1941

Test Tube Calf

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stomach tube, a laxative, carminatives, and stimulants in warm water. The owner was informed that if no favorable results were obtained, a rumenotomy soon would be necessary.

The following day the cow was unable to arise because of great abdominal distention. Using local anesthesia, a rumenotomy was attempted. The organ exposed by the incision in the left paralumbar fossa did not have the usual appearance of the rumen, however, Dr. Carey proceeded to suture it to the skin. Upon incising the organ it was found to be the uterus and an estimated 50 or 60 gallons of fluid were evacuated from it. The operation was completed with a caesarean section and removal of a seven month's fetus. The cow was able to arise but died in twenty-four hours.

—J. W. Carey, '41

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Esophageal Diverticulum. On Dec. 10, 1940, a black 7-year-old jennie mule was presented to the Iowa State College clinic for treatment. The animal was in a very weak and emaciated condition. Its pulse was 44, respiration 15, and temperature 99.6°.

The only history given was that the mule had been off feed for about two years, and had gradually been losing weight. The condition had become more severe recently, and the animal was incapable of doing a hard day's work. The upper respiratory passages were examined by passing a stomach tube through each nostril with no apparent difficulty. The teeth were examined and found to be in good condition. A blood count was made and the results were: red blood cells—6,930,000, and white blood cells—13,600. A fecal examination was run, and many Strongylidae ova were found. Intradermal mallein and tuberculin tests were administered. Retching was noticed after the administration of ten ounces of Phenazoid by way of a stomach tube, and vomition soon occurred. After reading the mallein and tuberculin tests which were negative, a tentative diagnosis of esophageal diverticulum was made. The animal was kept in the clinic for seven days, during which time she continued to eat and drink, but soon vomited the food after each ingestion. Since no improvement could be seen after seven days, and the animal continued to weaken, the owner's permission was obtained to destroy the animal. The animal was electrocuted with 115 volts of alternating current, Dec. 18, and an autopsy performed.

Necropsy

The post-mortem examination revealed a greatly enlarged funnel-shaped esophagus with the neck of the funnel at the pharynx. The esophagus at the pharynx admitted three fingers with ease, the maximum dilatation being a sac-like distention which was located just anterior to the diaphragm. This portion was filled with soft, well masticated food, and a considerable amount of gravel, the particles being about two to three millimeters in diameter. The mucosa in the dilatation was greatly thickened and cornified in places. In other places the mucosa was eroded and thin, or almost absent. At the diaphragm and the stomach entrance, the lumen was nearly normal in size. The only other post mortem finding of note was verminous thrombosis of the right branch of the anterior mesenteric artery.

The antemortem diagnosis of esophageal diverticulum was confirmed by the post mortem examination.

—D. C. Van Howeling, '42

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Test Tube Calf. Dr. W. C. Merritt, Fort Dodge, Iowa, who has been doing some work in artificial insemination, sent us this picture of Test Tube Ormsby Sir Bessie, his first test tube calf, born Dec. 22, 1940. This calf was sired by Femco Sir Bessie Cecelia 752588 owned by Mr. Herbert Porter (on the right in the photograph) and the dam was Verla Posch.
Ormsby Ona Inka 1959376 owned by Mr. Ernie Schmobes (on the left in the photograph).

In doing his work in artificial insemination Dr. Merritt uses an artificial vagina to collect the semen in preference to massaging the ampullae of the ductus deferens.

He examines the vagina and cervix of the cow with an eighteen inch glass speculum and flashlight before introducing the semen. The semen is first subjected to a microscopic examination to assure whether or not the sperm are alive. A twenty-four inch glass tube with a bulb syringe connected to one end by rubber tubing is used to introduce the semen. This is accomplished by passing the glass tube through the speculum directly into the cervix and by exerting a little pressure on the bulb the semen is deposited directly into the cervical canal.

—L. T. Christensen, '42

Porcine Malignant Edema. On Dec. 23, 1940, near Brookfield, Mo., an outbreak of malignant edema in a herd of swine was observed. According to the owner 20 hogs developed clinical symptoms within 36 hours following his detection of the first sick animal. After this period no other affected animals appeared. A fox terrier dog known to have eaten a jowl from an infected carcass developed typical malignant edema symptoms within three days and died within a week.

The appearance of similar symptoms in a large number of animals within a short time suggested the possibility of infected food. A few days before the outbreak the owner lost a calf, supposedly from blackleg. As is commonly the practice, the carcass was fed to the hogs.

Three hogs were autopsied and in each the tissues of the pharyngeal region were found to be infiltrated with a yellowish gelatinous fluid. Although not extensive, crepitant areas in the subcutaneous tissues of the throat were noticed. The salivary glands and lymph nodes were markedly swollen and light grey in color. Other tissues and organs revealed no characteristic lesions. In two of the animals old necrotic lesions in the pharyngeal wall were noticed. These lesions...