the fact that extensive involvement of the liver may cause the general symptoms of a chronic debilitating disease with a gradual loss of condition, depression, weakness, anorexia, decreased milk flow and

rough hair coat. It is impossible to palpate the liver per rectum, but distinct pain upon percussion over the area of the liver may be produced. If hepatic damage is suspected it may be of diagnostic value to perform a liver function test.

Abscesses of the liver occur under the following conditions: (a) Traumatic gastritis either by extension from the peritoneum or from direct injury by the foreign body; (b) Metastatic embolic or pyemic abscesses are frequent in severe metritis, mastitis and navel-ill, and occasional in tuberculosis and actinomycosis.* Involvement may be extensive, in the form of a single large abscess, or there may be multiple abscesses with communicating fistulae.

Chan Cotton, '53

*Udall, D. H., The Practice of Veterinary Medicine.

10

Adenocarcinoma of the Bile Ducts.

On Oct. 23, 1952, a five-year-old Holstein cow was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic, Ames, Iowa. According to the history she had freshened six weeks previously and for the past three weeks had been eating hay but no grain. The general condition of the animal was poor.

On October 24, blood and urine samples were sent to the laboratory, but the results were of little diagnostic value. On October 28, a test for ketone bodies was positive and the patient was treated with 500 cc. of 50 percent glucose. It was followed the next day with 500 cc. of 50 percent glucose, a #10 capsule of chloral hydrate orally and $\frac{3}{4}$ pt. of molasses. Two #10 capsules of gentian, ginger, and nuxvomica were given orally to stimulate rumen activity. The patient continued to drop in milk production, the rumen movements became very weak, the feces were scanty and hard. Just before death on November 3, a severe watery diarrhea developed.

A necropsy was performed on November 4. Multiple neoplastic-like masses

were found in the omentum. They were 1 to 4 cm. in diameter, white and firm in consistency, and very vascular. There were numerous transplants from the omentum to the wall of the intestine. A marked stenosis of the jejunum had taken place as a result of neoplastic infiltration of the gut wall.

The histopathological studies of the neoplastic tissues revealed that it was an adenocarcinoma of the bile ducts.

Dale Spear, '53

Eye Bank

During the five years of its existence, The Eye Bank for Sight Restoration has successfully carried out its prime objective of developing a source of eyes to be used by qualified surgeons in rehabilitating the blind. Before its inception, few corneal grafting operations were performed because suitable material was scarce. At that time, according to the *Connecticut Medical Journal* not more than 12 to 15 surgeons in the country were performing this operation. It was

estimated that as many as 15,000 persons who were blind as a result of corneal damage could be helped by corneal surgery.

Today, 112 surgeons are known to be performing the operation regularly. The Eye Bank's five-year experience has shown that the total number of blind persons who could be helped by corneal transplants is much greater than 15,000. As a result of its educational program, thousands of persons throughout the nation have pledged their eyes to the organization when they die. Although 2,000 eyes were made available in five years, there always is a waiting list, sometimes amounting to as many as 30 unfilled requests.

At present, 155 hospitals in the United States are co-operating in the Eye Bank's program. Through its laboratory, the Bank has provided training in the technics of corneal grafting, in addition to carrying on extensive research studies concerning such other eye affections as glaucoma, cataract, and detached retina.

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