

## **Election of members of Council, 1891 / John Burnett.**

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# Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

At the request of a number of friends I have consented to become a Candidate for Election as a Member of Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

I look upon this Election as the most important in the history of the Profession. About eighteen months ago Mr Kidd submitted to the Council a draft of his proposed "New Charter," which was rejected by a majority of the Council. But, strange to observe, those who were most strongly opposed to it then are now eagerly joining in the race for the honour of carrying a New Charter. In 1876 the Members of the Profession were deprived of their birthright, therefore they should be careful at this time to record their Votes only to those who will restore to them that which they have lost.

The recent converts to the New Charter propose to insert a clause giving the Council power to elect Fellows from the Profession *without* Examination. This clause I would most strenuously oppose, because it is a most unjust and injurious proposal, especially to those who would not be selected as such.

I am in favour of a Candidate obtaining his Practical Training in whatever manner he may find it most suitable for himself: therefore I would strongly oppose a Compulsory Pupilage Clause. I would also oppose an Annual Registration Fee.

You are already aware, from the Joint Address issued, that I am strongly in favour of three important points, viz:—

- (a) The Abolition of the Ninth Clause—to apply also to those who have become Members since 1876.
- (b) The Abolition of the Dual Appointment.
- (c) The Election by the Profession of the whole Council.

I am also in favour of Examiners being wholly elected from the Profession.

I would ask in the "Final" for a more searching Practical Examination, as well as a Written Examination.

I would support a Clause that the Country should be divided into Electoral Constituencies.

Should my views meet with your approval, I would ask the favour of your Vote and interest; and, if elected, my support will be given to all measures that will tend to elevate the Profession.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN BURNETT.

MAYBOLE, 17th April, 1891.