

chief and his seventy associates, over two hundred corresponding editors, collaborators, and correspondents; and the matter is culled from over 1000 journals, monographs, and theses. The present issue is composed of five octavo volumes of between five and six hundred pages each. Volumes I. and II. are concerned with internal or medical diseases; Vol. III. treats of surgical affections; Vol. IV. embraces such specialities as dermatology, ophthalmology, laryngology, etc.; while the concluding volume is devoted to therapeutics, climatology, hygiene, embryology, anatomy, and physiology. The value of the work is greatly enhanced by a large number of excellent illustrations, and there is an admirable system of indexing, by means of which the original source of information can be found with the least possible trouble. It goes without saying that such a publication must be invaluable to the busy practitioner; in its pages he may rely upon finding the substance of everything that is new and important in the domain of medical science; and if on any point fuller information is required, he will here find directions as to where to look for it.

CLINICAL ARTICLES.

CASE OF POISONING BY SCROPHULARIA NODOSA, OR KNOTTED FIGWORT, IN A COW.

By THOMAS WALLEY, M.R.C.V.S., Royal Veterinary College,
Edinburgh.

IN July last while visiting with Mr B. Kettle of Market-Drayton, I had the opportunity of seeing a case of poisoning by the above-mentioned agent.

The cow, on the occasion of our visit, presented all the symptoms of the action of a narcotico-irritant poison, and on questioning the owner we found that he had observed the animal eating some weeds which he had been mowing down on the banks of a stream running through the meadow in which she had been pastured. On visiting the pasture in company with Mr Kettle's assistant (Mr Rickell) the weed referred to was found lying in tolerable quantity on the banks of the stream.

Although perfectly acquainted with the plant, I was not conversant with its botanical name or with its properties; it was however recognised by Mr Rickell by the vulgar name of "Fiddlesticks." I conveyed portions of the plant to Edinburgh and handed them over to my colleague, Dr Macfarlane, who at once recognised it and at the same time informed me that it possessed toxic properties, though much inferior to *digitalis* in this respect.

In a general sense, Henfrey refers to its acrid properties, and Lindley speaks of it as being purgative and emetic.

The following clinical notes of the case are furnished by Mr Rickell, and I will only in connection therewith direct attention to the action of the poison on the mammary gland.

"On Friday morning 24th July I was called in to see a cow, the property of Mr Benj. Bruckshan, of Market-Drayton, who informed

me that when the cow came from the pasture the night previously he noticed she was dull and "all of a shake," and that she only gave a very small quantity of milk although she had given her full quantity in the morning. As it had been a nasty wet day, he thought she had taken a chill, and gave her a drink composed of ginger, coriander, and aniseed, with warm beer.

"The symptoms I observed were as follows: Pulse 50, temp. 100° F., horns and ears very cold, muzzle cold and dry, drooping of the eyelids, and lopping of the ears. When made to move she did so with difficulty, staggered about, and seemed half stupefied. The near hind quarter of the udder was slightly enlarged and inflamed, and the milk contained in all the quarters resembled curds and whey. There was also marked purging. I administered a stimulating draught, had her well clothed, and ordered her three quarts of oatmeal gruel three times a day.

"The cow gradually recovered, and by the 5th day all the symptoms had disappeared, save that the secretion of milk remained arrested."

TWO CASES OF BRAIN DISEASE IN THE HORSE.

By T. & W. FLETCHER, M.R.C.V.S., Sheffield.

AS a small contribution to the pathology of brain affections, we send for publication the following notes regarding two cases that recently occurred in our practice.

CASE I.—The subject in this instance was a milk-cart horse, about 16 or 17 years of age. The animal had always appeared to be of a particularly nervous temperament, but it was only about six months before his death that he began to show decided symptoms of brain disease. The most noticeable of these symptoms was the abnormal position in which he carried his head, which he kept inclined with the nose towards the left side and the poll towards the right, almost like a horse with a diseased ear which he dreaded to have touched. When the head was pushed sharply away from the near side he appeared about to fall, and indeed did sometimes topple over. He had formerly been used to plough, but latterly he was unable to control his movements sufficiently well to walk in the furrow. He had always been a good backer; and even after the onset of the above-mentioned symptoms he could back, when made to do so with care, but he seemed to have partially lost control over his limbs and to go dizzy. He was always able to lie down and get up without any assistance, urine and fæces were passed normally, and the appetite remained good until the last. He was in good condition, and able to walk three miles to the horse-slaughterer's yard to be killed, on the 5th of April last.

The *post-mortem* examination showed that the brain was normal save for the presence of an irregular-shaped grey body, about half the volume of a walnut, and situated between the cerebellum and medulla oblongata on the left side. This body, which was partially blended with the so-called choroid plexus of the fourth ventricle, had a soft and somewhat greasy consistence; and when a particle of it was examined microscopically, it appeared to be almost entirely composed