



Manual of veterinary microbiology

Gustave Mosselman

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PREFACE.

In undertaking the translation of MM. Mosselman and Lienaux's "Manuel de Microbiologie Veterinaire," my object has been to supply English speaking veterinary students and practitioners with a work on Bacteriology which seemed specially adapted to their needs. The book is small, but it conveys more information on the etiology of the infectious diseases of animals and the biology of the germs associated with them than any other single work in our language. Unlike other works on Bacteriology accessible to readers of English only, the Microbiology of animal diseases is treated of as the essential part of the work, that of diseases of mankind only incidentally referred to. The completeness and accuracy as to details with which it discusses the modes of propagation of some of our most important diseases and the general conditions under which these diseases occur, ought to recommend the book to practical veterinarians, who are presumably more interested in the ascertained facts in regard to any disease than in the individuality of the germ which occasions it.

The book is not intended for a laboratory manual, consequently, the technique of staining and cultivation of germs is not exhaustively discussed, and the usual illustrations of bacteriological apparatus have been omitted.

As to the translation itself a few words are necessary : Weights and measures, given in the metrical system in the original, have not been changed. Dimensions which occur in this work are chiefly those of microscopic objects which are now rarely expressed by American microscopists in fractions of an inch. The thermometric readings are in all cases given in the centigrade scale. For those who are unfamiliar with the decimal system the Appendix will supply the requisite information.

The few foot-notes which I have introduced are in some cases intended to be supplementary to the text, referring to discoveries which have been made since the publication of the original in 1891. In other cases they are explanatory of words or statements which might otherwise be misunderstood.

To the illustrations which occur in the French text I have added a few others borrowed from different sources, which are acknowledged in the descriptions accompanying the figures; four are from drawings of preparations in my own possession.

R. E. DINWIDDIB.

FATETTEVILLE, ARK., July 19, 1894.

INTRODUCTION.

"Works which treat of Microbiology are quite numerous, but none offer a concise and complete exposition of the accepted facts on the subject, the application of which is within the reach of students and practitioners. Such outline we would give here in the hope that both may -be benefited thereby.

It would seem that this publication has some prospect of being well received. Besides the fact that the

veterinarian in daily practice is under the necessity of having recourse to the teachings of microbiology, the inspection of meat and the supervision of the sanitary police—duties which have devolved upon him—make it his imperative duty to neglect no means of diagnosis which science places at his disposal.

"We do not mean to assert that the diagnosis of infectious diseases necessitates in all cases a search for the pathogenic microbes, but, recognizing the importance of the pathological anatomy and clinical symptoms, we believe that the demonstration of these germs is of much higher value. We will even say that, in unfortunately too many cases, the recog-

niton of the germs is the only mode of definitely establishing the nature of a lesion.

Every one can understand how desirable it is that the practitioner, meat inspector or sanitary veterinarian, whose decisions very frequently run counter to some particular interest, should pronounce himself only after having made use of this last resource which will protect him from scientific mistakes and contradictions, always much to be regretted.

A like exactitude is to be desired in private practice,

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