

minous bronchitis, occurred in cows and calves in the neighbourhood of the village of Cuba, in the county of Allegany. This very destructive malady, caused by the presence of threadlike worms in the lungs and air passages, was very commonly supposed not to exist in America; but Professor Law reports this as the third instance of its occurrence in the state of New York brought under his personal observation. In September last, the society was informed of the existence of an obscure and fatal disease in a dairy of cows near the city of Albany, and it proved to be splenic apoplexy, a malady which has been unusually prevalent this season, and which is perhaps the most destructive and most frequent in its occurrence of all the diseases to which neat cattle are liable in this state. In the dairy referred to, sixteen cows died in eighteen days. Professor Law, to whom the executive committee return thanks for the promptness with which he responded to the call of the society, investigated this case also, and rendered all the assistance possible under the circumstances.

Of both these investigations made by Professor Law, in his capacity of consulting veterinarian to the Society, he has made copious reports, constituting valuable contributions to the knowledge of the subjects, and which have been published in the Society's monthly journal.

The Executive Committee has had under consideration the appointment of a veterinary surgeon who should reside at Albany, and be able to give more time to attending the calls of the Society and of its members than Professor Law can, consistently with due attention to his duties as Professor of Veterinary Science at Cornell University; and the subject has finally been referred to a special committee of the Executive Board. In view of the fact, that notwithstanding our enormous and constantly increasing investment in live stock, and the continual improvement in quality by which the value of individual animals is largely enhanced, there is hardly a competent regularly educated veterinarian in practice in this state outside of the principal cities, and a mere handful outside of the city of New York, it seems highly desirable that one should be employed by the Society under an arrangement similar to that of the Royal Society of England with Professor S. J. L. L. L., and the necessary expense involved would seem to be fully justified.

In this connection, it may be mentioned that the Veterinary College of the city of New York, a regularly organized veterinary school, with a full and highly competent staff of professors, and ample accommodations for its work, has lately offered a free scholarship to the Society and to each of the state agricultural so-

cieties in the United States. The offer has been accepted, and duly announced; but no application for the nomination has been made. The fact that this institution, entitled, as it undoubtedly is, to the full confidence of the community, and with all necessary appliances for affording a special education of the highest order, should languish for want of students, is a painful evidence of the apathy of our people as regards this most important subject. The employment of an able and well educated veterinarian by the Society, and the extension of his operations throughout the state, would, undoubtedly, have a good effect in awakening the citizens of our state to a proper sense of the usefulness of the profession, and tend to reduce very materially the annual losses of stock by disease.

Humanity, also, prompts to efforts to rescue our dumb animals from the neglect they now suffer when attacked by disease, and from what is far worse, the cruelty of empirical treatment either by their owners or by ignorant pretenders to veterinary skill.

With the year 1871, the State Society completes the fortieth year of its existence. Established in 1832 by the illustrious James Le Ray de Chaumont and a noble band of men, to whose memory honour will be forever due, revived and extended in its scope by the institution of its annual cattle show and fair in 1841 by Wadsworths, Beekman, Lenox, Van Rensselaer, Prentice, Rotch, Sherwood, Tucker, McIntyre, Livingston and their associates, the society has ever since pursued its steady course, enlisting in its ranks the most enthusiastic and intelligent agriculturists and friends of agriculture of the state, and maintaining a constant advance in the improvement of the great interest which it was established to promote. It has been asserted that the lands of the state of New York were becoming exhausted, but the error of the statement is palpable to all acquainted with the facts, and the reports made to the agricultural department show plainly that improved returns are following as the effect of improved methods, improved seeds and improved stock. The society has outlived two charters, each for twenty years, and now enters upon a third term, this time of forty years, under the re-enactment of its charter by the legislature at its last session. What the society especially needs now, as a guaranty of its continued usefulness and prosperity, is the more active interest of its members in the management of its affairs, and their personal co-operation with the officers in the prosecution of its work and the extension of its operations.

During the year, the Society lost by death several of its most valuable members, of whom memoirs are given.

HAND THRASHER.

A correspondent writes a note of enquiry on the subject of a Hand Thrashing Machine. If any of our readers can supply the needed information, we shall feel obliged by a note from them:—

"I am informed that there is a machine for thrashing out grain, manufactured somewhere on this Continent—said machine is worked by hand power, and two men can thrash about seventy bushels of grain in a day. Can you give me the necessary directions to enable me to correspond with the Co."

Communications.

FARMERS' CLUB.

DEAR EDITOR,—Notwithstanding the snowdrifts, our Club has met regularly, once a fortnight, all winter. The meetings have been large and the interest in the subjects discussed well sustained. Our manner of proceeding is to decide at the close of each meeting the subject to be discussed at our next, and to appoint one of our number to open the discussion. After the opener has made his speech or read his paper, as the case may be, every member is expected to give his views upon it. In this way arise some very lively debates between those who adhere to some long existing practice, and those who advocate some new system; or, again, between those who speak from practical knowledge, and those who maintain a theory by reason.

We have discussed the treatment of various soils, the rotation of crops, the feeding of stock, the breeding of stock, and the culture of fruit trees. Our last evening was spent on this latter subject. About fifty persons were present, among whom were Dr. Hamilton and Robert Starr, Esq., of Cornwallis; George V. Rand, Esq., and several other gentlemen from Wolfville. These gentlemen, being members of the Fruit-Growers' Association, and experienced cultivators of orchards, gave us a large amount of valuable information, and added greatly to the interest of the meeting. Mr. Starr gave very minute explanation of the proper method of planting a young orchard, how to cultivate it while growing, how it should be primed and cared for throughout all its stages of growth.

Dr. Hamilton substantiated the remarks by Mr. Starr, but dwelt more largely on the necessity of farmers taking more interest in their profession by joining heartily associations, and taking periodicals that give information respecting their profession. He also advocated planting orchards, and asserted that nothing could be planted upon the land that could equal the returns from a fair orchard. He asserted that