

Veterinary.**OVARIOTOMY (SPAYING).**

REPORT MADE AT WEEKLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY IN CONNECTION WITH THE VETERINARY COLLEGE, TORONTO, BY DR. J. QUINN, VET. STUDENT.

An operation which is frequently performed, yet, few veterinarians seem to have paid particular attention to it, and as to an operation which any of us at any time may be called upon to execute, I do not think it out of place to introduce the subject, worthy of due thought and thorough discussion.

The operation is performed quite extensively in my native State, and I think in the majority of the States of the Union. In this country it is generally confined to swine, and I believe that I would be within the bounds of truth, should I say, that fifty per cent. of the female swine reared in that State, solely for the butcher, are spayed; as well as twenty-five per cent. of the breeding sows, after they have fulfilled their duty as such, are made to undergo the same *modus operandi*. In swine the operation is performed for the purpose of making them grow and fatten better, by cutting off all sexual desires; for weeding out those that are unfit for breeding purposes; as well as to prevent producing more pigs than one can rear, since, many farmers allow the sow, or boar, as the case may be, to run with the other swine. As I intend to speak more particularly of the operation in cattle, I will here let it suffice to say, that the manners of operating are similar, of which I will speak further on.

Ovariectomy is performed in cattle for the same purposes as in swine; yet, sometimes for another, though, I believe, that the latter, as a whole, has never proved very satisfactory: that to which I refer, is the perennial secretion of milk. Undoubtedly the operation is attended with very satisfactory and very profitable returns, when it is confined to castrates, unfit for breeding purposes, and it is succeeded by better growth and also better fattening propensities. And why? Because sexual desire is stopped, which desire tends in a greater or less degree, through excitement, to destroy tissue, as well as to prevent the building up of the same; by, I might say, twenty-four hours every three weeks, spent in roving, lowing, &c., if alone; if with other cattle, which is generally the case, even worse; which as we know, also interferes more or less with the rest of the herd. When limited to inferior animals the operation proves profitable, by being a sure preventive of propagation, since bad stock is near no stock. So that, by preventing propagation, and producing better growth and fattening properties, makes judicious culling, if done in this manner, profitable as well as necessary. This is not all, by the increased constitutional tendency of the animal to produce fat, we obtain a more nutritive, tender and juicy quality of meat, as well as the ability to disease of the generative organs being reduced to its minimum.

I have often seen spayed heifers at three years old bring nearly as much for beef as open ones at the same age would as breeding animals; though, the latter were far their superiors two years previous; and even more than the latter would have brought, had they also been sold to butcher. Simply due to better growth and fattening properties, combined with a better quality of meat. From this I do not wish you to infer that extra heifers should be castrated; but, that the inferior ones should, since they will prove more profitable in that way than by being allowed to generate their kind of offspring, or by keeping them for the butcher, without the operation having been performed; whilst, in the case of the extra heifers, you would be destroying those which would prove more profitable to breeders.

The perennial secretion of milk is a subject upon which I have not time to discuss.

after the flow of milk has ceased; as well as already mentioned, in the younger ones, that are not intended for breeding purposes. On no-wise other than the above, would I advise the operation to be performed in a fine milking or beef producing strain; since in either case, it would tend to pluck the bud that blooms the rose.

THE OPERATION IN CATTLE.—The manners in which ovariectomy is performed in cattle are as follows, which I will denominate: Inferior Abdominal, Lateral Abdominal, and Vaginal; though Mr. Percival, in his Anatomy, when treating of the ovaries in the mare, says: "where it is one's intention to remove them, the incision should be made along the crista of the ilium," &c. I can not accept Mr. Percival's advice, as to where to make the incision, even in the mare; letting alone the cow, where owing to the great development of the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebra, it would be inadmissible.

The Inferior Abdominal operation I can not advocate; since, besides other abnormal consequences likely to follow either operation, we may, and, in fact, frequently do have hernia. The incision extending from behind forwards, large enough to admit the hand, is made in the heifer, about three inches anterior to the pubis and to the side of the side of the linea alba.

The Lateral Abdominal operation, and that most generally adopted in the Western States, is performed as I here shall endeavor to explain. We prefer favourable weather in the Spring or Autumn. The animal to be operated upon is put off food and water for twelve hours, perhaps longer; she is then thrown on her right side, the fore limbs being well secured in front, the head held down, and the hind legs stretched backwards and also well secured. The incision is made from above downwards, large enough to admit the hand, beginning about an inch and a half anterior and an inch interior to the anterior iliac spine; remembering to have first clipped or shaved off the hair, and cleansed the skin by means of a brush or water if necessary. Knowing the situation of the ovaries, i. e., under the antero-external portion of the transverse process of the sacrum; of course, held pendulous by their ligaments, the hand is introduced inwards and backwards, the left ovary secured and drawn without, the ligaments allowing this, and excised with the knife in the heifer; but in the cow better removed by torsion. The hand is again passed within and directed under the anterior portion of the sacrum, against the inferior surface of the rectum, and the right ovary secured and removed in the same manner as the left. Here we frequently experience some difficulty, owing to the ligaments not allowing the ovary to be drawn without the incision; yet, we most generally succeed in drawing the ovary without; but, should we not be able so to do, we can succeed in detaching it by manipulation and the use of the thumb nail. In a case of this kind, as well as in other cases, I believe that the Ecraseur would prove a very useful instrument, and should I ever perform ovariectomy again, I will give it a trial. The manner in which I would advise the Ecraseur to be used is for the operator to secure the ovary by the means already mentioned, then have an assistant to insert the instrument, the chain or wire of which, as the case may be, the operator succeeds in passing over the ovary; he should now grasp the ovary, and order the assistant to work the instrument. After the ovary is detached, the Ecraseur should be withdrawn, and then the hand with the ovary. Sew up the incision with an interrupted suture, and treat as a common wound.

In making the incision many prefer making it on the right side. Prof. Law recommends the same. I should judge, by saying to stretch the animal on her left side. I favour making the incision on the left side; since, one has no internal organs to contend with, save the rumen, which if slightly out or injured, though there is no necessity for so doing, would be the least likely of any of the digestive organs to produce serious results. Evil results are very rare, though, peritonitis may occur from rough handling, exposure, &c., as well as other conditions liable to follow any wound.

The operation per Vagina is quite a more scientific manner of operating. It can not be performed in the smaller animals, nor in the heifer; and as to the operation in the cow, I doubt whether it is attended with much better results, than the lateral abdominal

spirit of them, and affording a good deal of information to the meeting.

A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded both gentlemen for their instructive and entertaining papers.

At the next meeting papers are to be read by Messrs. St. Phensor and Stovell.

Despite the inclemency of the weather the attendance was good, there being upwards of thirty present.

MONTREAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION.

The Montreal Veterinary Medical Association held its fortnightly meeting in the lecture room of the College, on Wednesday, 7th inst. Prof. D. McEachran occupied the chair. The following members of the Board of Agriculture were present: J. M. Browning, Esq., President; L. H. Massue, Esq., Vice-President; Dr. Leclerc, Secretary; Hon. L. Beaubien, Speaker in the Local Government, &c. Mr. John Byrne, M.R.C.V.S., was elected a member of the Association. Mr. S. Herbert read a communication on Ent rites, and a discussion followed. A carefully prepared paper on accidents and injuries of the generative organs was read by Mr. C. Lovesque, V.S., Berthierville.

At the conclusion of his practical and very excellent paper, a debate took place. Professor McEachran brought forward for consideration the subject of the prevailing epidemic, pronouncing it in his opinion to be undoubtedly Variola Equina and strengthening his position by quotations from standard authors, such as Roof, Bouley, Rynal, Cheveau, Fleming, and others. The Professor stated that, in connection with Professor Osler, he had performed experiments which had resulted in removing from their minds any doubts as to the disease being other than Variola, a dog and a cow being the subjects, and in the latter vaccine was produced. Several grooms and one veterinary student being accidentally inoculated with the virus, the effects were identical with those produced by vaccination. Among the members a slight difference of opinion was evinced in regard to it, but the majority sustained the Professor. Before the meeting closed J. M. Browning, Esq., President of the Board of Agriculture, in the course of some remarks made on behalf of the Board, congratulated the College for its progress and growth, and eulogized its Professors on their indefatigable exertions for its welfare. The Hon. L. H. Beaubien addressed a few complimentary and encouraging words to the Association, and expressed the gratification felt by the Board of Agriculture on the advancement of the Veterinary Science in the Province of Quebec. After a short address by the Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture, L. H. Massue, Esq., the meeting was brought to a close.

A WELL-MERITED COMPLIMENT.—We note with satisfaction that Mr. D. McEachran, M.R.C.V.S., and President of the Montreal Veterinary College, has been elected, at a special meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, held on 28th February, a Fellow of the College. We understand that there are fifteen of the most prominent gentlemen connected with the profession, in different parts of the world, recently selected for this honor, and that Mr. McEachran is the Canadian representative.

Amusements.**CITY.**

Mr. Dominick Murray is the star this week at Mrs. Morrison's Grand Opera House. On Monday and Tuesday the bill was Inshavogue, the Rapparee—a story of '98, and the farce of B. B. Wednesday and Thursday, The Golden Bubble, and Mickey Free. This Friday (benefit), Eileen Oge; Saturday Matinee, Inshavogue; evening, Lecture by Mr. Thomas Clark Luby, on Ireland, and Eileen Oge. Business has been fair so far this week.

Mr. C. W. Coudock has accepted an engagement in Philadelphia for which city he

mond. On Thursday and to-night, The Shalghraun, which will probably run for a week.

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CONDITIONS.

\$40 each; \$20 forfeit, with \$250 added by the proprietors of the *CANADIAN SPORTING TIMES*, and a Gold Medal to the winning horse. Mile heats, 3 in 5, in harness. Entries will close on Friday, 1st June. Forfeit money must accompany nomination; and the other \$20 payable on the 1st of September. 60 per cent. of money to first horse, 25 to second, 15 to third. In case of a walk over, winner to receive his own entrance money and one-half of all the other entrance money received. Pedigree and description, with owner's name, to be given in nomination. March 16, 1877. 290-td

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Terms.—\$20 for the season or \$30 to insure. Thoroughbred mares, \$25 for the season, or \$45 to insure. Insurance money to pay each \$2 at the time of service. Good picture has been secured for mares coming from a distance. Escapes and accidents will be at the owners' risk.

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AND

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Young Erin Chief, by Erin Chief, dam by Toronto Chief, he by Toronto Chief, the sire of Thomas Jefferson, 2nd dam, the Goodenough mare by St. Lawrence; 3rd dam Tippe, 4th dam by Tom Kimble.

Matt Cameron, by St. James' Highland Boy, he by Haulet, by Volunteer, by Ryadyk's Hambletonian; dam by Toronto Chief; 2nd dam, the Goodenough mare, by St. Lawrence; 3rd dam by Tippe; 4th dam, by Tom Kimble.

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STALLIONS