Scrotal Hernia in a Bull

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Scrotal Hernia in a Bull. On April 5, 1945, a four year old Hereford bull was presented for treatment at the Stange Memorial Clinic.

The scrotum was swollen and rectal palpation revealed a loop of small intestine had descended into the scrotum and was slightly adherent at the bottom.

An area on the left para-lumbar fossa was clipped and shaved and tincture of iodine was applied. The skin and muscles were infiltrated with 4 percent procaine solution and a laparotomy was performed. Traction was applied to the intestine where it entered the internal inguinal ring. There was difficulty encountered in removing the intestinal loop from the scrotum because of the adhesions that had formed between the intestinal peritoneum and the tunica vaginalis. By manipulation the adhesions were broken down and a loop of about thirty inches of intestine was withdrawn from the scrotum.

Closure of Ring

The internal inguinal ring was then scarified. The intention was that the swelling produced by irritating the ring would reduce its size and eventually connective tissue would form, thus the ring would be closed permanently.

The peritoneum and muscles were sutured with No. 5 catgut, using interrupted sutures. The skin was sutured with umbilical tape using mattress sutures. Bipp paste was then applied to the wound.

After Care

Several days following the operation edema of the scrotum was noted. Hot packs were applied to the scrotal region for at least 30 minutes each day and the swelling was effectively reduced. Bipp paste was applied each day to the wound in the skin. No other treatment was used.

The animal was discharged two weeks following the operation. The owner was contacted three months following the operation and reported there had been no recurrence of the hernia and the bull was in excellent health, being used as the herd sire.

---James H. Bailey, '46

Experiments carried out by Smith and Emmart of the United States Public Health Service (Pub. Health Rep.; March 31, 1944) indicated that penicillin had no effect on the growth of tubercle bacilli in culture mediums, on the production of tubercles on the chick membrane, or on the course of the disease in experimentally inoculated guinea pigs. All preparations tested, however, reduced the extent of tubercle formation on the chorioallantoic membrane but without showing any effect on reducing the incidence of the infection.

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The loss of food from diseases of animals is acknowledged to run into big figures but the loss from inapparent troubles, mostly preventable, is probably much greater. The price paid for insects, worms, and subclinical dietary deficiencies and faults is not small.

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Turkeys also require greater amounts of vitamin A than chickens. This vitamin prevents nutritional roup, promotes growth, aids in the prevention of infections and improves the fertility of hatching eggs.