

rationalism are comforting but the inductive probabilities of empirical science are more utilitarian. In the words of Bertrand Russell, "... we must either accept the inductive principle on the ground of its intrinsic evidence, or forgo all justification of our expectations about the future."

Veterinary medicine may be an empirical science, but most of us were trained as rationalists. When we begin to

critically evaluate the literature, we are like tiny ships adrift in a stormy sea of uncertainty, desperately searching for some sheltered cove of undoubtable truth. The farther we go, the more certain we become that certainty is mythical and that we can only stay afloat by becoming good sailors.

Abstracts

Necrosis and sloughing of skin associated with limb cellulitis in four cows and a calf: predisposing causes, treatment and prognosis

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Four cows and a calf with non-suppurative limb cellulitis were observed subsequently to suffer skin necrosis and sloughing in the affected limbs, either on or distal to the metacarpus or metatarsus. In comparison with six cows with suppurative *Corynebacterium pyogenes* limb cellulitis, topical therapy or the cases with skin necrosis and sloughing was adequate and the prognosis was good, when compared with the rigorous systemic therapy applied to the cows with suppurative cellulitis, some of which died. The skin necrosis and sloughing resulting from limb cellulitis seemed to be encouraged by the paucity of tissue between the skin and the bone, by the poor vascularity of the area, and by the causative bacteria.

Bleeding abomasal ulcers in dairy cows

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The clinical signs and changes in blood and rumen fluid, and the results of therapy are described in 35 cows suffering from bleeding abomasal ulcer. The most important pathological findings were moderate to severe anaemia with pale mucous membranes and tachycardia, dark coloured to black faeces, a disturbed general condition and anorexia. Two of the cows were slaughtered immediately. The others were treated by the transfusion of several litres of blood and the intravenous administration of a solution containing sodium chloride and glucose and other drugs such as calcium solution, vitamin K, vitamin C and metoclopramide. Two animals died in spite of the treatment and three had to be slaughtered because of the deterioration in their condition. The other 28 cows recovered within a few days and their general condition, appetite and defecation returned to normal.