

The second case was one of peculiar interest, and it has been only within the last fortnight that I have obtained decided testimony that my father's opinion, who first examined the horse, and in whose opinion I subsequently concurred, was perfectly correct. A baronet honoured us by reference on the occasion of purchasing a pair of horses. One my father found a year younger than he was pronounced to be, and the other, a five-year-old horse, to have defective hocks, particularly the near one, and the defect chiefly consisted in slight enlargement in the seat of well-known disease, "spavin," with want of elasticity in the movements of the joint. I unhesitatingly condemned him for spavin. The hon. baronet stood by our opinion, and a very handsome chance for the dealer was lost. I cannot precisely say how many veterinary surgeons immediately declared this animal sound; but as good fortune would have it, the animal took ill shortly after and died. The hocks were boiled, and the bones kept, to be used in testimony against my father and myself. The horse-dealer positively refused that we should examine any more horses in his stable. This threat had been exercised before, and we were quite indifferent about the matter. Time rolled on, and during the last month an eminent veterinarian from the south of England told me that he had been conducted to a horse-dealer's yard, to be shown some hock bones which belonged to a horse we had, according to a veterinary surgeon's opinion, improperly condemned for spavin; but he found that we were perfectly correct. Another veterinary surgeon afterwards confirmed this opinion, and last week, on the occasion of my being requested to examine a horse I was told that I had erred before, and should not examine the animal in question. During the conversation the dealer volunteered to show me the bones, and I declared myself prepared at once to avow error, in the event of proof being afforded me, that we had erred. It is remarkable and almost incredible, that both the hocks are diseased. Slightly, it is true, but even extending to roughness of the joint surfaces, as well as decided enlargement of the ridge on the cuneiform bones. It is true, that in a young horse, with slight spavin of the hock joint, the soft tissues alone might have been affected; but there is here positive deposition of bone, and unmistakable signs of disease of some standing. Gentlemen, it is perfectly possible for any one to err, but so careful are we, and we hope at all times so impartial, that I repeat we look back with great satisfaction to the way in which we have worked through this very delicate part of our professional duties. I state this in vindication of the practice and the principles of the New Veterinary College. I might multiply instances, but they are all of this class, and in two cases in which a lawsuit arose, and in which we had a decided proof in opposition to the result of the trial, after-experience con-

firms the correctness of our judgment. Fortunately, in the large majority of cases in which a decided opinion has been expressed, the verdict has been on our side; though in all law cases it is our rule to act as simple witnesses, and not, as is frequently done by scientific witnesses, to constitute ourselves advocates for the side on which we may happen to be subpoenaed.

But, gentlemen, though a fearless and honest course has unfortunately placed us in antagonism with many, I must say the soundness of our policy is proved by the best of all tests, and that is the degree of success in practice; and month after month has it increased, exceeding our most sanguine expectations.

We confidently look forward to the future. Beyond the small influence which I can exert for the honor and prosperity of our new Institution there will be the combined influence of a body of our students, who will ever learn, we hope from the lectures in the New Veterinary College, that their profession is a noble and difficult one, and that with clear heads they must combat high principle, the sure and only pioneer in the business of life.

Transactions.

Abstract of Report of Agricultural Societies received in the year 1860.

(Continued from last volume, Page 506.)

[The publication of a condensation of these official reports has from a variety of circumstances been unavoidably delayed; we now proceed with the abstract, from the No of October 1st.—Ed.]

DURHAM EAST.

COUNTY SOCIETY.—Fifty-six members, amount of subscriptions, \$61; balance from 1858, \$71 62; deposited by Township & societies, \$287; Government grant, \$179 93; received from Hope Branch Society in aid of exhibition, \$250; entrance fees at exhibition, \$269 87; total receipts, \$1419 67. Paid Township Societies, \$574; paid in premiums, \$578 50; expenses and sundries \$137 41; balance in Treasurer's hands \$129 77.

[Extract from Report.

Your Directors, with the assistance of balance, over from last year, were able to offer as large premiums as usual for competition at the Fall Show.

The sum of ten pounds was voted to the Township of Hope Branch Society to assist in getting up a Spring Show of Horses. O