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Foreign Body in the Esophagus of a Cow

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By April 11, the abdominal wound was granulating satisfactorily. The cervical wound had not reduced in swelling as much as was hoped. The next day the cervical wound was draining satisfactorily and the patient was discharged.

A laboratory report of the histopathologic section of the abdominal tumor revealed it to be a fibromyoma.

D. H. Crawford, '50

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Foreign Body in the Esophagus of a Cow. A peculiar case of esophageal obstruction in a bovine was treated at the Stange Memorial Clinic during February. The patient, a 6-year-old Guernsey cow, was admitted to the Clinic on February 18, 1949.

The history obtained was that on February 12, 1949, the cow broke into a hog lot where the owner was feeding garbage. After this the cow was unable to eat and an enlargement was observed in the anterior esophageal region. The local veterinarian passed a stomach tube, but the condition did not improve. The day before her admission a stomach tube could not be passed, and it was advised that the owner bring her to the Clinic.

The symptoms observed when the cow was presented for treatment were: an enlargement in the anterior portion of the esophagus about the size of a large orange, but somewhat irregular in shape; and apparent pain on palpation. The cow was unable to eat and showed dehydration and considerable loss of weight.

An Emont's speculum was placed in the mouth and an attempt made to pass a stomach tube. The tube would either strike a solid object in the esophagus or pass down the trachea. Next, an equine mouth speculum was placed in the mouth. The tongue was pulled out of the mouth and by reaching down into the esophagus, the foreign body could be touched with the tips of the fingers. It was determined to be a lid from a No. 2 (20 oz.) tin can, and was lodged in a horizontal position in the esophagus about 4 or 5 inches from the pharynx. Only the anterior edge of the lid could be reached with the hand, and then only with a thumb and forefinger. The edge of the lid was bent upwards with the fingers and by rotating it, the lid was easily removed. It was thought that the lid had tipped enough to allow the escape of gas, and a limited amount of swallowing.

After removal of the lid, the patient drank a large amount of water and then began to eat hay. The patient was discharged the same afternoon.

This case is another example of the peculiar things cows will eat and which often become lodged in the esophagus.

E. A. Gubser, '50

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Nasal Polypus In The Horse. A 3-year-old Standardbred male horse was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic.

Fig. 5. The horse as he appeared when admitted to the Clinic.