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 vardoni) 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.

