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Abdominal Abscess in the Bovine

Ward Richter
Iowa State College

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CLINICAL MEDICINE

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Abdominal Abscess in the Bovine. On May 11, 1954, a 4-year-old Hereford cow was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic with a history of having been bloated 3 to 4 days earlier. Although the cow had been punctured in the paralumbar fossa to relieve the bloat, she was bloated again at the time of entrance into the clinic. A stomach tube was passed to relieve the tympany. Magnesium sulfate and an antiferment were pumped into the rumen. On the following day $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of eserine was injected subcutaneously. The stomach tube was passed daily for 3 days to relieve the recurring bloat but only small amounts of gas were obtained. On May 14, a great deal of the rumen ingesta was pumped out and the tympany was relieved. The animal was not eating well, although she was given gentian, ginger and nux vomica daily. Her appetite was slow in improving and she remained constipated.

On May 18, it was noted that she had a slight prolapse of the vagina. On closer examination a vaginal tumor was detected. A rope truss was applied to prevent further prolapse. She was carrying a full term calf and because the truss would prevent normal parturition, it would be necessary to remove it when labor began. Therefore, she was examined per vaginam daily to detect any dilatation of the cervix and the beginning of labor.

On May 26, the cervix was found to be completely dilated and the truss was removed. As the cow made no attempt to expel the fetus during the next few hours,

she was prepared for surgery. A caesarean section was performed in the right paralumbar fossa. Upon removing the fetus a large abscess was detected in the peritoneal cavity where it ruptured and spilled its contents. Further abscesses were noted along the right abdominal wall. Adhesions existed between the abdominal wall and the uterine wall.

Material from the abscesses was sent to the bacteriology laboratory for culturing. Only the skin was sutured and the animal was destroyed. Post mortem examination revealed a very large abscess between the uterus, the rumen and the posterior left abdominal wall.

The bacteriological findings showed that the infecting organisms were *Escherichia coli*, *Corynebacterium pyogenes*, and *Proteus*. The origin of the infection was not determined.

Ward Richter, '55