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A Giant Bovine Fetus. A small Holstein cow, age 4 years, was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic, Feb. 3, 1948. She had been in labor since early that morning.

The cow was placed in the stocks and a vaginal examination revealed the fetus to be dead and exceptionally large. The head and left foreleg were presented normally in the pelvic cavity, but the right foreleg was retained at the carpus. Efforts to repel the fetus so that the forelimb could be extended were useless because of the excessive size of the fetus. Since it was apparent that the calf could not be delivered by traction it was decided to perform an emergency laparohysterotomy.

The right paralumbar fossa was clipped, shaved, defatted with ether, and a 7 per cent tincture of iodine was applied to the skin. The line of incision from the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae ventrally through the middle of the paralumbar fossa was infiltrated with 4 per cent procaine. A vertical incision was made through the skin, muscle, and peritoneum in this infiltrated area. To expose the uterus the omentum was incised 2 in. ventral to the duodenum. The uterus was so large and immobile that the right horn could not be lifted up to the operative incision, so an incision was made in the body of the uterus nearest to the operator. The fetus was removed by traction from this incision.

After the fetal membranes were removed, sulfanilamide was placed in the uterus and the incision sutured with Cushing sutures, using No. 3 chromic catgut. Excessive fluid in the abdominal cavity was removed by siphoning. The peritoneum and transverse abdominal muscle were closed with a lock suture, using No. 3 chromic catgut. The internal and external oblique muscles were similarly sutured. A vertical mattress suture of umbilical tape was used to close the skin. 1,000 cc of 50 percent dextrose was administered intravenously and 90 Gm. of sulfanilamide was given orally before the cow was removed to her stall.

The fetus when taken from the uterus weighed 205 lb. This may not be a record

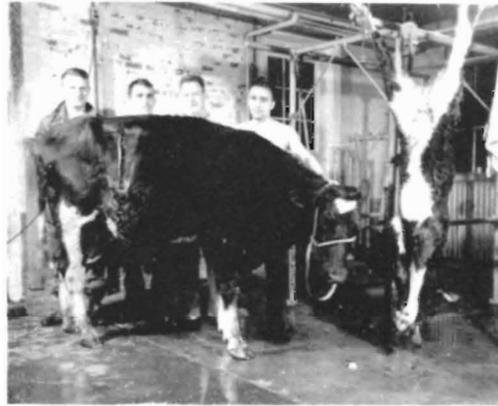


Fig. 1. Fetus and Dam.

weight, but it is the largest fetus ever delivered at Stange Memorial Clinic, and the largest ever encountered by any of the clinical staff.

A. Neumann, '49

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Eversion of the Bladder in A Bovine. A two year old Hereford cow was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic Feb. 23, 1948, following the diagnosis by a local veterinarian of a vaginal tumor.

The patient had calved 12 days previously and it had been necessary to remove the calf manually because of a difficult breech presentation. The following day, the owner noticed a large hemorrhagic mass protruding from the vulva. Hemorrhagic exudate was passed intermittently from the vagina for several days thereafter.

February 24, the patient was restrained in the stocks, the vulva and protruding mass cleansed with Therapogen solution, and a manual examination of these parts performed. The mass appeared pedunculated, and was found to be attached to the floor of the vagina at the approximate level of the posterior vaginal sphincter. Upon palpation the mass was of a very hard consistency and indurated; its surface was necrotic, bruised, and hemorrhagic. Circumscribing the stalk-like at-

tachment of the mass was a narrow fold of mucosa which could be palpated on the vaginal floor. The bladder could not be located by means of palpation, nor could the urethral orifice be found. Closer examination revealed two minute openings in the dorsum of the mass. It was decided these were the ureteral orifices.

These findings, together with the history of the mass having appeared the day after calving, led to a diagnosis of complete eversion of the bladder.

The extremely necrotic condition of the bladder left little hope for recovery, so the patient was returned to the owner with the recommendation of early slaughter.

Wm. Ribelin, '49

Mythical Diseases

It is amusing to find that "horn distemper" and "tail sickness," two fabulous diseases of cattle, were described as early as 1771. At that time, "horn distemper" was reported as a mortal disease of meat cattle, seldom affecting oxen. Bulls were

exempt from this condition. This disease was said to affect the internal substance of the horn, commonly called the pith, and waste it, leaving the horn hollow. It was thought by some that this condition was infectious. The disease was cured by boring a hole in the base of the horn, opening the cavity and allowing the accumulated matter to escape.

At about the same time a disorder commonly called "tail sickness" was reported. It was described as a wasting disease of the bony substance of the tail. The treatment was to cut off the tail where the defect was present.

Belief of the existence of these so-called diseases is still common among lay people up to the present time, even in the face of persistent refutation by learned individuals.

Trichina spiralis was first detected in swine by Joseph Leidy, M.D., of Philadelphia in 1846. Before that time it was thought the parasite was peculiar to humans.

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