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EDITORIAL.

Among the encouraging signs of the times is the distinct advance in the prices being paid for beef cattle and feeders. For the latter, we note that as high as \$4.25 has within the last week been paid in Chicago, and we have been assured on good authority that as high as \$5.12½ has been contracted for export cattle at one point in Ontario for May delivery. Breeders of dairy cattle also report an increasing enquiry for cows as the spring approaches.

Our most grateful acknowledgements are tendered to the many correspondents among our subscribers who are cheerfully helping us to make the *ADVOCATE* the best and most practical paper of its class on the Continent. Our difficulty, we are pleased to say, is not to find material of suitable character to fill the paper, but to find room for the many reasonable contributions on our file. In this connection we ask our friends whose letters do not appear as soon as they would like, to exercise patience, and we will use them as soon as we can consistently with the furnishing of proper variety in all the departments.

Bee-keeping even as a side issue in farm life has, we fear, fallen somewhat into neglect in late years, partly, no doubt, from the fact that farmers feel that they have not time to devote to it. To those who have a taste for the work and take pleasure in the study there is a good deal of fascination in the subject, and by good management, we are persuaded, it may be made profitable and a source of pleasurable recreation as well. Mr. A. E. Hoshal, a successful specialist in this line, is contributing a series of articles for the *ADVOCATE* on this subject, the first of which appeared in our last issue, and his article No. 2 will be found in the apiary department in this issue. All interested should follow the series.

It is exceedingly gratifying to us that we are receiving so many encouraging words from our subscribers in regard to the character of the *ADVOCATE* as it reaches them. Our aim is to make it practical and helpful to our readers in all its departments, and to give only such advice and information as we feel confident it will be safe to follow, but just here we desire to remind our readers that the methods which are successful in some sections of so wide a constituency as ours may not be at all adapted to other districts where the climatic conditions, soil and other environments are widely different. A little exercise of that precious gift, common sense, and the use of proper judgment, must be the guide to safe action, and radical changes of methods should not generally be adopted until experiments are first made on a limited scale.

Special Veterinary Examination.

A special examination of veterinarians for the appointment of quarantine inspectors under the new regulations was held Feb. 19th to 22nd, at London, Toronto, and Kingston. This was brought about by an arrangement between the U. S. and Canadian Governments, whereby inspectors who give certificates of examination of live stock for contagious diseases would be appointed only after passing an examination on these subjects. Prof. McEachren, of Montreal, Chief Inspector for the Dominion, and Prof. Smith, Toronto, were the examiners.

The examination was both written and oral. Fifty-two candidates wrote at London, 75 at Toronto, and 19 at Kingston.

The paper set was as follows:—

Tuberculosis.—Give the symptoms of Tuberculosis in cattle in its different forms and stages. Explain how it is communicated. Describe the bacillus of Koch. Give the *post-mortem* condition and where the tubercles are to be found.

What is Tuberculin? How preserved? Give the dose undiluted for calves, medium sized adult, and large adult cattle. How is concentrated tuberculin diluted for use?

Describe the manner of applying the test and the conditions necessary to obtain reliable results. What rise in temperature would indicate Tuberculosis? What reaction would you expect in an advanced stage of the disease?

Sheep Scab.—What is the cause of sheep scab? Name the varieties of the parasites. Describe the symptoms. How is it communicated?

Describe the course you would pursue in dealing with it when discovered in sheep on a farm, on a railroad car, steamboat or stock yard, with a view to prevent its extension to other sheep.

Hog Cholera and Swine Plague.—What special features characterize these diseases? What causes them? Describe the Bacillus of each. Give symptoms of each. *Post-mortem* lesions of each. How does it spread in a district? What measures would you adopt to prevent their extension?

Glanders.—What animals are susceptible to Glanders? In what forms does it occur?

What causes the disease? Name the bacillus and some of its properties. Give the clinical symptoms, and give the dose of Mallein and its effects on a glandered animal.

Disinfection.—Suppose a contagious disease to have occurred in a byre, stable, hog pen or sheep pen, how could you disinfect them to render them safe to be occupied by healthy animals? Give a formula for a disinfectant in such a case.

Veterinary Education.

The recent special examination of veterinarians for the position of inspectors under the new quarantine regulations has revived the contention for a higher standard of preparatory education in the case of those who purpose taking the prescribed course at the Veterinary College. The necessity for taking higher ground in this regard is generally admitted and the proposal supported by the more intelligent and progressive men in the profession, and must be apparent to all who take an interest in the question.

At the time when the College was instituted the number of qualified practitioners in the country was exceedingly limited, the lack being largely supplied by the quack doctor or district "farrier," who ministered to the wants of ailing animals, prescribing wonderful combinations for the cure of all the ills that horseflesh is heir to, with all the apparent confidence and assurance of the patent medicine vendor of the present day. The need of a training school for veterinarians at that date was recognized by the Board of Agriculture for Upper Canada, who were fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Andrew Smith, who has been eminently successful in building up an institution having a continental reputation and which has been largely patronized by students not only from all the Provinces of the Dominion, but also from most of the States of the neighboring Republic.

The standard of our public schools and colleges in those days, though exceedingly creditable to so young a country, was by no means as high as at the present day. Under our excellent educational system great strides of improvement have been made, and to-day our school system is the admiration and envy of the world. At the inception of the Veterinary College it was, perhaps, pardonable, if not, indeed, commendable, that the standard of admission should be such as to admit men having a taste and love for the work, but whose educational advantages had been limited. There was a real need for the services of such men. The population was increasing. New fields for farming were being opened up and the future seemed promising for still more extended fields of usefulness. But the circumstances are changed. The supply at present in this as in most other lines of activity—agricultural, commercial, and professional—is more than equal to the demand at living rates of compensation. The question of a remedy naturally presents itself—a means of meeting the requirements of the times, of keeping abreast with the forward march of the minds of the age. In agriculture, in stock-raising, dairying, and the mechanic arts, it is conceded by all advanced thinkers that the remedy for overproduction lies in the improvement of the output, the elevation of the standard of quality, and the question resolves itself into one of

"the survival of the fittest." Why not apply the same rule of reasoning to the subject of these remarks? The standard of the entrance examinations to our high schools and of matriculation to our universities has been from time to time advanced to keep pace with the spirit of the times. Why should the requirements for admission to the Veterinary College be limited to a knowledge of the mysteries of the "three Rs," if indeed it embraces all of these?

We do not desire to indulge in uncharitable criticism, or to unnecessarily reflect upon the members of the profession, but we may say we have reason to believe, from conversation with some of the candidates, that the examiners in the recent examinations had little cause for congratulation in the papers handed in by a large proportion of those who wrote, or in the answers given in the oral examination. We cheerfully grant that there are in the ranks worthy exceptions to all that is implied in the foregoing remarks, but the law of averages applies to this as well as to all the walks of life, and the result is no matter for surprise when we reflect that with few exceptions success in any profession hinges largely on systematic study, and this in its best development depends upon a trained intellect. The professional man should be pre-eminently a student, a trained student, and his studies should not cease with the receipt of his diploma, but should continue through a life of earnest application. To our mind the veterinarian needs fully as high an education as the medical doctor, and as close and careful study of his subjects of treatment in practice, from the fact that they are dumb, and, hence, incapable of assisting him in the diagnosing of their diseases.

We submit that the time is ripe for fixing the standard of matriculation at least as high as a third-class non-professional certificate, and that the period of study should extend over at least four years in order to master the subjects embraced in the curriculum. And the granting of degrees should be vested in the Provincial University, as in the case of graduates of the Agricultural College. We shall be pleased to hear from members of the profession or others interested in this subject, and our columns are open for friendly discussion and suggestion.

Practice, with Science.

BY RICHARD GIBSON.

I was once peculiarly struck with the (to me) very crochety idea conceived by a Shorthorn breeder in New York State. It was to mingle the blood of Bates, Booth and Knightley, in certain proportions, to make the perfect Shorthorn. His formula was one half Bates, one quarter of each of the others—no matter from what source he got the ingredients—somewhat like the scale of rations we see prepared in the laboratory of the chemist and printed in some agricultural papers. I used to admire the adroitness with which he would out with his pencil and figure up the fractional parts of what we might call his carbohydrates, albuminoids and fat in the pedigree before him, and but few men have I met that had such intimate knowledge of the roots of the various tribes of Shorthorn cattle or was a greater enthusiast. Yet I venture to say but few men spoiled so many good ones. Now this man, though truly loving a rural life, was not a success because not practical. It was the same with his horses as with cattle. He spent lots of money in buying his blood lines, which consisted of Hambletonian, Am. Star and Morgan. But the ingredients would not mix properly, and, as might have been expected, but few trotters were produced.

His memory and practice have been recalled to my mind by reading so much in the agricultural papers of balanced rations. Now I don't dispute with the scientists as to the correctness of their figures or tables, nor want to belittle them in the least, for I appreciate their efforts, but I do think they too often neglect to advise a change of food, or rather that the various grains may be varied, and not that the same identical mixture be served up regularly three times each day all through the winter. As the "Druid" in *Post and Paddock* remarks, writing of carrier pigeons being employed to carry the results of the races to London from Goodwood, 55 miles distant: "Some of the best on a fine clear day have done the distance under the hour, but their powers of flight depend almost