

not hitherto turned its attention to the great questions which affect our national prosperity, and which are purely veterinary in their nature. We must do more than learn how to phisic, blister, and operate; we must study prevention. This is the great field for future workers and for men of science, trained to the investigation of laws governing health and disease.

Veterinary Progress.

The veterinary, if properly educated, would be able to teach the human surgeon much; mutual intercourse would be productive of mutual benefit. It must, moreover, not be forgotten that in the study of physiology, the facilities of experimenting on the brute creation have ever caused human physiologists to engage in the comparative study of animals; and the astonishing fact is that veterinarians have not yet appropriated the stores of learning, which lies interspersed in treatises on the functions of man. There is a very satisfactory explanation of all this, in the fact that observations on the functions of animals and experiments on brutes have only been made and performed with a view to illustrate the physiology of man, and thereby the details of experiments, which were irrelevant in researches so planned, have been lost sight of. Men have generalised boldly, only knowing a limited number of incomplete facts; and it will only be when veterinarians will work seriously at physiology that certain questions, even respecting the functions of man, can be settled. But, though much remains to be done, it is comforting to reflect that Hering, Colin, Chauveau, Gurlt, Hertwig, Ercolani, Vellar and a few others, have done enough to render veterinary physiologists renowned; and they prove that the means in our profession for such study are inexhaustible and unrivalled.

History reveals the tardiness with which medicine in general has progressed, especially as compared with other sciences: it reveals, moreover, that it was only after such men as Galileo, Newton, and Bacon had lived and created an experimental philosophy, and taught us a system of induction of facts to displace conjectural or hypothetical argument, that all sciences of experiment and observation followed the right path of progress and extension.

We have expressed a belief, which it will not be out of place to reiterate, that it is possible, by increase in learning, to raise our profession in public esteem, by enabling, through a proper system of education, its individual members to confer upon the community a larger share of substantial advantage than has hitherto been practicable, and by enabling them to hold a higher intellectual standing. We fancy we hear an indiscreet section of practical men depreciate this proposition of increased intellectual culture, and scoff at the statement that practical utility

can be enhanced in proportion with engagement in appropriate studious pursuits. But the epoch we live in is singularly prolific in facts and arguments to confute these absurd and impotent sneers, which would never have had utterance had their authors possessed the wit and ability to attain meritorious distinction. Reflect an instant on the heroes whose noble blood this terrible war has spilt. All that carnage the superficial observer may attribute to the aroused passions of impetuous warriors—to the strong sinew of their herculean arms; but these are agents, secondary to the intellectual workings which, through a long course of training, and the application of the highest branches of science, have been made to influence the movements of each individual soldier to rule the course of each bullet. Even murderous warfare is successful in direct proportion as its operations are guided by well-trained minds.

The first step now is to thoroughly educate the youthful veterinarian, and afford him every facility for acquiring knowledge—to effect which object a strict observance of the rules for the regulation of the Veterinary College is necessary.—*The Field.*

Miscellaneous.

The Dainties of our Ancestors.

Taste, indeed, was more capricious than refined, and the epicure exulting over strong flavours included cetacea among his Friday fare. The whale was eaten by the Saxons; and when men were lucky enough to get it, it appeared at table late in the fifteenth century. In 1246 Henry III. directed the sheriffs of London to purchase one hundred pieces of whale for his table. Whales found on the coast were the perquisites of royalty; they were cut up and sent to the king's kitchen carts. Edward II. gave a reward of twenty shillings to three mariners who had caught a whale near London bridge. Those found on the banks of the Thames were claimed by the Lord Mayor, and added to the civic feast. Pieces of whale were often purchased in the thirteenth century for the table of the Countess of Leicester. England was supplied with this choice dainty by the fishermen of Normandy, who made it an important article of commerce. The Normans had various ways of cooking it; sometimes it was roasted, and brought to the table on a spit; but the usual way is to boil it, and serve it up with peas; epicures looked out for a slice from the tongue or the tail. The grampus, or sea-wolf, was also highly esteemed; but of all the blubber-dainties the porpoise was deemed the most savoury. The Saxons called it sea-swine, and the ecclesiastics of the middle ages *porco marino*. Porpoises were purchased for the table of Henry