The sickness studied by us in Egypt appears to be similar to that affection called false rabies, which was in 1902 recorded in Hungary by Areyasky, and in 1912, in Brazil by Carini. It may also be compared to the affection recorded by Bouffard in French West-Africa, and which was considered by the latter as a rabies not transmissible to man.

Therefore, I think it advisable that anti-rabid laboratories should before all, especially in certain regions, look for negri bodies in making their diagnosis for rabies, and in doubtful cases, guinea pigs should be inoculated with blood of suspected animals in order to differentiate false rabies from the true one.

Paper No. 36.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS IN NATIVE AREAS.

By P. R. Viljoen, M.R.C.V.S., Dr. Med.Vet., Deputy-Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture, Union of South Africa.

1. Introduction.

It is generally accepted that the eradication of stock diseases is a far more difficult problem in South Africa than in European countries. For this many factors can be held responsible, one of them being the presence of the native stock owner.

In this short article it is intended to discuss briefly the conditions and circumstances which surround the ownership of live stock by natives and which render disease-control more difficult than in purely European-occupied territory.

2. Native Areas.

In the Union the accepted native policy is one of segregation, but up to now this policy has not been applied very strictly nor very successfully. Although there are large tracts of country which have been set aside for native occupation, there are still thousands of natives who reside in European territory; here they occupy European-owned farms on a tenancy basis or have purchased their own properties. Unfortunately, many of these natives live on farms situated right in the centre of areas that are occupied by Europeans. Moreover, the proclaimed native areas or locations are not situated together in one part of the Union, but are scattered throughout three Provinces.

In the large native areas, such as the Transkei and Zululand, the natives are under tribal control, and consequently much better disciplined and more easily controlled. Here the native chiefs have a great deal of influence which, if used correctly, can be of great assistance to veterinary administration.

In the small scattered native communities the position is different, tribal control being almost absent; there may be local headmen, but their influence is usually not very great. It is in such circumstances, especially when it concerns native families living on private farms, that the greatest obstacles to successful veterinary administration are encountered.

Some native areas, e.g. Zululand, are situated in very rough mountainous country, which is not easily accessible to our inspectors, and where stock can be concealed with the greatest ease.

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3. Native Customs.

The African native is essentially a pastoralist and, generally speaking, cattle constitute his sole wealth and means of exchange. His requirements in the way of cash transactions are small and any money earned by him is usually employed for the purpose of acquiring further stock, especially cattle.

Very often the native's standing in the community is judged by the number of his cattle and he is notoriously reluctant to part with any of his cattle, excepting, perhaps, for the purpose of securing a wife or wives, under the so-called 'lobolo' or marriage custom. Unfortunately, in this custom it is the quantity and not the quality of the cattle that is the main consideration, and hence there is no encouragement to the native to improve the quality of his live stock.

The result of all this is that native areas become greatly overstocked with an inferior class of animal. Overstocking gives rise to weakness and poverty which again make the application of veterinary eradication measures a difficult and unenviable task.

The 'lobolo' system also gives rise to many difficulties, especially so in the case of scattered native communities; the bride may have to be fetched from some distant location, and before this can be done the native has to deliver the required number of cattle to the bride's parents. This leads to illicit removal in areas where, owing to the prevalence of disease, severe restrictions have to be imposed on the movements of cattle. There is no doubt that in this way diseases like East Coast fever are often spread to clean parts of the country.

4. Class of Stock.

In most parts of the Union native stock is of very poor quality. Cattle provide his principal means of exchange and barter, and, as we have seen previously, it is quantity and not quality that is of value in the lobolo custom. Another factor which accounts for the poor quality of cattle is in-breeding; castration of bull calves is long delayed or neglected altogether by the native owner, with the result that one commonly sees a disproportionate number of very inferior bulls among the native herds.

A good illustration of the native's reluctance to part with his cattle is seen in cases where a disease, like East Coast fever, breaks out among his herd; slaughter, with compensation, may be suggested, but it is rare to find a native to agree to such a proposal; almost invariably his answer would be that he would see them all die rather than be disposed of.

The majority of natives in the Union also keep a few head of small stock, generally inferior kaffir goats and sheep. These animals are not of the same value to the native as his cattle, and, consequently, they are not well looked after. In the Union they may be considered to be the main reservoirs of scab infection.

In the Transkei, the natives have been encouraged to go in for a better class of sheep, and there they are certainly beginning to appreciate the economic value of woollen (Merino) sheep. As soon as this stage has been reached, disease eradication becomes a simpler process.

In parts of the country where horsesickness is not prevalent, our natives like keeping a few horses, but they are not in love with either mules or donkeys.
5. Control and Management of Stock.

Compared with European stock owners, natives keep a relatively small number of various classes of stock. Since natives normally congregate on farms or in locations, it follows that on a native-occupied farm or location one usually finds a large number of small herds or flocks belonging to a great many owners.

This, again, makes veterinary administration a difficult matter, as our officers have to deal with a large number of owners, some of whom may be absent from home. It often happens that only native women or young natives are left in charge of the stock and in these cases it is no easy matter to ensure the collection for inspection or treatment of all the animals. Some animals may escape inspection or treatment and in this way the disease may remain undiagnosed or untreated.

To overcome these difficulties to some extent, in our Stock Disease Regulations, in respect of some diseases, responsibility is thrown on to the native chief to notify all his subordinates of our inspectors' intended visits and to see that all stock are collected and brought up for inspection.

In spite of this precaution, natives often conceal stock; in the case of cattle, they are very much opposed to young calves being dipped, and to avoid dipping conceal such animals in their huts; sheep and goats infected with scab are often hidden away, the natives being afraid of prosecution under the Stock Diseases Act.

Natives do not like fences and experience has shown that it is of very little use to fence a native area; they very soon break down portions of the fence and use the material for some other purpose. In the absence of fences on native farms or locations it follows that herding is essential, especially at times of the year when there are crops on the lands. In the larger native areas each family is given its own grazing ground, but this cannot be adhered to strictly and inter-mixing of stock is a common occurrence. In any case communal dipping-tanks and water supplies have to be made use of. In the event of disease breaking out at a native kraal, difficulties are, therefore, experienced in demarcating the infected or suspected area, and, consequently, to prevent further spread of the infection, we are forced to place the whole “tank area” under quarantine restrictions. By a “tank area” is meant that portion of the location from which all cattle come to the same dipping-tank.


Ignorance and prejudice on the part of native owners also handicap very seriously any veterinary measures that have to be taken. Very few of them understand the nature and causation of an infectious disease and, consequently, do not appreciate its seriousness.

Cases of illness or death will go unreported, unless or until they have been made to understand or to feel that the law of the country demands reports of such cases.

Unfortunately, also, many natives will consume the meat of animals that have died of disease; the results may be serious in the event of the animal having died of a disease like anthrax, and, as a matter of fact, the prevalence of anthrax in native territories must be ascribed largely to this.

When it has been stated that a fatal disease in their stock, it hardly likely to interest themselves, rule, therefore, scab in kafir sheep unreported; the same remarks apt in horses and pigs.

On account of his ignorance, the native appreciates the benefits of dipping, he dipping his cattle as soon as possible, remarks would, of course, apply.

The benefits to be derived from methods, such as inoculation again appreciated even less by the individual to get his animals inoculated.

7. Disease Problems

These have already received attention. Diseases still prevalent in native difficulty in their eradication, are: (a) East Coast fever; (b) bovine goats and pigs; (c) anthrax.

It is considered necessary to supplement eradication measures employed in native areas.

(a) East Coast fever has been not uncommon to be submitted to Conference. The above will explain to some extent the difficulty has been experienced in the native areas. Owing to the large number of ignorant, careless or dishonest, it is considered necessary to supplement the eradication campaign in such a manner as to make the progress of the disease, and is hoped to make still better progress.

We are anxious to extend the campaign, but owing to native custom of his cattle, a great deal of opposition.

(b) Scab in sheep has also been reference made to the persistence of (c) Scab in sheep has also been reference made to the persistence of disease in sheep.

It is now proposed to tackle the problem of the persistence of this disease in sheep. It is proposed to divide the small stock at least once a year and to inspect and dip the stock collected and none left behind places of concealment.

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MANAGEMENT OF STOCK.

Stock owners, natives keep a relatively small number of stock. Since natives normally own a few animals, it follows that on a native farm a large number of small stock is often difficult for owners to manage.

In some cases, the administration of the native Stock Diseases Act is difficult. One of the leading causes of this is the fact that the native owner often keeps his stock in a state of concealment. In some cases, he may even refuse to have his stock inspected by the inspectors. This is because he does not want his stock to be found to be sick or diseased.

In some cases, native owners may keep their stock in a state of concealment because they are not aware of the importance of keeping their stock healthy. They may not understand the importance of keeping their stock healthy, or they may not be able to afford the necessary veterinary care.

In other cases, native owners may keep their stock in a state of concealment because they are afraid of being fined. They may be afraid of being fined if they are found to have sick or diseased stock.

7. DISEASE PROBLEMS IN NATIVE AREAS.

These have already received brief reference. The major infectious diseases still prevalent in native areas and causing considerable difficulty in their eradication, are the following:—

(a) East Coast fever; (b) scab in sheep; (c) mange in equines, goats and pigs; (d) anthrax.

It is considered necessary to submit a few further remarks on the eradicative measures employed in connection with these diseases in native areas.

(a) East Coast fever has been discussed fully in another article to be submitted to Conference. The peculiar conditions enumerated above will explain to some extent the reasons why considerable difficulty has been experienced in the eradication of the disease from native areas. Owing to the large number of owners, some of whom are ignorant, careless or dishonest, there is not complete control over all cattle, disease is prevalent, and the disease is likely to be spread.

(b) Scab in sheep has also been discussed in another article and reference made to the persistence of the disease in native areas.

It is now proposed to tackle this problem seriously, and it is hoped that even in native areas we shall see the end of scab within the next two or three years.

The greatest difficulty in these areas is to ensure that all the sheep are brought up for inspection and dipping. To overcome the difficulty, a special plan of campaign must be organized. The only way to do this is to declare simultaneous compulsory dipping of all small stock at least once a year and to have sufficient staff available, not only to inspect and dip the stock, but also to see that all stock are collected and none left behind in native kraals, huts or other places of concealment.
c) Mange in equines and pigs has not yet received serious attention. But goat scab (sarcoptic mange) has been dealt with in the same way as sheep scab. One of the reasons why more progress has not been made in the eradication of goat scab is that the sarcoptic infection has been kept alive on horses and pigs.

To eradicate the disease in horses, dipping at certain intervals will have to be considered, since hand-dressing of clinically affected animals alone is not likely to lead to success. Owing to the difficulty of dipping pigs, and their low value in native areas, slaughter of well-developed cases is indicated.

d) Anthrax is very prevalent in some native areas, and I have already pointed out that one of the main reasons is the cutting open of carcasses of animals that have died of the disease.

For controlling the disease the only thing to do is to enforce compulsory annual inoculation of all susceptible animals in the infected areas. A start has already been made with this and thousands of animals have been inoculated annually during the past few years. It is hoped to organize the work of our staff in such a way that all the necessary assistance will be available to carry out the inoculations at certain times of the year.

It should be stated that the Union Government makes free issues of anthrax vaccine to all stock-owners in the Union, and, as far as possible, allows its inspectors to assist with the inoculations, also free of charge. In the case of native owners, it stands to reason that the work of inoculation has to be done for them.

With an efficient free vaccine and other Government assistance, there is no reason why anthrax should not be kept under perfect control in the Union and eventually eradicated.

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Paper No. 37.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS OF THE AFRICAN NATIVE.

By J. Smith, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.H., Chief Veterinary Officer and Acting Secretary for Agriculture, Northern Rhodesia.

In the note which I submit for the information of delegates attending the Conference, I propose to give only a résumé of the very wide problem which confronts those who are, in any way, engaged in the education of the native of Africa. The issues here are so great that it would be quite impossible to treat the subject fully in a paper of this description.

2. The native of Africa is essentially a pastoral individual. In many tribes, cattle constitute the sole wealth of the individual and the community, and in Northern Rhodesia there is a strong prejudice against offering for sale more animals than will suffice to bring in funds to meet immediate requirements. The number sold is increasing year by year in proportion to the wants of the owners. One of the results of civilization is to cause a desire amongst natives for many things of which, formerly, they were unaware. Whether all the commodities which are now available are for the ultimate benefit of the native is a debatable point, but the fact remains that the average individual will go to great lengths to obtain them.

3. In a territory such as No, cattle possess great potentialities. The annual increase in the number of native-owned cattle are placed at more than one sees of such cattle on the problem, which confronts the industry. The writer has no basis for the average animal is lower than fifteen years ago. A great proportion is obvious. It is submitted that the standard may be divided into two classes: breeding. In former times, inter-breeding, one of the principal functions, constant interchange of blood. Change amongst the villages of the extremely limited and the stock is related to an alarming extent.

4. The second reason is to be the standard of cattlemanship. The attraction of life in the vicinity of towns is caused an unprecedented exodus of men. Although the actual care of cattle boys, supervision was exercised by now, to a great extent, lacking, and decrease in the welfare of the animal, susceptibility to disease.

5. Much is heard of-day of the indigenous stock of Africa. It is the ultimate goal, but the writer is on the introduction of highly improved breeds. When conditions are changed, disaster will follow. The first steps should be the inculcation of cattlemanship, embodying the knowledge of the maximum hygienic conditions of sheltered kraals for young cattle, young cattle, grazing sites during the varying condition of all male animals except the segregation of immature heifers, and during the dry months of the year, be the establishment of adequate diet.

6. The above measures, once in the general condition of the animals, disease. When once conditions appear to have been obtained the time will have come of improved blood. It is comparatively small for the improvement of not the conditions are another matter. The native being. He is apt to look with grave will alter conditions which have obtained and thought that that object less is a step forward. Farmers would have caused the native to follow good cattlemanship. In or