A note on chronic footrot of dairy cattle
A NOTE ON CHRONIC FOOTROT OF DAIRY CATTLE

WITH the advent of treatment with sodium sulphamezathine for foot-rot of dairy cattle, many of the troubles associated with this condition have largely been overcome.

However, the importance of early treatment is sometimes overlooked and

some farmers are inclined to blame the drug when treatment has been commenced after the animal has been affected for some time and a cure does not result.

Why treatment is not successful when the condition has become more or less chronic is strikingly illustrated in the accompanying photographs which show

the bones of the foot of an affected cow with a chronic footrot condition which did not respond to treatment contrasted with the bones of a healthy animal of comparable size.

In Figure 1 can be seen the considerable growth of new bone which of

course would interfere with movement of tendons, and in Figure 2, it will be noted that the joint surfaces have been completely destroyed.

Permanent lameness of a severe nature will be the inevitable consequence of such changes in the foot.

Fig. 1.—Chronic footrot caused the ragged growth of new bone shown in the two lower pictures. At the top are the bones of a healthy foot from an animal of similar size.

Fig. 2.—The surfaces of the same two bones forming the joint. Top shows how the surfaces in a healthy foot are smooth. In the lower picture they are misshapen and covered with bony deposits which would cause permanent lameness.

—Photos from "The Veterinary Record."