

Royal Veterinary College, London : inauguration of the winter session, 1897-98.

Contributors

Royal Veterinary College (London, England)
Power, D'Arcy, 1855-1941.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

[Edinburgh] : [Printed by W. and A.K. Johnston], [1897]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bea2p5da>

Provider

Royal College of Surgeons

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

with a^r D. An^d P^ou^er's compliment

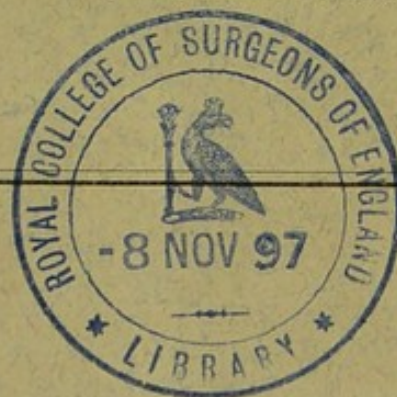
5.

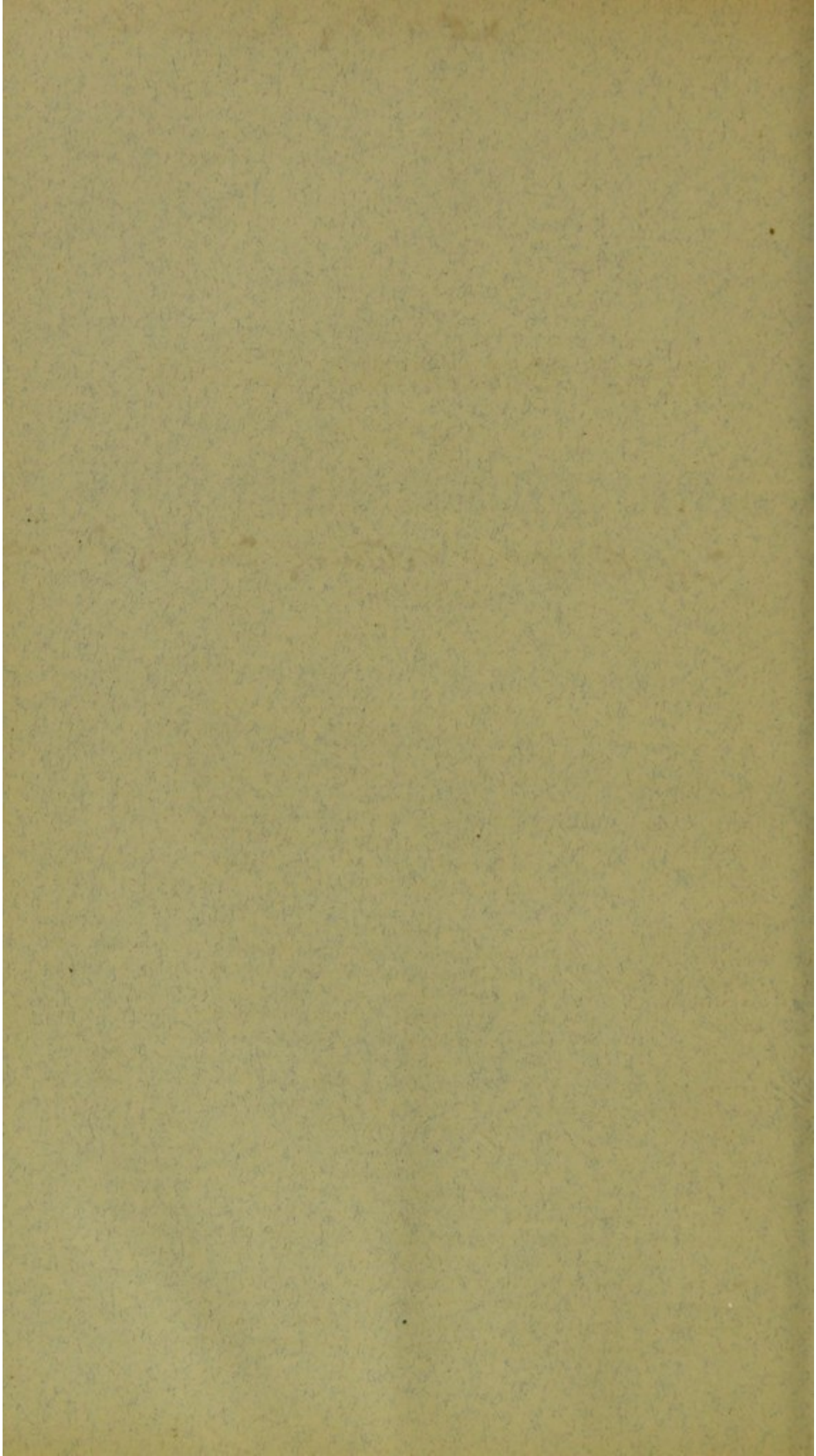
ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE, LONDON.

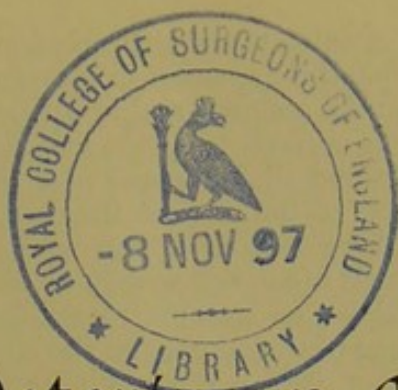
Suggestions for a Veterinary Sanitary Service

INAUGURATION OF THE WINTER SESSION,
1897-98.

(Reprinted from the Journal of Comparative Pathology and Therapeutics.)







Royal Veterinary College,

L O N D O N.

Inauguration of the Winter Session, 1897-98.

THE Winter Session at the College was opened on Friday the 1st October, the inaugural address being delivered by Mr D'Arcy Power, M.B., F.R.C.S. The Chair was taken by Colonel Sir Howard Vincent, C.B., M.P., who was supported on his right by the Right Honourable Walter Long, M.P., President of the Board of Agriculture, and Professor G. T. Brown, C.B., and on his left by Colonel Sir Nigel Kingscote, K.C.B., Veterinary-Colonel Lambert, C.B., and Veterinary-Colonel Duck, C.B., Director-General of the Army Veterinary Department. The large lecture theatre was filled to overflowing with an audience comprising the College Staff, members of the profession, and students.

The Chairman, on rising to open the proceedings, said:—

“Mr President and Gentlemen,—I have the honour of attending here to-day, on behalf of the Board of Governors, to welcome you to this new Session of the Royal Veterinary College, and I am quite sure that it is the earnest wish of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge, and the whole Court of Governors, that the coming session shall be not less successful than all the sessions which have preceded it (cheers). We have the pleasure of seeing here to-day one of the most distinguished members of Her Majesty's Government, viz., the Right Honourable Walter Long, Minister of Agriculture, who is on my right (cheers), and he has attended here to show his great interest in the Royal Veterinary College, and his appreciation of the great services which the veterinary profession is rendering to the country. We have also here many former students who have come to show the great interest which they continue to take in the Royal Veterinary College, and I think they will tell those students who have already been in the College, and especially those students who are entering the College for the first time to-day, that the veterinary profession throughout the country is rising every year in public estimation. The testimony of Mr Long himself will probably tell you that the tendency of agriculture at this time is to greatly increase the pastoral area, and therefore much to increase the number of animals in the country. That

being so, the treatment of animals and their freedom from disease and sickness are matters that will demand the greatest care and attention of all who are interested in the welfare of the country, and in the dumb creation.

“It is not my object or purpose to detain you at any length, but I desire to express to the professors and all connected with the College the recognition by the Court of Governors of the services they are rendering. The extension of the curriculum from three sessions to four sessions was at first attended by some misgivings on the part of the well-wishers of the Institution, but now, with some four years' experience, we are able to say that it is a great success, and it increases the confidence of the country in the students of the Royal Veterinary College. In no other place is it possible for them to derive more advantageous instruction in the veterinary art than that which is imparted at the Royal Veterinary College (cheers). It is not only in the theory of the veterinary art that great progress has lately been made, but it is also in the practical work. I am quite sure if there are any here who have not been over the premises of the College, they will, on doing so, appreciate the great opportunities for clinical instruction which exist here, and all will form the opinion that everything is being done to make the education at the Royal Veterinary College the very best that can possibly be given (applause).

“It only remains for me to congratulate the veterinary profession on the recognition by Parliament of the increased status they have attained in the country. In the last session the Public Health (Scotland) Act introduced a very important change. Hitherto, the inspection of meat has been left rather indiscriminately to the policeman, the butcher, and the sanitary inspector, but this Act has given a distinct recognition to the veterinary profession, and has done much to place them in the position they ought to occupy in connection with the inspection of animals required for food purposes.

“I congratulate the profession, one and all, on the important change that has been made, and I hope that the Royal Veterinary College now opening its 108th session will extend the area of its operations, and that the recognition of the noble veterinary profession will become more and more marked by Parliament, and by the country generally (cheers).

“I will now call on Mr D'Arcy Power, who has been so long connected with the College as a lecturer, and whose name is so favourably known in surgery generally, to deliver the opening address, and I do not doubt that from that address, all, including former and present students, will derive the greatest profit and instruction.

“After Mr D'Arcy Power has delivered the inaugural address, I shall have the honour of calling upon Mr Walter Long, the Minister of Agriculture, to address the College students” (applause).

Mr D'Arcy Power, who, when rising, was greeted with loud cheers, then delivered the following address :—

“Sir Howard Vincent and Gentlemen,—My duty resolves itself into two parts. The first, an easy and pleasant duty. I have to welcome here those who have just joined the ranks of your profession by attaching themselves to our ancient College and who come here to-day for the first time. The second part of my task is no less pleasant, but it is much less easy. I am to send away the seniors in the veterinary profession with that good conceit of themselves which is so necessary a factor towards a sustained advance in every walk of life.

“Let me offer then to those new students who are here to-day for the first time a few words of most hearty welcome. Veterinary science at the present moment is advancing more rapidly than any other branch of the healing art. It will continue to advance, and it will soon attain a high position in the eyes of the State and of private individuals, as one of the most useful professions, both to the wealth of the country and the welfare of the community.

"Much has been done by the veterinary profession within the last few years, much more still remains to be done. The students who now enter here will have to bear the heat and burden of the day, for it will be their duty to aid that advance, and to raise veterinary science to a still higher position. I not only welcome you therefore, but I wish you all good fortune in the career upon which you are now entering. Be sober, be honest, strive to be gentlemen in thought as well as in deed. Since I first came amongst you as a teacher, only seven years ago, you have made enormous advances. You work harder, you write much better papers, you are more attentive to what is told you, and therefore you go to your examinations much better prepared. But there is still great room for improvement. You want a higher standard of general knowledge. You must trust more to your own work. You must think for yourselves more, and have a less abiding faith in 'cram.' Mere 'cram,' leading to a semblance of knowledge, wont help you. Steady work for even a short time daily throughout each session is of far greater avail than feverish all-night sittings beginning a fortnight before the examinations.

"Then when you have obtained your diplomas, try so to conduct yourselves as to become the friend and trusted adviser of your clients. Make them look up to you as to men who hold their position by virtue of real knowledge. Try to be above your clients rather than below them or upon an equality with them. Do not become a mere cattle doctor, but remain as you began a veterinary surgeon. Individual exceptions there must be in every profession, but let these exceptions be of the lower type, and let the rank and file of the veterinary profession show themselves constantly in favour of progress, both in science and in social position. Do not think that your own efforts are useless, or that it cannot matter what example you set. Some of my best friends in the country I am glad to reckon amongst the farmers and stock-owners, and when I visit them I often ask about the veterinary surgeons in the neighbourhood. Formerly I only received a frank confession of ignorance or a doubtful shake of the head; now more often than not I am told he is an excellent useful fellow, and that my friends often call him in, whereas in the more benighted parts of the country they either employed the white witch, or they trusted to the knowledge which had become traditional in their family, and which was often hardly distinguishable from witchcraft.

"And now let me come to the real subject of my address to-day, the debt that human medicine in all its branches owes to veterinary science. The debt is surely a great one and if we take the subjects in the order in which they are taught in the College, we shall find that our founder had a share in beginning it.

"Charles Sainbel taught human anatomy a lesson, and at the same time established his own reputation in England, when he published his essay on the proportions of Eclipse, the great race horse belonging to Mr O'Kelly, who died 27th February 1789, and was never beaten. The essay is still in advance of its time, for it shows how animal mechanics can be expressed in geometrical terms, and it would be interesting to apply Sainbel's methods to the individual record breakers, who are now so numerous amongst us in the world of athletics. The observations of veterinary anatomists, too, explain many obscure points in connection with the development and anatomy of man, especially in those aberrant conditions which are found to a greater or less degree in every body which is carefully dissected.

"The debt of human physiology to veterinary physiology is well recognised. In modern times, and in this country, it dates from the day when Archdeacon Hales, in 1732, introduced a long tube into the femoral artery of a horse, and noted the height to which the blood rose in it. The importance of breeding has led our veterinary surgeons to a most careful observation of the generative functions in animals, and has thus enriched physiology with many facts of

prime importance. It has demonstrated the possibility of artificial impregnation. It has settled the vexed question of superfecundation, whilst the recent work on epizootic abortion has set us thinking whether a similar condition may not occur sometimes in the human species.

"But there is no need for me to dwell upon this subject of the debt of human to veterinary physiology, for we have amongst us one of the most distinguished of those to whom the debt is owing. Veterinary-Major Smith is well known to all of us here, and in our minds he bids fair to rank with Meade, Flourens, Colin, and those other great names which are familiar to everyone, as pioneers in a most difficult region of scientific enquiry.

"In like manner too, in histology, the careful examination of animal tissues, and a knowledge of the minute differences occurring in the structure of different animals, is frequently of great service in a study of human tissues. It is often the only way in which to elucidate the effects of disease in man. But, in human histology we have almost everything to learn, for, until the last year or two, all our knowledge has been derived from a study of animal structures, or from diseased or imperfectly preserved human tissues.

"In botany, veterinary science has long caused medicine to place itself under a debt of gratitude. All practical men, whether physicians or veterinary surgeons, have had occasion to study poisonous plants, and their observations upon animals have been of signal service to the medical profession. Veterinary science, however, has done more than this, for it has compelled botanists to study the most difficult but important natural order of the grasses, not only from a mere classificatory standpoint, but in such a manner as to indicate the economic value of its constituent genera.

"Veterinary medicine sometimes gives valuable hints to the human physician about the use of drugs and the cause or the treatment of various diseases, which though they are common to man and animals are more common in animals. Thus, the effects of iodide of potassium in the treatment of actinomycosis can be much more easily observed by veterinary surgeons than by physicians, whilst we have learned from veterinary surgeons the use of eserine in treating some forms of intestinal obstruction. In other cases again, the ætiology of the disease is assisted, and we may thus obtain a clue to its prophylaxis, as in the case of the recent long distance rides in Germany, where horses, healthy at starting, died of pneumonia soon after they had arrived at their destination. Sometimes, too, the observations of veterinary surgeons serve to refute a commonly assigned cause of a disease in the human being. Thus, diabetes was long ascribed to mental worry, yet it is not a very uncommon disease in dogs, and thus a rather persistent vulgar error is exploded by the help of veterinary science.

"Until quite recently, however, the importance of veterinary science to physicians has never been better shown than in connection with the life history of the more common entozoa, some of which use our bodies as an intermediate host in the cycle of their existence, which they renew in cattle, dogs, or rodents. Need I do more here than allude to the work of Professor Spencer Cobbold, who was formerly a Professor at this College? Work which was so remarkable, so accurate and so complete, that with Davaine in France and Kuechenmeister and Leuckart in Germany, the subject ended, for it seemed as if the four great helminthologists had learned all that was to be known about the parasitic worms inhabiting the intestines and the tissues. It is true that they did not study exhaustively the hæmatozoa, for the microscope and histological methods were not then sufficiently advanced to enable them to do so, but this only shows that Art is long though Time is fleeting. We are glad to think that one of the greatest of the giant helminthologists was once a teacher in this College, and that his work has thrown a flood of light upon

many of the obscure points in connection with the life history of parasites, which has afforded information of equal value to the physician and to the veterinary surgeon.

"The surgeon has learnt somewhat less from the veterinarian than any of his brethren who practice upon the human body, yet even he has learned a few principles from veterinary surgery which have stood him good stead in the advancement of his art. The operations of the sow-gelder stimulated the early ovariologists to practise a similar operation upon women, and encouraged them to persevere in spite of the most disastrous results, until Sir Spencer Wells so perfected his technique as to lead the operation from a position of complete disrepute to the high place in the estimation of surgeons which it now occupies.

"Indeed it has always been in principle rather than in detail that medicine has been indebted to veterinary science. Nowhere is this better seen than in pathology, which is not only the common foundation upon which human medicine and human surgery are built, but which forms, as we are now beginning to learn, the platform for all treatment, whether of animals or of human beings. The truth of this proposition needs no demonstration at my hands or in this place. You acknowledged it a few years ago when you appointed to the headship of this College one of the best pathologists in Europe, Professor M'Fadyean, who now so worthily presides over it as your Principal. And not only here, but throughout the world, wherever you find a first-rate pathologist you will find that he is not merely a human pathologist but that he is a man of science, a comparative pathologist with a wide knowledge of animals as well as of men. This, I believe, is what has made pathology the grandly progressive science which it has become. John Hunter was interested alike in men and cattle, but his successors for many years were mere morbid anatomists concerned with the details of morbid processes, not with their principles. It is only lately that we have outgrown this stage, and have become pathologists in the true sense, as disciples of Hunter, who must always remain our great master.

"In pathology human medicine has learned much from veterinarians; even morbid anatomy has been helped by the careful work of those who taught us anew the great lesson known long since to the Preacher, but long since forgotten: "For that which befalleth the sons of man befalleth beasts: even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth so dieth the other: yea they have all one breath: so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast."

"The better and wider knowledge of pathology possessed by the best veterinary surgeons is sometimes brought home to medical men in a very practical manner. It happens from time to time, at one of the great pathological societies in this country, that some recondite point of comparative pathology is being feebly discussed by the light of imperfect knowledge derived from one-sided observation, until the ill-concealed anxiety of some of my friends, whom I see here to-day, can no longer be repressed. At length the opportunity arrives, Professor Brown, Axe, M'Fadyean, or Penberthy rises, and I at once settle myself and feel happy. They draw upon stores of knowledge which are quite beyond the reach of all but the very best medical men, and in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, all is made clear, and pathology has vindicated itself against mere morbid anatomy. It is no wonder therefore that comparative pathology rises daily higher in the estimation of the medical profession, for to the thoughtful physician its problems appear identical with those he is most often called on to solve. Daily too we see that prophylaxis is the most important part of medicine, and it is exactly in the study of prophylaxis that comparative pathology excels, though it has done good service in pointing out the part played by animals in sharing diseases which affect man. In doing so, it has shown that animals may act as

transmitters of disease, so that cats and pigeons in diphtheria, horses in influenza, and rats in the plague, must be considered as probable rather than as possible carriers of infection.

“But the question of prophylaxis is essentially one which has taken its rise on the veterinary side of the profession, for it is one with which veterinary science is particularly fitted to deal.

“It will occur at once to everyone that we owe to veterinary science the germ of that great discovery which bids fair to render this century as epoch-making in medicine as it is in steam, electricity, and engineering. The cattle doctors and the cowkeepers in Gloucestershire noticed that those who had been infected with cow-pox were in some sort protected from small-pox. The tradition was long kept amongst themselves, but, almost by accident, it became known at last to Edward Jenner when he was a surgeon's apprentice at Sodbury. The perseverance and the energy of Jenner placed the tradition upon a sound basis of scientific evidence, and upon this pedestal it was allowed to remain isolated for many years. At last, in the fulness of time, came Pasteur, who, with the logic characteristic of the nation he adorned, generalised from the particular, and introduced into pathology, and so into all medicine, the doctrine of the artificial attenuation of virus in infectious disease, a doctrine which has already been modified by the theory of immunity.

“The enterprise of the veterinary profession and of the large stockowners throughout the world has been thoroughly awakened by the results obtained in animals treated by the methods devised at the Institut Pasteur. The value of the successive new discoveries has been tested upon the most extensive scale. The advantages as well as the limits of such remedies as mallein and tuberculin are now duly appreciated. Their use has familiarised a very conservative body of men with the most modern pathological methods, and by so doing has rendered them capable of understanding, and eager to take advantage of, any further advance along the same lines.

“Such a training and such knowledge have enabled several great economic advances to be made within the last few years, though some of the advances are more marked abroad than at home. Thus horse flesh has been added to the staple of food, a rigorous examination of slaughtered pigs has almost eliminated trichinised flesh, for no great outbreak of trichinosis has occurred of late years either here or on the continent of Europe. On the other hand, the health of the community has been improved and the lives of many children have been saved, for doubt has been cast upon the wisdom of eating tuberculous meat, or of drinking milk from tuberculous cows or even from those who have suppurative diseases of the udder, though the animal be otherwise healthy. A knowledge of such facts has led the Medical Officer of Health into very close alliance with the veterinary surgeon, which, I venture to predict, will become still closer as time progresses.

“Prophylaxis is of as much importance to a large stockowner as it is to the headmaster of a public school, and a thorough knowledge of preventive measures is even more valuable to a veterinary surgeon than it is to a physician. Only in exceptional cases will an owner consent to pay for the treatment of a prolonged illness in his stock, whereas a human being must be attended throughout his sickness, for he cannot be slaughtered summarily.

“But all preventive measures on a large scale require special knowledge and concerted measures. Special knowledge only accumulates slowly, concerted measures require the intervention of the State.

“After many years the government in this country was made to feel the necessity of enforcing the application of sanitary measures, and medical officers of health came into existence. In a tentative manner, and very incompletely, some attempts have been made to produce a veterinary sanitary service. Too

much is left to the initiative of local bodies, and what has hitherto been done in detail now requires to be established upon a broad groundwork. Such a service, properly conducted, would be of undoubted use to the community, whilst it would be advantageous to the veterinary profession. It would give the profession a status which it does not yet possess, and it would provide within its ranks a more highly educated, perhaps I should rather say, a more highly specialised, class of thoroughly scientific men.

"The subject is too vast to dwell upon in the short space of time now available even were I competent to treat it in detail. The rudiments of such a service already exist, as you well know, but I think that it might be much better organised, much better worked, and much better paid. The duties of the veterinary inspectors at the present time appear to be of far too limited a nature. They are confined to carrying out the provisions of certain Acts of Parliament for the prevention of contagious diseases occurring in animals. I would have it far otherwise. I would place the whole of animal hygiene under the care of a veterinary sanitary service, and, as no one can be much in advance of his time, such a service for the present should be carried out along the lines which have been found most useful in the medical sanitary service, care being taken to eliminate, or if they cannot be altogether eliminated, to strengthen, those points which have seemed weakest in the working of the Public Health Acts.

"Such a veterinary sanitary service would not be hard to organise. Its existence is already foreshadowed, for the State has recognised that the Medical Officer of Health cannot be omniscient. The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act of 1890 (53 and 54 Vict., c. 34, sect. 4) says, 'In case the Medical Officer of Health is in possession of evidence that any person in the district is suffering from infectious disease attributable to milk supplied within the district, from any dairy situated within or without the district, or that the consumption of milk from such dairy is likely to cause infectious disease to any person residing in the district, such medical officer shall, if authorised on that behalf by an order of a justice having jurisdiction in the place where such dairy is situate, have power to inspect such dairy, and if accompanied by a veterinary inspector or some other properly qualified veterinary surgeon to inspect the animals therein, and if on such inspection the Medical Officer of Health shall be of opinion that infectious disease is caused from consumption of the milk supplied therefrom, he shall report thereon to the Local Authority, and his report shall be accompanied by any report furnished to him by the said veterinary inspector or veterinary surgeon, and the Local Authority may thereupon give notice to the dairyman to appear before them,' etc.

"Here there is provision for employing a class of veterinary surgeons apart from the veterinary inspectors, but if such surgeons are to perform their duties efficiently they must be properly trained, and they ought perhaps to be tested as to their special fitness for the work before they enter upon it. The veterinary colleges must therefore be ready to give additional teaching facilities, not only on the questions of meat inspection and the qualities of milk, but also in the geological and climatic conditions as they affect animals. More instruction must be given in hygiene, especially by a series of demonstrations as to good and bad hygienic conditions both in towns and in the country. A short course of lectures should also be given upon the principal laws and orders affecting the subjects which come under the care of veterinary hygiene. Such an extended course would present no difficulties here, for is not Professor Hobday our lecturer on the subject? After a proper course of training the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons would no doubt soon see its way to grant a diploma of veterinary hygiene to those who were already members or fellows and who had duly passed a special examination.

"A specially qualified body of men being thus provided, places would have

to be found for them throughout the country. At first, no doubt, this would be difficult on account of the expense, but the stockowners of the country form so large and important a body of men that as soon as they had satisfied themselves by actual proof that such a system saved them from loss they would readily assist in its extension. The districts over which the veterinary sanitary officers would have to preside should be large enough to occupy their whole time, and the remuneration should be sufficient to tempt the best men in the profession to accept the posts whilst they were still young. There should also be provision for a reasonable security of tenure. One of the great faults, both of the medical and of the veterinary profession, is that an individual, when he is once qualified and has obtained a moderate practice, no longer takes the trouble to keep himself posted in the advance of his profession. He therefore soon falls behind in his knowledge, and the more intelligent members of the community, finding themselves almost equally well informed upon some technical points, though they lack the groundwork, cease to look up to the individual, and so come to despise the whole profession. The best men in every profession are ever students, for they are always eager to acquire knowledge, and the more they know the more anxious are they to learn. For this reason only the very best men should be advised at first to enter the veterinary sanitary service. They will have to create the service. They will have to fight and to overcome many difficulties, both of fact and prejudice. Not only will the public at first be opposed to them, but as some of their duties must necessarily overlap those of the Medical Officers of Health, there is certain to be some jealousy between the less competent and more narrow-minded members of the two services. The more highly-educated and the more far-seeing members of the medical profession, knowing the disadvantages of dual control, will readily yield to the veterinary service those duties which seem especially to belong to it. They will welcome a release from comparatively alien subjects, as it will allow them more time for the effectual performance of their own work, which is already sufficiently arduous.

“The duties of the veterinary sanitary officers would be to carry out, in the first place, the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Act, and of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1885 and 1886. These Acts and Orders, however, would be enlarged and extended, so that they would occupy the same relation to future veterinary legislation that Lord Morpeth's Health of Towns Act passed in 1848 now bears to the Public Health Acts. They would mark the awakening of the Government to the importance of legislation in matters concerning veterinary hygiene. Excellent work has already been done by veterinary surgeons in regard to the precautions which should be taken in the distribution and sale of the meat of diseased animals, or of milk from tuberculous cows. The question is one of international importance, but it has an economic as well as a hygienic side, and the two are in some measure antagonistic the one to the other. An attempt should be made to formulate an efficient system of meat inspection, though it is probable that such a system, based at first upon compromise, will only become effective after many mistakes have been made. Veterinary surgeons, by reason of their special training, are much more likely to distinguish the varying qualities of meat than are medical men. The veterinary sanitary officers therefore should be given full authority over piggeries, slaughter-houses, butchers' shops, and dairies, though it will often be necessary for them to consult the Medical Officer of Health before they decide what is or what is not fitted for human food.

“The veterinary sanitary service would also adopt a system of accurate notification of all cases of infectious disease. If such a system were carefully carried out in connection with rabies, and if every owner of a dog was compelled to attach a registered label to it, to be renewed at first at short intervals,

the ownerless dogs could soon be eliminated, and hydrophobia would become as rare as leprosy in England.

"The veterinary sanitary officers would necessarily require assistance, for they would control large districts. Such assistance would be provided by recruits from the class who now furnish the veterinary sub-inspectors. Reliable men who have held positions of trust in the district, and who are therefore well acquainted with the local inhabitants and their customs. Even these men, however, should receive some course of training before they enter upon their duties.

"The veterinary inspectors would remain, for they have done good and useful work. But, as vacancies occurred, their successors would be selected from the most energetic, tactful, and skilled of the veterinary sanitary officers, who would be tempted by the prospect of wider duties and better pay. The veterinary inspectors should form a more select body of men, specially qualified to sift evidence, and fitted by the highest scientific training to cope with the more formidable epizootics, which must from time to time appear, for they seem to be as inseparable from our present form of civilisation as such murrains have been from all past forms. The veterinary inspectors would be responsible directly to the department of agriculture, whilst the veterinary sanitary officers would be under the control of the County Councils. Both classes of officials should be wholly occupied in their duties, and should be prohibited from practising their profession privately, lest there should be even a suspicion that their interests as individuals might clash with the efficient performance of their public duties. The surest way to ruin the service would be to make a series of small appointments worth from £40 to £100 a year each. The occupants of these little posts would then be obliged to find other means of obtaining a livelihood, and they would make their veterinary sanitary duties subordinate to their other occupations. Whereas, if a service of well trained men devoted their whole time and all their energies to the study and practice of veterinary hygiene, we might hope to obtain in the future a great school of general or comparative pathology, useful alike to the State, to the community, and to the individual. Many preventible disease would be abolished, stockowners would become more prosperous, the average life of man would be further prolonged, and medicine would owe a still greater debt of gratitude to the veterinary profession" (applause).

"The Rt. Hon. Walter Long (Minister of Agriculture), who was loudly cheered on rising, said: Sir Howard Vincent, Mr Principal, and Gentlemen,—I have first of all to thank your Chairman for the kindly way in which he was good enough, in the first instance, to refer to my visit to your College to-day, and to thank him for saying, as he was good enough to do, that by coming here I have given some evidence of the great interest which I take, both in my public and private character, in your great profession and in your great Institution, the Royal Veterinary College.

"Gentlemen, you will allow me to congratulate you upon the address which has just been delivered, and I believe I shall be permitted to ask you before I sit down, to vote your cordial thanks to the lecturer for his very interesting paper. I am sure it is almost unnecessary, except as a mere matter of form, that anybody should make such a demand at your hands. You have already conveyed to the lecturer, by the hearty applause with which you have greeted at intervals his address, and by the way you have welcomed him when he announced the conclusion of it, your appreciation of the wise and weighty words he has read to you, and you will, I hope, permit me to be the medium of conveying to him your thanks, and the thanks of everybody interested in the health of man, or of the brute creation, for the very interesting survey he has given us of the work which has been done in the past, and for the valuable suggestions he has made as to improvements that are possible in the

future (applause). Gentlemen, I came here to listen, and not to speak, and therefore, my remarks will be very short indeed. I gathered at the commencement of these proceedings, that this meeting was very similar in its character to meetings that I have attended in days gone by, of other educational establishments. I remember that in those days when I was happy enough to be as young as many of those I see around me to-day, that there were several things we liked and a great many things we disliked; but of all the things that we disliked—and cordially disliked—at the meetings that then took place, there was nothing that we disliked so much as a long speech on any possible occasion (laughter). Though I daresay in some particular details there may be differences in these establishments, this is a common ground of agreement, in which all find themselves united, and, therefore, as I do not want on this first occasion of visiting your College to make a bad start, I have every reason for curtailing my remarks.

“Gentlemen, in the position which it is my privilege to occupy, my colleagues in office and myself are brought daily into very close connection with the great profession of which some of you are members, and to which others of you hope to belong some day, and no doubt, will adorn, and we have to rely enormously upon the assistance which we receive at the hands of the veterinary profession throughout the country. I need hardly say, for it is well known to you, that the Board of Agriculture has received in days gone by, and receives to-day, the most valuable assistance at the hands of Professor Brown, who is sitting near me, and who is so well known to us (cheers), assistance which it is impossible for any one to exaggerate, in regard to the readiness, generosity, and goodwill with which it has invariably been rendered. Mr Cope and Mr Duguid are two gentlemen whose services are of great value to us, and who bring us into, perhaps, still closer connection with your great calling. But it is in our administration that we are so dependent on the members of your profession, and I am glad to remember that during the time I have had the honour to be head of the department with which I am now associated, it has lain in my power to extend, at all events to some small degree, the opportunities of veterinary officers in connection with the work which they do for us throughout the country. We have, I hope, already given them opportunities, in connection with the administration of the Swine-Fever Acts, to exercise a wider discretion, which has certainly thrown upon them great responsibility, and I have no hesitation in saying that up to the present time I have had no cause, neither have my colleagues at the Board of Agriculture, to do otherwise than congratulate ourselves on the change which has been made, or the way in which it has been taken advantage of by the veterinary profession. I am glad, also, to remember that with regard to veterinary inspectors at ports we were already able last year to raise two or three gentlemen from temporary appointments to the permanent service, and no doubt we shall see our way, as time goes on, to extend and increase that number (applause). I only refer to those two facts as proofs, and I think I may fairly offer them to you as such, that the Board of Agriculture not only realises how dependent it is upon the veterinary profession for the successful administration of the Acts for which we are responsible, but also that we recognise fully the work that is done by veterinary surgeons throughout the country, and that we are most anxious, whenever we have an opportunity, to set our seal in regard to your work, by improving in any way that is possible the positions that veterinary officers hold, as showing the confidence we are able to feel in them (applause).

“I do not propose, as I have said, to make a speech, and I am certainly not going to endeavour to instruct you in the science of your profession, because I am afraid there would be several difficulties in the way if I were to make any such attempt. I am confident that I should scarcely have commenced before

the students would be tumbling over each other in their anxiety to escape from the room (laughter). Therefore I will confine myself to one piece of advice, which I hope you will not think it an act of impertinence on my part to give you. It has been remarked by the Chairman, in his interesting and able opening remarks, that the veterinary profession has made great progress during recent years, and similar opinions were to be found in different portions of Mr D'Arcy Power's address. Well, gentlemen, it may be—I doubt not it is—a matter of wonder to you who are members of this great profession, that the community at large, and your fellow countrymen, have, apparently, been so slow to recognise the great advance which your profession has undoubtedly made. I have no doubt that when you dwell upon this fact—for a fact undoubtedly it is—you wonder at it, and at first, possibly, you are inclined to be dissatisfied and impatient; but if you will stop for a moment to realise what your fellow countrymen are, I think you will see that, after all, it is a very ordinary event. The British people, as you know, are very slow to move or to act, or to realise what are the changes that are going on around them. I am not a very old man, but I am old enough to remember those representatives of the profession who, in my young days, were called 'cow doctors'! (laughter). Some of them I remember were interesting and amusing men; but, I think, they would have been still more so had they been preserved for examination in some human museum (laughter). They were recognised authorities on the health and diseases of animals in their district; but to draw a comparison between them as they were, and the veterinary officers of to-day, I believe would tax the wit of even the most able orator that ever addressed a public audience. The change has been very remarkable. It is a change not merely in the scientific knowledge possessed, not merely in the power now possessed by veterinary officers of to-day, to lessen pain, to get rid of disease, and to detect the truth as to what is wrong, but it is a change in the whole character and position of the man—a change so great that I believe your countrymen have not yet recognised it, and they have not looked for that improvement in your position which, depend upon it, will not much longer be delayed (cheers). There is one word of advice which I would like, very respectfully, to give you as a layman. It is the opening remarks of your lecturer's address. It is to make up your minds, those of you who are going into the world, so to take up your positions in various parts of it, that by your conduct in daily life, and the prosecution of your business, you will do everything to secure for yourselves personally that respect which your great profession has already won for you as a body (cheers). You are entitled to regard yourselves as scientific men who have struggled hard to equip yourselves for the profession you are going to follow; you are entitled to remember that you are endowed with the greatest blessing one man can impart to another, viz., the art of healing—of lessening pain, of checking and even defeating disease. I say, therefore, endeavour by your individual efforts to maintain that high standard in your public and private conduct that shall cause your profession, as a whole, to be recognised amongst the leading professions of this country.

“Let me congratulate you on this eve of your session. I wish it all possible success and prosperity, and to those amongst you who are not yet identified with any particular walk in life, I express the hope that you may have a most prosperous future. I congratulate you on having Professor M'Fadyean, whose name is in itself a power, as the head of this College; and, if I may, I will thank the Professor who has delivered his interesting address to us to-day. I have no doubt whatever that both the State and your fellow countrymen will recognise, either in legislation, or in daily life, the great position to which your distinguished profession is undoubtedly called (applause).

THE CHAIRMAN.—I am quite sure, Mr Long, that the Court of Governors,

the Principal, and every one connected with the Royal Veterinary College must desire to thank you most heartily and warmly for the observations you have addressed to this gathering (cheers), observations which will be read with the greatest satisfaction and pleasure by every veterinary surgeon throughout the country, and which assuredly cannot fail to greatly advance the profession in the public estimation, which every well-wisher of it desires (applause). I am sure, also, it is not necessary to call upon any individual to second the motion made by the Minister of Agriculture, to give a hearty vote of thanks to Mr D'Arcy Power for the able and interesting address he has delivered. I am sure you will, one and all, second that motion, and show your appreciation of it by acclamation. Allow me in your names to return to Mr D'Arcy Power the thanks of all connected with the Royal Veterinary College for the valuable and instructive address which he has delivered to us to-day (loud cheers).

MR D'ARCY POWER—All that I have to do is to thank you most heartily, Sir, for the very kind words in which you have proposed the vote of thanks, and you, gentlemen, for the way in which you have carried it.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I will now call upon Professor M'Fadyean to read the list of prizes that have been awarded during the past session.

PROFESSOR M'FADYEAN, the Principal of the College, having read the list of prizes, said:—"In addition to the list of competitions for which these College prizes are awarded, we are fortunate in having also an inter-collegiate competition. General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, one of the Governors of this College, has, with great generosity, and for a long period of years, offered annually three prizes of £50, £30, and £20 respectively. To the competition for these prizes the Principal of each of the veterinary colleges in this country is allowed to send two students, and I am very happy to be able to state that at the recent competition, two of the three prizes were secured by students of the London Veterinary College, Mr Harber having been awarded the first, and Mr Thurston the third prize.

In another respect the past session has been one of the most successful in the history of the College, for 70 per cent. of all the students who presented themselves for the professional examinations passed. Taking into consideration the searching character of the examinations of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, as now conducted, I think it will be admitted that such a large percentage of passes is eloquent testimony to the diligence of the students" (applause).

PROFESSOR BROWN C.B., in rising to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman said:—"Gentlemen, in a very few words I want to call on you to perform a graceful act at the conclusion of these proceedings.

"Without a chairman a meeting of this kind would very soon resolve itself into a number of heterogeneous elements, and we are also extremely glad that we have with us such distinguished members of the Board of Governors as the gentlemen who attend here to-day, who will leave their duties, however various they may be, and take the trouble of helping us in carrying on this work.

"For my own part, I feel I am rather fortunately placed to-day in being allowed to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman, because, speaking as an old attendant at these meetings, I cannot help feeling that this has been one of a special character (applause). We have for the first time in the history of the College the presence of the Minister of Agriculture (applause), and I doubt very much if any of us at the moment fully appreciate the great effect that his presence to-day is likely to have on the estimation in which the profession will be held throughout the country (hear, hear). Putting on one side the very kind remarks he has made, the mere fact of his coming here will help us forward in the right direction (hear, hear). The observations made by the Chairman

and everything that has been said to-day, have been of a most interesting character, and your lecturer has given us hopes of the future to which the most ambitious mind could not do more than aspire. There is absolutely no limit to the hope he has given us in years to come. I cordially agree with him in nearly all he has suggested—at any rate in all the principles he has advocated, and I can only express the hope that all of us here may live to see the day when the two medical services may be so intimately connected that it will be a puzzle to distinguish the one from the other.

“Remembering the warning of Mr Walter Long about long speeches, and the possible results of them, I will not give one to-day, lest I should introduce a single discordant note into a number of the most harmonious compositions (laughter and applause). I will therefore call upon you to give, by acclamation, a vote of thanks to your Chairman” (loud cheers).

THE CHAIRMAN.—“It only remains for me most cordially to thank the learned Professor who has been so kind as to propose a vote of thanks, and you for the way in which you have accorded it. I have had an easy and very pleasant task in presiding at this meeting, and I hope, on behalf of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and the Court of Governors, that the session that is commencing now will be amongst the most prosperous and successful of all the sessions in the history of the Royal Veterinary College” (applause).

The proceedings then closed, and the company adjourned to another part of the building, where they were entertained at luncheon by the Principal and staff of the College.

