

veterinarian even more invitingly than to the physician. His opportunities are greater for such researches, and his increasing science is leading his mind each day nearer to the appreciation of their worth."

That Dr. Richardson, imbued, as much as any man I know, with a catholic spirit and keen appreciation of the value of knowledge, does not agree with Vegesius as to the relation of veterinary to human medicine, is proved by the last paragraph of the essay, so frequently referred to. He says,—

"Recognizing, as I do, the importance to medicine of every addition to veterinary science and art, and the fact that medicine human and medicine veterinary is as distinctly *one* as the animal creation is *one*, I feel greatly honored in having the opportunity of introducing into this new literary work this brief and very incomplete paper."

Though too moderately estimating his contribution to our first Scotch veterinary periodical, Dr. Richardson has proved, by much more than that short article, how far and deep the veterinarian can, with great benefit to himself and direct benefit to others, dive into the mysterious workings of nature.

It is obvious that the subjects I have alluded to, as constituting fit objects for inquiry on the part of the veterinarian, may be regarded as purely medical, and the investigations strictly scientific. Every observation pertains to science, and, with a scientific turn, an individual cannot pass a day without remarking and reflecting on something new to him, if not absolutely new to the scientific world. For this reason alone, if no other existed, it is advisable that professional men should occupy positions which are calculated to offer facilities for observations of importance to mankind, and the appointment of medical officers of health, or surgeons and physicians to hospitals in which subjects for scientific investigation, as well as for the sake of humanity, are congregated, tends to give a very decided impetus to the study of sanitary matters, and to the progress of medicine.

Veterinarians are debarred from these privileges. They cannot be debarred for long, as their services are urgently required. In France, Germany, and elsewhere, civil appointments exist for veterinarians; and by a satisfactory system of inspection, epizootic and contagious diseases cannot exist long without due attention being paid to them, and measures, often adequate to check the disease, being adopted.

There veterinary surgeons hold also position as inspectors of slaughter-houses; and I can state from personal experience of the class of men appointed to these offices, that they become very acute observers of diseased conditions, and frequently prevent the sale of food unfit for consumption by man.

In considering, gentlemen, the relations of

veterinary to social science, it is expedient that I should revert to the services which the public ought to expect from qualified men checking a dishonest trade in diseased animals. This is worse than all other dishonest trades, inasmuch as its effect is to ruin the health of many, though it more directly robs the poor of their means of sustenance; by selling innutritious, if not unwholesome food, and this at a price which, however small, must be exorbitant—the material being often worse than worthless.

It has been my lot to speak very openly on this subject, and incur the displeasure of those whose interest it is to keep up the trade. It was even sought by some to prove that I injured the farmers, though, in reality, none more than the agricultural community have an interest in the appointment of such inspectors, and this for various reasons:—

1st. The sale of a larger number of diseased animals tends to some extent to diminish the price of healthy stock. If the first were discarded, the second would necessarily, in any case, be raised in price.

2nd. Every carcase can be proved of far higher value than the dishonest fletcher usually thinks fit to give. A very common price allowed is £1—occasionally much larger sums; but, as a general rule, the diseased animals would cover a great part of their first price as lean beasts, if turned to proper account. On this subject I hope on some early occasion, to speak at greater length, inasmuch as thousands of pounds are annually lost to farmers, either by the dishonorable trade in diseased beasts, or by the absurd mode of burying a dead animal, and not procuring from it the materials of great value, which are improvidently wasted.

3rd. Were well-educated veterinary surgeons to be appointed to slaughter-houses, they might in many cases, in passing an animal as wholesome which might have been supposed the reverse, check frauds which are rather common. As an instance of this, I may mention a case in which I was called in to condemn an ox for pleuro-pneumonia. I found him healthy, though suffering from slight temporary indisposition. Had I confirmed the opinion of the man who wished to condemn the beast, and said that the animal had the lung disease, it would have been sold at a great sacrifice.

Last. With the present system of meat inspection, diseases are entirely overlooked, or matters of minor importance are regarded as very serious. An organ might be condemned by the veterinary surgeon, whereas now the whole beast is destroyed, or *vice versa*. The agricultural community has, however, a direct interest that the veterinary profession should have the inexhaustible means of observation, to enlighten him on the diseases of stock, which can be furnished by no other means so readily as by the appointment of veterinary surgeons,