BOVINE MASTITIS (1)

TRIAL RESULTS (1984)
Double Blind Study

	CONTROL	TREATMENT (Nosode)
No of Cows in Group	**40**	**40**
No of cases in Winter	**19**	**1**
No of cows affected	**10**	**1**
Ave. No. of quarters affected	**1.16**	**1**
Ave. severity (1-3)	**2.16**	**1**
Ave. duration of cases (days)	**4.5**	**4**
% of group affected	**47.5 (25)**	**2.5**

In this example, ‘nosode’ was given, via the drinking water, to the ‘treatment’ group, on a ‘twice weekly’ basis. The control group was ‘treated’ similarly, from a bottle of unmedicated tincture. The two different bottles were indistinguishable, apart from the coded labelling.

The two different ‘treatments’ were labelled ‘A’ & ‘B’, with the allocation being ‘blind’ and the breakdown of the code being stored in a safe until the end of the trial.

Cows were selected randomly for the two groups.

In the last row of data, the bracketed figure refers to the number of affected cows as a % of the group; the unbracketed figure to the number of cases, as a % of the group.

It was left to farm management to treat cases in the usual way, with antibiotics. The number of tubes used was recorded.

BOVINE MASTITIS (2)

Before & After Study

	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Season prior to treatment				
No. of cases:-	12	8	20	20
Season of treatment				
No. of cases:-	9	20	**3**	**4**

nosode introduced
1st Feb

In this second example, we have simply collected data from the herd, of incidence of mastitis (no. of cases per month) from the season before treatment and from the season of treatment (with nosode). Nosode was introduced on the 1st February, in the second season. The 'nosode' figures are in bold type.

Friesian Heifers – Dystocia Study
(i.e. birth difficulties)

Work performed by Christopher Day MRCVS - 1984

Number in group: 25

Table 1

At outset of test:

Number calved to date:	18	
Number needing assistance:	18 (100%)	
Number of cæsarean operations performed:	1 (5.6%)	(too few judging from the next data)
Number of calves dying at birth:	7 (38.9%)	
Number of maternal deaths:	3 (16.7%)	

Of the surviving 15 heifers:

Number with subsequent metritis	10 (severe)	(66.7%)
Number with subsequent mastitis	9 (severe)	(60%)
Number eventually held in calf again	3	(20%) (or 16.7% of the original group!)

Table 2

After *Caulophyllum* treatment:

Number calved:	7	
Number assisted:	2 (28.6% - in fact help turned out to be unnecessary, since they both calved easily)	
Number of cæsarean operations:	0	
Number of calves dying at birth:	0	
Number of maternal deaths:	0	
Number with subsequent metritis:	4 (slight)	(22.2%)
Number with subsequent mastitis:	0	
Number eventually held in calf again:	7	(100%)

Discussion

The initial data (Table 1) showed a disastrous situation, with only one in six of the original 18 (16.7%) returning to the herd the following year, as a result of the accumulated traumas.

After the 18th heifer had calved (it was yet another traumatic birth) the farmer sought homœopathic help and we administered *Caulophyllum* 30c**,** via the drinking water, to the remaining seven heifers. The following data were then collected (Table 2).

Sadly, in this case, the only information we have is before and after treatment. No proper statistical 'control' can therefore be applied. However, it is stretching the arm of coincidence too far to assume that another factor was involved in the dramatic turn-around in the disease situation in this heifer group. The lack of difficulty in calving, the resultant saving of stress and injury to the dams and calves and the reduction in disease which followed, all seem to show very clearly that the administration of homœopathic *Caulophyllum* had a very positive effect.

This story appears to demonstrate (a) the ability of *Caulophyllum* to help in cases of calving difficulty and (b) the effect of the traumatic births on the dams, which brought on severe metritis and mastitis problems in the untreated animals. The problem may even have been presented as a mastitis problem in the first place, had the farmer not realised the cause for himself. This was not a mastitis problem, *per se*, but a manifestation of response to the 'dis-ease' situation, imposed upon the dams at calving. Removal of the stress situation removed the 'mastitis' problem.

A further benefit of this 'trial' is to add information (v.i.) to our Materia Medica knowledge of *Caulophyllum*.

We are able to add, with confidence:

Mastitis (post-parturient).

We are able to postulate:

Never well since difficult parturition.

We are able to confirm

Acrid, exhausting leucorrhœa, preventing pregnancy.
Sub-involution following confinement.