

## “HYDROPHOBIA IN BALLAUGH”

(1874) \*



HYDROPHOBIA IN BALLAUGH.—In the early part of October last this virulent disease manifested itself in two dogs belonging to Mr Mornington, of Broghjaig, in this parish. They were destroyed by their owner as soon as the true nature of their disease became known, but unfortunately not before they had infected other animals on the same farm. Two cats were attacked with the disease, and were quickly dispatched. Subsequently two of the cattle which had been bitten by the mad dogs were seized with the disease; one, a two-year-old bullock, became so violent that it had to be shot on Saturday, the 7th instant. The following week a fine milch cow became a victim to it. The latter was not so violent as the bullock, but it died in great agony. As Mr Mornington has taken every precaution for the extinction and non-spreading of the disease on his farm, we hope that the worst is now past, and that no further danger may be apprehended.

“[Ramsey and the North] Hydrophobia in Ballaugh.” *Mona’s Herald* 26 November 1874: 5c.

Found by chance in the *Mona’s Herald* when looking at another item on the same page. A reminder of a time when rabies and other diseases were a reality in the countryside and the consequence of infection severe with two valuable farm animals here bitten, and one subsequently destroyed and the other left, it would seem, to die. This is a world without antibiotics and where the only defence once an outbreak has taken place is vigilance and swift action.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017



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