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INFLUENZA.

AN ESSAY READ BEFORE THE ONTARIO VETERINARY
MEDICAL SOCIETY, ON FEBRUARY 22ND, 1884,
TORONTO, ONTARIO, BY EDWARD COURTENAY, JUN.

For many centuries veterinary and other authors have noted the occurrence at various periods of an epizootic affection, attacking almost every species of animals, birds, and even man himself. This disorder, as noticed by these writers, was marked by certain well-defined general symptoms, which admitted of its being easily distinguished from other diseases, and being assigned a place for itself. The disease has received a multitude of names, some referring to the supposed pathology of the disorder, and some to the symptoms as noticed by the observers. Among the various names applied are the following : 'Distemper,' 'Epidemic Catarrh,' 'Catarrhal Fever,' etc. In France it is named 'Courbature,' 'La Grippe,' etc. In most countries it bears the appellation of 'Influenza,' a name given it by the old Italian writers in the seventeenth century, and which referred to some supposed stellar influence as regarded the production or origin of the disease.

Influenza has a history which extends far back into the days of the ancients. Hippocrates, a Greek physician, who lived about four hundred years before Christ, and who has been styled the 'Father of Medicine,' mentions the disease as attacking the human race ; and it is fair to presume that it also affected the lower animals at that period. It is mentioned as having occurred in Seville in the year 1299, raging with great fatality, and causing the death of more than a thousand horses. In 1648 it attacked the horses of the French army in Germany. Forty years later it prevailed over the whole of Europe, attacking both men and horses ; and in 1699 the continent of America was visited by