

try to impress you with the higher aims and objects of the profession which you are now entering as students.

Veterinary science is no longer the simple art of the farrier, whose knowledge consisted of a few nostrums and the practice of a rude form of surgery, it is, in fact, a science, embracing within its scope the whole of the collateral sciences which are included in the curriculum of the foremost medical colleges.

For the successful prosecution of its study there is required a combination of qualities such as are not needed in any other of the scientific professions, viz. a well cultivated mind, a studious habit, and constant application, and in addition you require physical courage and tact to enable you to control your patients. It has been remarked that the tendency in the schools of the present day is to devote too much to the purely scientific, and too little to the practical application of the science. This is no doubt to a certain extent true, but it is due to the fact that the time devoted to the study by the pupil is far too limited for him to accomplish both the scientific and practical together, and it must come to it, that like the medical students, Veterinary graduates must spend both time and money in visiting those hospitals where large numbers of animals are being treated, not in hurried moments, between hours of study, but leisurely and when they have nothing else to do. There is no profession that has made such progressive strides as has this one, in fifty years, from the rude art of the farrier it has risen to a science which forms no small part in the progress of nations, from the fact that it is the hand maid of agriculture which is the backbone of national prosperity. You will thus see that you are entering on the study of a science which affords complete field for your ambitions and abilities, be they what they may.

A nation becomes great in proportion to the advancement of her agriculture, especially that branch of agriculture devoted to stock raising. The mere production of grains seldom results in making a country great or wealthy. It is a well known fact that on this continent at least the live stock of both the United States and Canada has formed a very important part of their agricultural greatness, and represent no small portion of the countries' wealth, and it behoves every country and government to promote the veterinary science as much as possible, so that they may enjoy the full advantages that it is capable of bestowing in the prevention of contagious diseases.

Let us look at the result of ignoring the warning voice of the profession in England half a century ago. When the bovine scourges were decimating the herds on the continent of Europe, and their introduction seemed imminent, the government turned a deaf ear to those members of the veterinary profession who had knowledge and courage enough to caution them, and urge the necessity of checking the importation of live stock or placing it under proper regulations. The result was the importation of continental plagues, Foot and Mouth disease, Pleuro pneumonia, Variola Ovina, and Rinderpest, from which followed the downfall of English agriculture. Farm after farm was overruled by the plagues, stock after stock was decimated or destroyed, until, ruined and disheartened, the honest farmer was reduced from opulence to almost poverty, and forced to emigrate to a foreign land where he hoped to escape from the curse which drove him from his home. Could the government hold itself blameless for ignoring for years the valuable services which the veterinary profession could have afforded the country in averting the calamity?

Many of England's best though ruined farmers with their families crossed the Atlantic Ocean and settled in the New England or Atlantic States, hoping there to be beyond the curse of cattle plagues. But how short-lived were their hopes--instead of profiting by the better experiences of

Great Britain, they were soon forgotten, and unrestricted importation was carried on from European infested countries, until, forty-one years ago, Pleuro pneumonia was introduced by a cow from Germany, and repeatedly since.

Foot and Mouth Disease on several occasions also, and soon the same experiences were gone through in The United States as in England, the difference being due to the greater isolation of farms, and much less intercourse of herds such as took place in England at fairs and markets. In several instances local action succeeded in stamping it out, but for want of general concerted action by the Federal Government, its eradication was never complete in all the States, and fresh importations insured its continuance. Fortunately for thirty-five years little or no movement westward of stock took place from the infested States and no outbreak of these diseases was known to have taken place until quite recently, when by the transportation of infested animals it is to be feared that both Foot and Mouth disease and Pleuro-pneumonia have been introduced into those great cattle rearing and feeding Western States which are also the nurseries of the great ranching country on the Western plains, where hundreds of millions of dollars worth of cattle replace the vast herds of buffalo, and it is now very problematical whether or not they can be prevented from reaching those great unfenced ranges, on which it would be beyond control and lead to unheard of calamity, which could not be otherways than disastrous to American agriculture.

At whose door must this terrible charge be laid? Who is responsible for this serious blunder, or worse than blunder, crime would be a more fitted term for the sacrificing of the meat supply of the world. For it is well known that, free from disease these great plains are quite capable of feeding sufficient cattle to supply the markets of every nation with beef of the prime quality.

Did the veterinary profession do its duty in the matter? A few of its members certainly did. To the credit of those who met in convention at the centennial celebration at Philadelphia in 1876 it must be said that they did their duty in warning the Government and people of the United States of the great danger to which their vast cattle industry was exposed in the absence of a quarantine system, to prevent disease and to deal with it when it appeared.

The subject was introduced both by Professor Law and myself, was freely discussed, and the papers were ordered to be published for distribution, at the expense of the convention, among the members of congress and agricultural associations. In that paper I remarked, "How often have invasions of these diseases passed like a blight over the whole length and breadth of the British Isles, bringing ruin to hundreds of England's best farmers, seriously curtailing her food resources and reducing her working classes to a state of semi starvation I am well aware that many will say of us, as was said of Professor John Garinger that we are alarmists, that the fears thus expressed are groundless, but I have little doubt that if no protective measures are adopted, like him, we will live to see the time when our rulers will wish that they had listened to us who at this great centennial gathering humbly endeavoured to point out their duty to the country, not to trifle with these diseases, but to take such steps as will insure their non-introduction into the country, an undertaking of little moment compared with that of eradicating them once they are introduced."

In the Report on Diseases of Cattle published by the government at Washington in 1871, Professor Gamgee in his article on Pleuro-pneumonia says, "I hope that not a few will realise after a perusal of this report, even though they may inhabit the far distant prairies and the mountains of California, that it is the duty of every American farmer to manifest his inter-