

The Transmission of *Spirochaeta Theileri* to a Blesbuck (*Damaliscus Albifrons*).

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THE presence of spirochaetes in antelopes was first described by Bruce and his co-workers in a bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) in Uganda (1911). Todd and Wolbach (1912) recorded the presence of spirochaetes in a roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) in the Gambia. Spirochaetes were also found by Schwetz and Collart (1929) in blood smears of an antelope (*Cobus vardonii*) in the Belgian Congo.

Dodd (1906) came to the conclusion that the blood spirochaetes found in horses and sheep are identical with *Sp. theileri* of cattle.

In order to ascertain whether antelopes are susceptible to *Sp. theileri* a splenectomized blesbuck which had been experimentally infected with *Anaplasma marginale* was utilized. Blood smears from this animal had been examined daily for a period of nine months and apart from *A. marginale* no other blood parasites were observed.

Blood from a cow in which *Sp. theileri* could be demonstrated microscopically was injected subcutaneously into this blesbuck. From the 5th to the 13th day after injection a fair number of spirochaetes identical with *Sp. theileri* could be demonstrated. The animal did not show any ill effects as result of the infection.

Conclusion.—It was possible to infect the blesbuck with *Spirochaeta theileri* from cattle.

LITERATURE.

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