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MELANOSIS IN AN OX.

The organs in this case were sent to the Pathology Laboratory by Captain Barry, the City Veterinarian.

The animal was an adult ox in good order, but was said to be blind. Several of the internal organs were intensely pigmented, particularly the lungs. Each lung showed scattered over the whole of the organ large areas, jet-black in appearance, varying in size from a square inch to the size of the palm of a man's hand. The margins of these areas were sharply demarcated from the non-pigmented portions of the lung.

It appeared that the pigment filled great groups of the lobules, leaving neighbouring lobules unaffected ; thus, on section, crudely resembling a chess-board.

The same pigmentation was present in the liver and kidneys, but to a much less extent.

The brain and the spinal cord throughout their whole extent showed a dense bluish-black appearance owing to a heavy deposition of the pigment in the pia arachnoid.

In both eyes at the fundus there was a most marked thickening of the choroidal coat, which appeared on section as a jet-black line several times the normal thickness of the choroid.

The optic nerve on both sides showed a remarkable impregnation with the pigment, so that on section the nerve was greyish-black throughout ; under the microscope the pigment was present in such a manner as to give a chequered or alveolar appearance to the cross section, the pigment having apparently drifted along the epineurium between the bundles of nerve-fibres.

Apart from the above appearances, the pigment was present in greatest abundance in the trachea, so that the mucous membrane from the tip of the epiglottis to the neighbourhood of the tracheal bifurcation was almost jet-black.

It is suggested provisionally that the melanin originated in the choroid coat of the eye. Apart from the pigmentation, the organs appeared to be normal.

