

oughly proficient, can look forward to many opportunities for engaging as teachers. Great changes must occur in a very few years more, and for truly able men, whose ambition has a certain limit, no profession offers a fairer prospect of success. It is true that he cannot look forward, like the medical man, to the prospect of a baronetcy, or, like a lawyer, to sit on theoolsack; but he can hope for as much honest ratification as an earnest worker in a most useful calling as any person need reasonably covet.

I know of no greater reward than that incidental to the conscientious discharge of professional duties; and the zealous teacher certainly experiences as large a share of this class of enjoyment as any other person. There are, however, any ways in which the straightforward dealings of a professional man are rewarded, and the veterinary surgeon is placed, perhaps in a more delicate position, between persons of conflicting interests, than the number of any other profession. I need scarcely say I am alluding to many circumstances under which the veterinarian becomes a professional arbitrator—an adviser in the most delicate of all speculations, the purchase of a horse—a peace-maker, if possible, between men of the most opposite classes, some tending on their dignity, others keenly enjoying an intrigue, and all, perhaps, unreasonable, because not capable of fully understanding the nature of the real causes which create doubts and disputes.

It is often a thankless task to examine a horse to soundness. A purchaser has found what he has been seeking for months perhaps; acting cautiously in horse transactions, and probably asked an exorbitant price for the object of his choice, he desires to consult the veterinary surgeon. The horse is rejected, the purchaser is disappointed, and the dealer sadly displeased. An inclination on both sides to think the veterinary surgeon may be a little too strict, induces departures from his advice, and, in the course of time, when unsoundness is very manifest, appeal to another professional man, and this often leads to a long and expensive lawsuit.

The veterinary surgeon who is most skillful and conscientious in detecting unsoundness, is the one who necessarily experiences the greatest delicacy in these matters, and who meets with most severe opposition on the part of those who care not to be impudently honest. The motto of such persons in the horse trade is, "Make money honestly if you can, but, at all events, make money." As a Roman satirist says, *Rem facias, bene sis; quocumque modo rem*. It so happens in live-stock is the most precarious of all seek-in-trade. The nature of the article sold is variably the subject of grave suspicion, and reasons are not content until they have discovered some flaw. There are usually dozens of reasons prepared to express their opinion on the subject; and every one who has frequented

a stable any number of years is recognised as a qualified judge in horse matters. It is very clear that the veterinary surgeon has, as much as any professional man, full scope for an honorable, discriminating, prudent, and skilful exercise of his own judgment. Amongst the relations of veterinary to social science, I would class this as the relation of veterinary science to the science of moral duty. The patience of the professional man is severely tried in this branch of his calling. He is sure to displease some one; and when temptation is yielded to—a timeserving policy being adopted—it is often from a desire to serve the individual who has most in his power, or who, on the plea of friendship, claims to be dealt leniently with.

I must honestly aver, that since I have established the new Veterinary College, I have as much reason to feel satisfied with the discharge of this part of our duties as any other, though a firm and consistent line of conduct has met with the most determined opposition from many who fancy we might overlook small things, and declare animals sound or unsound, rather as it suits the circumstance than as it agrees with the facts before us in each case.

I purposely allude to this subject at some length to-day, because our experience is of some value to the veterinarian who commences practice. When formerly in practice elsewhere, I did not meet with the unsatisfactory and underhand opposition which I have met here; but in the city of Edinburgh, whether I pronounce a horse sound or unsound, several opinions diametrically opposite to mine are immediately obtained. Of this I am certain, that it is not a difference of professional judgment so much as an unworthy difference arising from rivalry, inasmuch as the most obvious cases of unsoundness have passed muster after receiving my unfavorable verdict. I have the greatest satisfaction of being able to prove, in every instance that I have yet traced, that I have not erred in judgment; and I may allude to two or three interesting cases of this description.

In the very earliest days of the College a horse was brought to me to be examined. I at once rejected him as bad roarer. My advice was sought by an intelligent purchaser, who, having tried the horse, liked him because he was very quiet and steady. He at once stated to the vendor that I had rejected the horse, whereupon another veterinary surgeon was consulted, and pronounced the animal sound. Hesitating whether to buy or, not, my client waited a day or two, when the animal was set up to auction, and, evidently by means well known in the horse-trade a keen bidding was started, and the animal was knocked down, to my friend, for £45. The horse was taken to the country, proved to be a roarer, and it was then discovered that this precious gem was a cast-off trooper which had realized £7 at the hammer not long previously.