

## Every Man His Own Horse Doctor

WITH THE DEVELOPMENT of sophisticated and aggressive methods of marketing patent medicines and the appearance of more and more of them, the public found itself able, as it thought, to take care of every animal disease.

### PATENT MEDICINES FOR MAN AND BEAST

Relatively few advertisements for patent stock remedies were carried by the agricultural papers prior to 1850. In fact, during the decade ending in 1850, the *New England Farmer*, and the *Cultivator* between them carried only half a dozen such advertisements. In 1841, the *Farmer* gave free space to a correspondent who had discovered "an effectual cure for the fowls in cattle" (foot rot), and for which he "wishes to give notice to the public, that he makes . . . a salve and prepares it in boxes for delivery at 50 cents per box." That the salve was effective was attested to by nine citizens whose names are given. A postscript suggests the motive in giving free space: the remedy was obtainable at the warehouse run by the publisher of the journal. Also carried in several issues was a notice that Dr. Charles M. Wood, Veterinary Surgeon, had removed his offices to another address in Boston, adding: "All diseases of Horses, Cattle or Swine, are attended to. Also, castrating and spaying," together with the names of fourteen clients

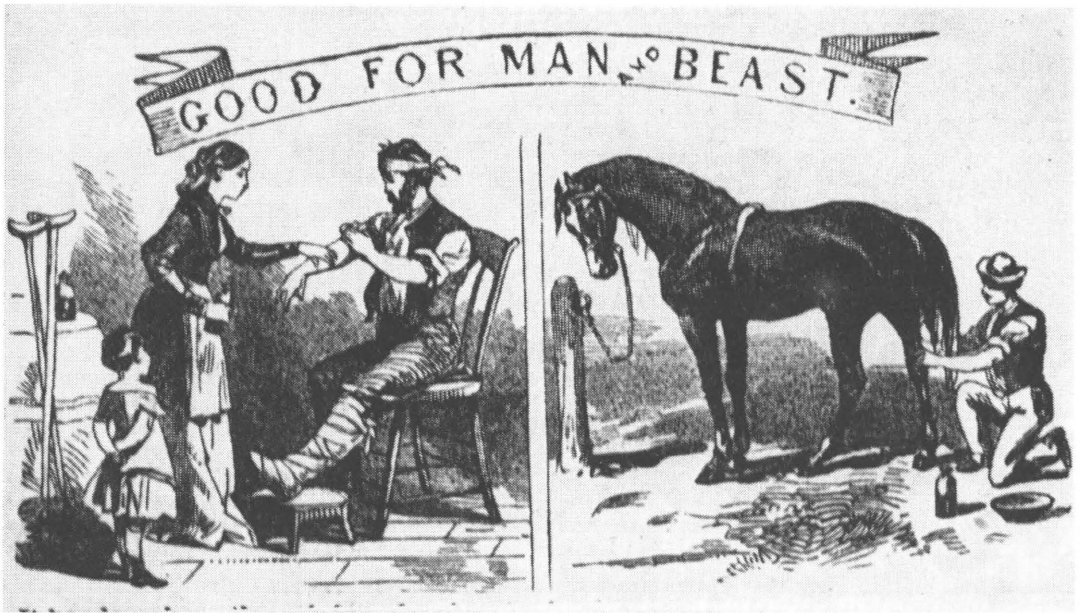
"who have employed him for a number of years past." Wood was later an associate of George Dadd in an unfruitful venture in veterinary education, the Boston Veterinary Institute, and was an early president of the United States Veterinary Medical Association.

The *Cultivator* for 1848 carries an unsolicited testimonial for:

the cattle medicines prepared by Dr. C. S. Toms. His "Russian liniment" for bruises and strains, is said to be not only valuable for horses and cattle, but for the cure of rheumatism, &c., in the human race. His "condition powders" are highly spoken of. . . . The above medicines, coming as they do from a good farrier, I much prefer to trusting animals in the hands of ignorant and conceited quacks.

The same year saw the first of a seemingly endless series of advertisements for the horse and cattle medicines prepared by G. H. Dadd, M.D., later V.S. In urging the public: "Don't permit your Horses or Cattle to die, when the means of cure are within the reach of all," Dadd admits he has:

spent several years in the study of Veterinary practice in London and Edinboro. . . . The principles of our practice consist in the rejection of general bleeding, and the total rejection of all medicines that experience has shown to be of a dangerous tendency. . . . These remedies act in harmony with the vital principle . . . hence are safe in the hands of every one.



Patent medicines "good for man and beast" were favorites with those who depended on dual purpose books on home doctoring.

The list of remedies, selling for 50 cents to a dollar, includes: physic balls, heave powder, urine powder, tonic powder "for bad condition glanders," liquid blister, healing balsam, mange ointment, hoof ointment, distemper powder, and worm powders, among others.

An advertisement for Merchant's Celebrated Gargling Oil in 1849, directed to the Farrier, Farmer, and Stage Proprietor, claims this preparation is:

Unparalleled in the history of Medicine, as the most remarkable External Application ever discovered for Horse's and Human flesh. Fourteen year's experience proves this will cure most cases of spavin, sweetie, ringbone, windgalls, poll evil, callous, wounds, bruises, sprains, fistula, lameness, foundered feet, grease, mange, rheumatism, bites of animals, external poisons, nervous affections, frost bites, corns, burns, chillblains, chapped hands, cramps, caked breasts, &c. . . . A man who has the care of 193 horses . . . says it works like a charm.

By the 1860's, the patent medicine men had become less reticent about the qualities of their products. Thus:

Farmers and Stock Breeders all hail the triumph that Fickhardt's Cattle Powder hath

achieved!! Thousands are testifying to its efficacy! The merciful Man is kind to his Beast. . . . Knowing this Powder to possess all the curative properties here set forth, we deem a fulsome tirade of words unnecessary. . . . It strengthens the digestion, purifies the blood, regulates the urinary organs, removes all obstructions from the milk tubes, &c., &c.

Included were testimonials from J. P. Turner, Veterinary Surgeon for the United States Government, and the Assistant Veterinary Surgeon, Hiram Wright, as well as the superintendent of the Mule Corral, the superintendent of the Quartermaster's Office, and other lesser lights.

And while these testimonials would suggest that this cattle powder was equally good for the equine species, army horses apparently were not convinced. The same issue carrying this advertisement states: "The animals die at the rate of about fifty per day, at the lowest calculation." This, of course, did not include losses in combat, but related to the remount depot near Washington. In the winter of the same year Merrillat and Campbell state:

Thirty thousand cavalry horses perished in the Federal armies in Tennessee during the

winter of 1863–1864. The horses killed or wounded in action were few. They died of neglect.

Referring to these 50 or more horses a day which died:

A contract for the purchase of the dead horses in the Army of the Potomac for the ensuing year, was let a few days ago, to the highest bidder, at \$1.75 per head, delivered at the factory of the contractor. Last year \$60,000 were cleared on the contract, and this year it is thought \$100,000 can be made on it.

The contractor could realize from \$20 to \$40 a head, the hoofs alone being worth \$2.00, or more than the delivered carcass. The set of shoes and the tail were worth 50 cents each, and the shinbones “are valuable, being convertible into a variety of articles that many believe to be composed of pure ivory.” And in a commentary on the condition of army horses:

Then [there is] the tallow, if it be possible to extract tallow from the army horses, which I think extremely doubtful, unless they die immediately after entering the service.

An all too infrequent type of editorial notice appeared in the *Cultivator* in 1853 under the heading of *Veterinary Surgeon*:

A young gentleman who has thoroughly studied his profession as a veterinary surgeon

having graduated at Edinburgh in 1851, and since been in active practice, wishes to find a favorable location for the practice of his profession in this country.

### Zenith to Nadir

Some idea of the nature of veterinary practice in the 1840's, and the types of men who engaged in it, may be gleaned from the agricultural press. Near, if not at, the zenith is a communication of Charles Wood, V.S., to the *New England Farmer* in 1841 on “The Operation of Bronchotomy Successfully Performed on the Horse.” Wood opened the trachea of a horse with strangles, in immediate danger of suffocation, and inserted a small tube with instantaneous relief. Later five quarts of “unhealthy matter” was let out of the abscesses. The tube was left in for twelve days; after removal and cleansing the wound, he “left nature to complete the cure.” In a note appended, the owners of the horse “cordially recommend him [Wood] to the public as an attentive and skilful practitioner of veterinary science.”

More or less at the opposite end of the scale is a contributor to the same issue, who states he has “for several years practiced more or less as a farrier,” and offers a cure for spavin in horses:

for the efficacy of which, not only myself but many of my townsmen can vouch. . . . Take

“Business card” of Charles M. Wood, V.S., a prominent practitioner of Boston and an early president of the United States Veterinary Medical Association. *New England Farmer*, 1841

**TO THE PUBLIC.**

**DR. CHARLES M. WOOD, Veterinary Surgeon,** respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has removed from Blossom St., to 69 Carver St. All orders left at his house, or at the stable of Wm. Forbes, No. 7 Sudbury St., will be promptly attended to, and gratefully acknowledged. All diseases of Horses, Cattle or Swine, are attended to. Also, castrating and spaying.

For the information of those who may have occasion for his services, and are unacquainted with his practice, he is politely permitted to refer to the following gentlemen who have employed him for a number of years past.

Wm. Forbes,	Williams & Pearson,
Wm. J. Niles,	Geo. Meacham,
Joshua Seward,	S. K. Bayley,
J. B. Read,	L. Maynard,
James F. Fullham,	Isaac Foster,
Wm. P. Loring,	Artemas White,
Joseph C. Pray,	Brown & Sevrance.

Boston, April 28.



## SANMETTO

A POSITIVE REMEDY

### IN DISEASES OF THE GENITO-URINARY ORGANS OF THE HORSE AND DOG.

Doctor, when you have a Horse or Dog suffering from

#### KIDNEY, BLADDER OR URETHRAL TROUBLE

—Nephritis, Cystitis, Urethritis—

—OR FROM—

ANY IRRITATION or INFLAMMATION of the URINARY TRACT

—Frequent, Scant or Bloody Urine—

#### ORDER SANMETTO

Sanmetto is largely used in Veterinary Practice for the above troubles and has been found Efficient and Reliable. It is also strongly endorsed and much used in AZOTURIA—many have reported cured with it. Sanmetto acts as a vitalizing tonic to the Genito-Urinary Organs. It is eliminated from the system almost entirely through the Kidneys and therefore exerts its soothing, healing and tonic power upon the entire Urinary Tract.

To avoid substitution, order in original package, thus:

R SANMETTO—one bottle—original package.

Dose:—For Horse, one half to one ounce three times a day.

For Dog, one teaspoonful three times a day.

Price One Bottle, \$1.00. Case of One Dozen Bottles, \$8.00. Sold by all Reliable Druggists.

Pamphlet on application.

OD CHEM. CO., New York.

A pre-Madison Avenue concept of the “ultimate” in advertising virtue, ca. 1890. *American Veterinary Review*

about a pailful of urine into which throw a quantity of old rusty iron; put the vessel near a fire, and let it stand 3 or 4 days. . . . Apply this mixture twice a day—and in all cases it will soon effect a radical cure, or at least prove highly beneficial.

As a sidelight on the use of urea, a correspondent to *Veterinary Medicine* in 1937 observes:

The value of urea as a healing agent has been empiric knowledge among farmers, teamsters and others for many years. Not in its pure crystalline form it is true, but in its crude form, i.e., urine. I recall very vividly, way back

about 1890 having a severe case of chapped hands. . . . I was insistently advised by the old farmer with whom I lived to urinate on my hands several times daily. Believe it or not, my hands healed quickly after several applications.

On another occasion I observed the use of urine as a wound application to a large indolent ulcer on the leg of a draft horse. The owner urinated on this ulcer several times daily, and no other treatment was used. . . . That old ulcer healed promptly.

#### Noble and Lucrative

In commenting on “the importance of the veterinary art,” the editor of the *New England Farmer* states:

We constantly lament that the term *cattle doctor* should be considered degrading, though we cannot feel surprise at it, when we know the miserable and contemptible quackery which is continually practised by the stupid and ignorant jackasses who undertake to practice in this line. We want a veterinary school, in which the science of comparative anatomy and the diseases of the brute creation shall be as thoroughly studied as those relating to the human frame and system. It would open a noble field for science. It might be made a highly lucrative profession on a level with other liberal professions, and the actual gain to humanity would be immense.

On the veterinary art of another sort, the editor of the *Cultivator* in 1844, in commenting on the recommendation of "the Thompsonian medicines for the diseases of animals," by a correspondent, states:

Those disposed to try them, can obtain them from any Botannic physician. We are not disposed to entertain a discussion as to the comparative merits of the "life-destroying lancet," and the "glorious system" of Dr. Thompson.

In 1859 an editorial feature in the *Country Gentleman* (borrowed from the *Cultivator*, 1853) states:

We have seen a great deal of doctoring for sick animals — some successful, and a great deal of it unsuccessful. . . . Our own observations lead to the opinion that in at least nine cases out of ten, as commonly administered, medicine does more harm than good.

An eminent New-York physician said that taking medicine was always a choice of evils — that being poisons in nearly all instances they necessarily did harm to the system. . . . It may be laid down as a general rule, that it is much safer to give too little than too much medicine; and that none should be given unless we know distinctly how it is to operate and what it is for. . . . The majority of sick horses get well; every owner tries some remedy; and that particular medicine that he happened to be using at the time, gets all the credit — although as a general thing it retarded more or less his recovery.

This elicited a letter from a reader who had:

been weekly expecting to find in your columns a notice by some of the veterinarians of this country, of the article which you pub-

lished . . . so utterly subversive to the first principles of all generally adopted practice in treating the diseases of animals, and destructive of all confidence in horse doctors and cattle doctors, if not also in veterinary practitioners. . . . I hope they will yet be noticed and discussed by some of our ardent veterinary practitioners, or any others who may be ardent advocates of the administration of drugs to sick animals. . . . It is certainly of great importance that all owners of stock should have some knowledge of what is truth and what is error.

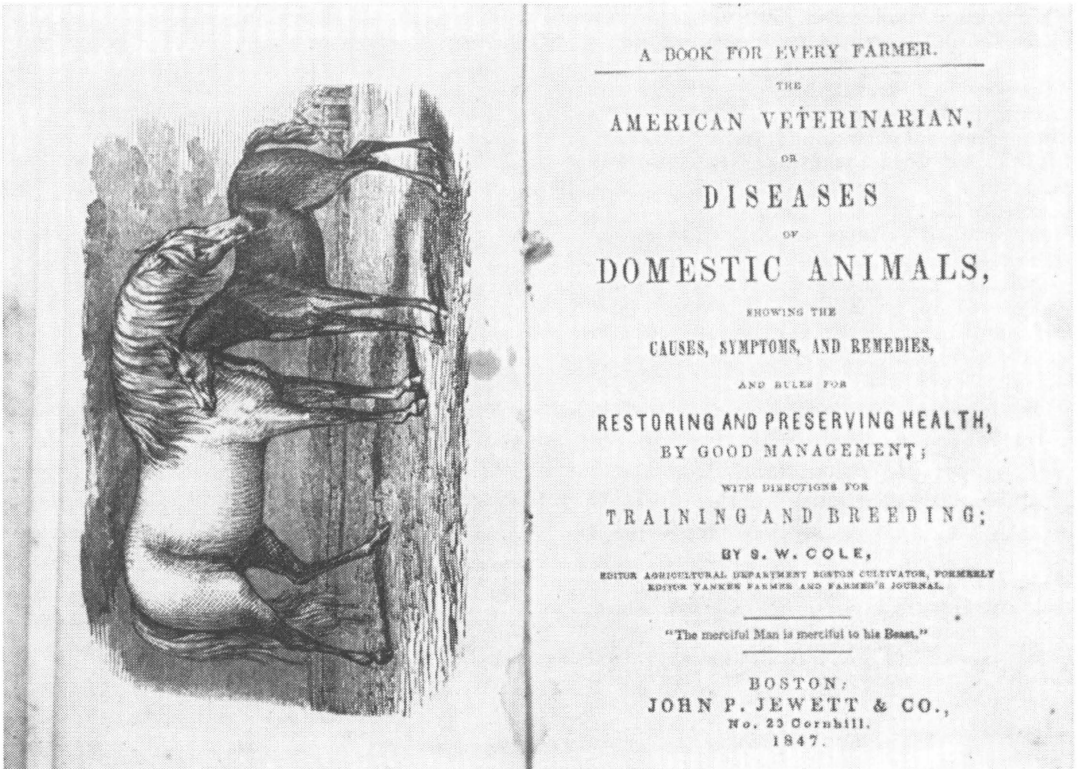
### AMATEURS VS. PROFESSIONALS

The history of animal disease and attempts to alleviate it in the late 1840's does not differ materially from that of a decade or two earlier. The increasingly abundant agricultural press made more information more readily available, but there is little indication that much of this was of any better quality than that published earlier. Additional books on the diseases of animals were printed, some of which achieved a wide circulation. In 1847, Cole's *American Veterinarian, or Diseases of Domestic Animals* was advertised:

to be sold at the low price of 50 cts., in order to bring it within the means of every man. No pains or expense have been spared . . . to produce a work worthy a place in every Farmer's library.

And while perhaps the publisher's claims should be accepted with some reservations, it was stated that 8,000 were sold in six weeks, and double this number in one year. Testimonials at this time claimed it to be "just what farmers want"; "worth its weight in gold"; and "Many times its price to almost any farmer, may be saved by its purchase." Thirty thousand were said to have been sold in four years.

By this time, Cole had a competitor in the form of Allen's *Illustrated Treatise on Domestic Animals*, which included "their diseases and remedies." It sold for 75 cents, and one review states "it is worth three times that amount." Another of the nearly 30 testimonials states: "Its greatest worth is,



Cole's *American Veterinarian* (1847), although superior to Dadd's *Horse Doctor* and *Cattle Doctor* only in title, was a strong competitor and probably outsold either of the latter works.

as a complete Farrier, showing the disease of animals, their treatment and care." It was claimed that 5,000 copies were sold in four months. Both books, however, were by agricultural editors, the information on disease being abstracted largely from the pages of their journals. A review of the contents of either would provide little new information; thus Allen suggests that hollow-horn is in reality hollow-belly, but he adds a dozen of the common remedies including horn-boring, for those who would prefer to believe otherwise.

While the number of veterinarians who had communications in the agricultural journals at this time was relatively small, the quality of their contributions was generally superior to even the better writing of agriculturalists on animal disease. The appending of "V.S." after a name, of course, does not prove much in itself, but

the fact that many of those who did were also well educated is apparent, and coupled with intelligent professional observations, we may assume that the individual was a degree or two above the common herd—whether the V.S. "degree" was awarded or assumed.

### The Coming of Age

In 1854, M. A. Cuming, V.S., of St. John, New Brunswick, in writing on "Bone-Sickness in Cattle," chose to differ with Professor J. A. Nash of Amherst on the nature of the disease. Nash had earlier stated, in response to an inquirer whose cattle "have a hankering for bones, boards, chips and old leather," that this was "bone-sickness" due to a deficiency of soil calcium and phosphorus:

manifested by an unnatural, and, in some cases, an almost rabid craving for bones, so that cows

afflicted with it, as Mr. T. says, will run for a bone, as if a dog were after them.

Cuming agrees with:

the practical conclusions of Professor Nash . . . while at the same time I dissent from the reasoning by which he arrives at them. . . . Science requires our reasoning to be legitimate, as well as our conclusions applicable.

He says the disease was common in Scotland some 20 or 30 years earlier, but that it had disappeared with improved management practices. He considers the disease to be more in the nature of a rheumatic affliction, and concerning Nash's statement that the bones are deficient in salts, he asks:

Where is the proof that in this disease the bones are actually affected? Or if they be, that it is by a deficiency of their earthy constituents? . . . in Scotland . . . the deficiency seemed rather to be in the organic part.

In retrospect, it would seem that Nash's explanation was perhaps the better of the two, but Cuming's logic is not to be denied.

In 1858, Cuming comments on the apparently antagonistic views of two correspondents to the *Cultivator* on the cause of hoof ail, one attributing it to exposure to severe cold, the other to ergot poisoning. In stating his opinion that either, acting alone or together, might be causes, he says:

We are all too apt in pathological investigations, especially those not conversant with the phenomena of animal physiology, to look for a cause, and to rest satisfied when we think we have discovered that, instead of keeping constantly before us *all the causes* by which the condition we are investigating can be produced. And hence we often, while removing one source of evil, leave others of nearly equal magnitude in operation, and the benefits we anticipated, being for this reason not forthcoming, we at once discredit instead of praise, because we have discovered only a part instead of the whole. The soundest hygienic wisdom is, when disease is apprehended, to remove all the causes that tend to the production of the disease we would obviate.

An article on "Shoeing Horses," taken from the *New York Spirit of the Times* by

the *Michigan Farmer* for 1856, is attributed to M. A. Cummings, V.S., but this undoubtedly should be Cuming. In speaking of the natural mechanism of the foot, he states:

Wherever Veterinary Schools exist, and scientific attention is given to shoeing, this natural form of the foot is more or less followed in the shape of the shoe. . . . Why it is not so here is perhaps partially due to the use of the buttris for cleaning out the foot when it is shod, as it is impossible with this antiquated instrument to bring the hoof to the proper shape in all its parts; but it is more so to the want of study on the part of those who shoe, of the structure of the foot, its uses, and the relation existing between it and the other motive organs, the bones, tendons, and ligaments of the limbs.

Cuming was also an occasional contributor to the *Country Gentleman*, and on the appearance of his second article in 1856, the editors remarked: "we should be greatly pleased if he would become a more frequent contributor to the veterinary department of our paper." The "veterinary department," however, was entitled "The Grazier." This communication was in response to an inquiry by a farmer who had lost a cow with obvious symptoms of gastric distress. Cuming, who mentions having made "many hundred postmortem examinations," recognizes impaction as contributing to the death of the animal, but believes it probably was caused by poisoning. On the matter of the treatment described, Cuming says:

At the time the pepper, ginger, soot, milk and molasses hotch potch was given twenty minutes before death, it was a matter of indifference no doubt what was prescribed — unless the death was produced, as it sometimes is suddenly in such cases, by a portion of the medicine getting into the lungs. . . . When the vital powers are so nearly exhausted before anything can be done, the better policy is to let doctoring alone. . . . I trust the time is close at hand when intelligent men will know better than to give any animal, over which Providence has given them power, such a nauseous seasoning to whatever else they may exhibit as "three tablespoonfuls of soot."



### Barbarism and Ignorance

In a previous communication, in reply to an inquiry on hoof ail in cattle, Cuming recoils from the harsh treatment recommended "which those who have had experience have found effectual." These included removing "a round substance of flesh of the size of a common hazel nut," found between the dewclaws and the hoof, and filling it with verdigris, alum, and salt; or, making the same incision:

You will discover a bladder that will puff up; take a hook made of a strong wire and pull it out; then fill it up with boiling hot tar; or apply a mixture of turpentine, nitric acid and oils: observe great caution in mixing the above articles or they will produce an explosion.

Cuming suggests a powder of alum and zinc carbonate, which he says, "I have tried in hundreds of cases and found it to answer every end needed in the treatment of this disease." Concerning the remedies recommended earlier, he says:

I need hardly say that I disagree. . . . Such cruel treatment by whoever first proposed, could only originate in gross barbarity, and as barbarism and ignorance are ever hand in hand, it will not surprise you to learn, that there is no fleshy substance in the position indicated, nor bladder or bag of any kind, except the *bursa mucosa*, or sheath, in which the flexor tendons of the toes play, the cutting of which would be fatal to the further usefulness of the foot, not to speak of the destruction that would arise from the contact of "boiling tar" or other such fiery agents. . . . Such communications reveal the fruitful regions of veterinary research that lie yet uncultivated on the vast American continent, they at the same time can hardly miss to draw a sigh from the lover of the science, over the little that is yet being done to explore them.

In 1856 Cuming writes concerning "Inquiries about Bots":

It is not about the bots, however, I would now speak, but about the cause of the death of the mare . . . which I have no doubt arose from the effects of the *cure*. . . . A quart of *fish brine* was certainly a most outrageous dose to give to any horse or mare, and so long as such barbarous methods are had recourse to,

such losses will be certain from time to time to occur . . . it is more than likely that a portion of [the brine] got into the air passages. . . . The only answer veterinary science can furnish, is that the animal died, not of Bots, but of fish brine . . . a case of *mare slaughter*. . . . A homily might be written in in behalf of the introduction and cultivation of veterinary science . . . in these districts.

In another instance, Cuming concludes that a correspondent's cow has "some structural or organic disease of the rumen," and recommends fattening for slaughter:

In cases such as I understand this to be, the best and honestest advice the veterinary surgeon can give, is to avoid doctoring as much as possible.

In 1858 he comments upon the humanitarian instincts of a correspondent writing on hoof ail, and hopes:

they will promote the cause of humanity they are so well adapted to serve, by leading farmers to devote more attention than is usually given to the comfort and warmth of their stock during the severe cold of the North American winter. . . . It has always seemed to me that one of the greatest and most ruinous errors of American farming is the little attention given to providing for the feeding and warmth of the cattle. . . . No farmer has the right to allow himself the enjoyments of a warm fireside and comfortable bed, till he has first measurably provided for the wants in these respects of his domestic animals.

### Cuming's Going

In August, 1859, Cuming's death is noted in the *Country Gentleman*:

We notice the recent death of this able and experienced Veterinary Surgeon at St. Johns, N.B. He has contributed many valuable papers to various agricultural publications, and his loss will be severely felt in his own vicinity, and to the agricultural community. The Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture . . . says: "I consider his death a public loss, having rarely ever met a man of such extensive and thorough acquirement in his profession, and all matters kindred to it. He was an accurate chemist, and was thoroughly at home in all matters pertaining to the theory and practice of Agriculture, and at the same time the plainest and most unassuming of men."



As something of a valedictory, Cuming had ended his last communication to the *Country Gentleman* with:

Now is the time when winter is setting in, for farmers to show that they belong to that merciful class that regardeth the life of their beasts, and if they do, so they may rest with full assurance on the immutable laws of nature, that as they sow they will reap, and that even in this life they will have their reward.

Cuming, we should like to think, has long since been enjoying the green pastures of those Elysian fields he might have wished to confer upon all creation.

In a lengthy notice of the death of M. A. Cuming, V.S., the *American Stock Journal* states that he came from a poor family and:

at the age of thirty-three, his wealth consisting of a wife and five children, he entered the Royal Veterinary College of Edinburgh as a student. . . . At his last examination before graduating, he received three out of four medals awarded that year to the class. Having graduated with distinguished honors, Dr. Cuming established himself in a successful practice. . . . In 1852, the St. John Co. Agricultural Society extended Dr. Cuming an invitation to move to New Brunswick in the hope of securing a large field of usefulness where veterinary science was comparatively unknown, and where he could obtain a competent support.

In many respects this was a failure. Pupils did not come to him for instruction, as he had been led to expect would be the case. He bore high testimonials, but the people did not appreciate his scientific skill.

### Cuming's Colleagues

Another veterinarian, lately of St. John, New Brunswick, R. Rutherford, V.S., writes a lengthy piece on contagious pleuropneumonia and another on choke in cattle in the *Cultivator* for 1862. Although he uses the plain "V.S.," he apparently was an Edinburgh graduate, or at least he mentions having been a student there.

Rutherford also recommended ligature of the spermatic artery in castrating colts: "From my own observation, I cannot but consider that it offers less risk with greater

advantages than any other mode." In 1862 he reported a cesarean operation in a Shetland pony mare with dystocia and suffering from a large ventral hernia of recent origin. Although he considered her a hopeless case, the operation was performed in full; she lived only thirty hours. He says:

It is but very seldom indeed that this operation is resorted to. Many veterinarians think that, on the score of humanity alone, it is unjustifiable, while at the same time they admit that there are exceptional cases in which it may be resorted to as a last resource. Now while partly endorsing this opinion, I would differ with the latter clause. If the operation is determined on, let it be proceeded with before the mare has been exhausted by her own and our efforts to complete delivery.

In May of 1862 Rutherford apparently had returned to Scotland. Earlier, Robert McClure, V.S., of Philadelphia had written on hoven (bloat) and hoose (lungworm) of cattle. Incidental mention is made of a Dr. H. Moore, "a thoroughly qualified and experienced English veterinarian, of Poughkeepsie [New York], who has been for some years practicing in this country." An article by another practitioner, Wm. Somerville, V.S., originally written for the *American Veterinary Journal*, appears in the *American Agriculturalist* for 1856. In writing on "Sweeney in Horses—Is it a Disease?" Somerville states, "Of the many diseases to which horses are subject in the western country, there is none more common, nor any which receives such varied treatment." Western horses evidently were used to break new ground, and Somerville mentions sudden pulling on heavy loads as a cause, but thinks that too often additional seats of lameness of the limb are overlooked: "Sweeney first came into existence and is practiced on at present by men who think there is no other disease in these parts."

### Tap Roots of Poll Evil

In quite another category from the communications by veterinarians were those

from the type of man who would: "warrant a perfect cure of Fistula or Poll Evil for \$8, having done it repeatedly and never failed of a perfect cure." The method was to take a large goose quill fitted with a "piston-rod" of wood as a plunger to make a crude syringe, fill it with arsenic, and deposit it deep in the fistula, after which:

Leave the horse to his fate for from 10 days to 3 weeks . . . probably in 4 days, he will begin to swell about the tumor, which will increase and frighten you; but never fear, it is the best symptom.

The wound may be kept clean with a mixture of urine and copperas, "but do not attempt to extract the tumor by the least force as you will break off the tap-root by which the cure will not be perfect." After the dead mass sloughs out, "one and perhaps two of the fin bones may protrude. If they appear black and dead, cut them off carefully."

On the matter of the value correspondents placed upon their cures, one who suggests blue vitriol for foot rot in response to an inquiry, adds, "If the above makes a cure, will J. R. please send me a three-cent postage stamp — if no cure, no pay." And a simpler regimen for poll evil was given in 1862 by a correspondent who says:

Five dollars was paid a V.S. for this recipe. I have known several cases perfectly cured by it, and never knew it to fail . . . Dissolve as much common salt in urine as it will dissolve when hot, and apply quite warm two or three times a day until a cure is effected.

A correspondent in 1861, who asks if there is a sound work on "botanic medicine" for horses, says:

I am not a "thorough-bred" V.S., but I have paid a sufficient attention to the subject . . . and I hope to learn more yet . . . I have been utterly disgusted at the treatment I have seen animals receive, being drenched with all sorts of nauseous things, simply because some one or other said it was good . . . "The Pocket Farrier," and such other small works *published to sell*, are sadly mischievous; the recipes they contain generally overrate the doses that are suitable for animals, and fre-

quently combine a lot of trash that is far more suitable for the manure heap than for an animal's stomach.

The obvious answer was to recommend Dadd's works, and the editor adds:

It is a safe general rule, that unless the owner of a sick animal knows what is the matter, and also just what to do, to give nothing; but attend to every thing that appears to alleviate suffering, or in other words attend to good nursing. More animals have been doctored out of existence by the old fashioned dosing and purging, cut and slashing, kill or cure system, than from a want of medicine.

That the good editor did not always practice what he preached is evident from his suggestion concerning "wolf teeth" of horses. About this time the subject of wolf teeth was fashionable among correspondents; their wisdom being distilled by the editor, he was able to state with assurance in 1859: "They should be extracted, as there is no doubt that they frequently cause blindness." And despite the urging of men like Cuming and other enlightened souls, all too many contributions like the following continued to creep into the pages of the agricultural journals:

Having myself arrived at the age commonly allotted to man, and having seen some of the good effects of experiments, and feeling it a duty to do as much good as possible when I have an opportunity, I send you a number of recipes. Cure of Hollow-Horn in Cattle: Take a tea-kettleful of boiling water . . . To Prevent Hollow-Horn: Cut off the end of the tail . . . For Cattle that have Eat too much Corn: Take one quart of good yeast, mix a half-pint of human excrements, and pour it from a bottle down the creature's throat, and I think you will soon hear from it. [!]

### Generation of Vipers

Despite the generally good intentions of agricultural editors, the printing of such trash undoubtedly helped perpetuate the conditions they railed against. Moreover, while protests directed to the editor himself were usually graciously received, some editors were less charitable about criticism from the outside. Thus in relating some

"Further Experiences with Wolf Teeth," in 1857, a correspondent to the *Country Gentleman*, who had a horse with a film on its eye, states: "A person informed me of the cause, which he attributed to wolf teeth." Upon finding one on the side opposite to the affected eye:

this was removed by placing the end of a piece of iron against the wolf tooth and striking the other end with a hammer, which, of course, cured the eye . . . [for a few months, whereupon:] I resolved to take her to a man who was skilled in cases of all kinds pertaining to horse-flesh. He pronounced the difficulty to be a "hook" in the eye. . . . After the hook was removed the eye soon recovered, but another hook grew. . . . The operation has been performed three times . . . yet I am of the opinion that one thorough operation would have been sufficient . . . there has been no indication of a renewal.

Later, the editor notes that C. M. Wood made scathing mention of this particular piece of surgery in the *American Veterinary Journal*; claiming Wood had distorted the facts, he retorts:

Mr. Cooke gave a plain statement of his treatment of a case of partial blindness in one of his horses. We may venture to presume that there was no scientific veterinarian within his reach . . . and he acted as any man of sense would. . . . Though that treatment was not, perhaps, the most scientific . . . yet we are by no means certain that he did not accomplish his object as successfully as it would have been done by one of the "profession." It will be a long time before veterinary surgeons will be within the call of many of our farmers. In the meantime we think the agricultural papers are doing much good by the publication of such statements as Prof. Wood attempts so severely to ridicule. The treatment generally recommended is harmless, and frequently requires no more skill than is every day exhibited by the sensible housewife in the management of the ailing members of her family.

While the editor invites Wood to correct such errors instead of ridiculing them, this particular specimen of logic would appear to be the granddaddy of the differences of opinion which were to crop up between the agricultural papers and the veterinary press — yet unborn, except for

Dadd's abortive efforts. Unfortunately, the matter does not end here, and while it might seem unkind to rake up old controversies, there would seem to be some merit in understanding the basis for what in some cases became an almost hereditary antipathy. Wood replies to this editorial in a manner not calculated to make friends, even if he were completely correct — which he was not:

Sir, I disdain to destroy the meaning of any writer, if I am able to understand it. . . . I treated that writer fairly and more leniently than he deserved. . . . We trust he has learned a lesson which may be of great service to him . . . not to consider whatever is first noticed by *him* as something before unknown and unseen. . . . We intended no offence . . . but when an error was so absurd and ridiculous, we could not help laughing at it.

Wood, however, errs in stating, "The editor says — 'the treatment recommended by Mr. Cooke is harmless,'" to which the editor replies, "We said no such thing." He might have added, however, "except by inference."

Mr. Cooke gets into the act, saying:

Prof. Wood thinks he has learned me a useful lesson. . . . I have learned a lesson . . . viz: that professional men are very prone to scoff at every effort of others to act for themselves. . . . It is evident that wisdom will not die with Prof. Wood; but the farmer will continue, aided by generous scientific men, to think, act and improve.

It would appear that it might have been better had Wood been less caustic, but if he had not been the one to initiate the larger controversy, it is inevitable that someone else would have.

On a related matter, a physician had earlier written concerning an article on dysentery in animals:

In reading several agricultural papers, I frequently find articles from correspondents, as well as editorials, of the same general tenor, to wit: *recipes* for the cure of diseases, *by name*, in animals. Just so long as Agricultural papers give countenance and currency to the treatment of diseases in animals or man, by name



HORSE DYING OF FLATULENT COLIC.

Colic was perhaps the most common complaint of horses when most of them were over- or underfed — and their demise was not infrequently hastened by harsh treatment, especially at the hands of farmers and common farriers. Manning: *Stock Doctor*

and recipes, just so long will their readers be kept in ignorance of any knowledge based upon scientific or philosophic truth. . . . Disease in animals as well as in man, if treated successfully, must be treated according to its true pathology or symptoms and their causes. . . . Only in this way, may we hope to arrive at any satisfactory results, in diffusing through our agricultural press knowledge in reference to the treatment of diseases in the lower animals, which can have any claims to safety or utility.

By a curious coincidence, perhaps, the two communications placed on either side of Wood's letter of rebuttal offer too stark a contrast to pass unnoticed. One is entitled "Cure for Colic in Horses," the history of the case being that the horse in jeopardy:

manifested all the symptoms of a severe colic. I gave him a dose of ginger, whiskey, oil, laudanum, spirits turpentine, altogether a pint, but it had not the desired effect. . . . I determined if there was virtue in drugs, to give him a kill or cure dose. Accordingly, I doubled the quantities . . . [and] poured them down his throat. . . . To my surprise, in the morning I found him alive . . . but very weak.

The other entitled "Horn-ail and Horn-boring," states:

The one of these is a disease wholly imaginary, and the other is a relic handed down to us from dark and barbarous ages, and it is no small pleasure, (being a sign of better days to come for poor suffering animals) to see that

they are both undergoing very severe treatment under the hands of V. S. George H. Dadd. . . . Fortunate will it be both for cattle and their owners, when this deep rooted error about horn-ail shall be cast out, and its place supplied by more correct ideas of disease.

The equivocal position of the agricultural editor could, perhaps, have been minimized if some of the retrograde contributions, which were contrary to the stated objectives of the journals, had simply been printed, even without protest. But some of these atrocities were reprinted as editorial contributions. Thus in 1859: "From the letters of our correspondents we condense several valuable recipes, and present them in a single article." Included in this "condensed cow cure" is the boiling water for hollow horn originally printed in 1856. And while this had evoked no protests earlier, a second printing apparently was too much for one subscriber who wishes "to enter his protest against the ignorance and barbarity exhibited in the 'Cure for Horn Ail, or Hollow Horn,' " and deplores:

the authority of the usually correct *Country Gentleman*, for such a barbarous treatment. . . . I know that in the hurry of making up a paper, many things will be published that should have been thrown into the waste basket, but I was surprised to see the "Gentleman" lending its

voice and influence to extend and perpetuate such thorough-bred quackery and cruelty.

There is no intent here to single out any one paper for censure; the editors of other agricultural journals were equally guilty, but in this particular case the editor had expressed resentment over another journal saying about the same thing concerning the removal of wolf teeth. As noted elsewhere, however, the *Country Gentleman* was less an offender in the matter of publishing these barbarisms on animal disease than were a number of other journals.

Among items of some interest in the late 1840's is the mention of use of a tarred rope to relieve choke in cattle. A Maine farmer "has used it for thirty years, both for himself and neighbors, and has in no instance failed in relieving the animal without occasioning the least injury." Other cattle problems included a disease of milk cows in Massachusetts in which they: "had a propensity to eat bones — they became weak and their bones would sometimes break in trying to rise." The disease was attributed to a mineral deficiency, and was cured by feeding bone meal. A more mysterious malady, designated as a "new disease" by a physician, is stated to have occurred in 1838 and again in 1846. Upon post-mortem examination, it was found:

Nearly all the blood in the body, by some unknown process, had been suddenly transferred from its natural receptacles into the intestinal tube. . . . Many deaths of the same kind occurred in the town of Rye [New York].

The farmers suspected deliberate poisoning, but the physician thought this: "a suspicion far more harassing and vexatious to generous and worthy minds than the loss of property itself." And to "dissipate this delusion, so fraught with mischief to society," the physician assured them, "no human agency could have had any share in the matter."

### Christian Cattle

A native son of Kentucky assures us in 1849:

Our climate is favorable for breeding and rearing cattle. They are free from any marked disease. I have never known an epidemic among them. . . . Cattle of Ohio and Indiana are not so healthy. . . . I was told by a Cincinnati butcher, who supplies with beef a portion of the Jews of that city, that he was compelled to procure his cattle for those people from Kentucky. The Priest sticks the animal, which is dressed in his presence by the butcher. Upon opening the animal, if any imperfection of the intestines is visible, such as blisters on the liver, &c., the Priest remarks, "this one may do for the Christians, but will not do for the Jews — you must bring up another." The cattle of Kentucky have no blemish: the intestines are in a perfectly healthy condition; so we, only, can supply the Cincinnati Jews with beef.

The writer, Lewis Sanders, had introduced improved cattle in Kentucky in 1817, and he gives a fascinating history of the Kentucky cattle industry dating from Revolutionary times.

Sheep, as well as cattle, suffered from the more common diseases as much as ever. In 1845, a Kentucky "grazier" in contesting with another writer, claims in regard to "Foot-rot (so called) in Sheep":

there is no such disease of itself. . . . It is invariably the result of the neglect of another disease, simple and easy to cure. . . . It is not contagious, neither can it be communicated by inoculation.

This in turn stimulated a number of writers to contradict this observation. One correspondent states that foot rot was introduced into Vermont about 1826 with some imported sheep, which were added to a native flock, whereupon:

The foot-rot spread with great rapidity through the whole flock. This was the first time I ever saw the disease, or heard of its being in this country. Nor did this infectious disorder stop with this flock; several others became infected with it by being driven along the road where the lame ones had previously been driven, much to the annoyance of their owners, who at that time knew nothing of the disease or its remedy; consequently great losses were sustained before they could get rid of the detestable plague.

A solution of iron sulfate, copper sulfate, and alum in strong tobacco water applied

after carefully cleaning the feet was found to be a dependable remedy.

It seems unlikely that the infectious nature of foot rot would escape notice, and our Kentucky grazier may have been troubled only with injuries, or stoppage of the secretory duct between the claws. On sheep scab, he states:

That it is infectious there is no question, and consequently every shepherd should be very careful to remove the infected sheep from the rest of the flock the moment he is discovered. In its incipient stage it is easily subdued, but if allowed to take root without applying a cure, it is very difficult to get rid of. There is no excuse for a shepherd who understands his business, allowing it to make any headway, because the symptoms are so evident, that they cannot pass unnoticed, except from palpable and unpardonable neglect, or from ignorance.

Strong tobacco water and brine, vigorously scratched into the fleece, he says, is an effective cure; mercury ointments recommended by many writers in the journals, can be:

certain death to the animals . . . such ointment will cure the disease, yet the remedy is as bad as the disease itself, for it renders such portion of the fleece worthless.

### Encephalomyelitis

In July and August of 1846:

more than 500 horses died on Long Island . . . from an epidemic, which seems to have been of a malignant character. No satisfactory cause has yet [October] been ascertained for the disease, nor any successful mode of treatment discovered.

The *Michigan Farmer* for December, 1846 gives more details of this outbreak, and states that some parts of New England were also affected:

Within 10 miles of the Union Course, Long Island, not less than 300 horses died in three weeks! The disease affects particularly the brain, the horse becomes stupid, rests his head against something or leans to the side of the stable, or against a fence or tree for support; in a few hours he falls, and dies after a day or two, apparently exhausted. A similar epi-

demic prevailed upon the same ground in the fall of 1828, which was equally fatal.

This description suggests that the disease was encephalomyelitis, or "sleeping sickness."

An outbreak of "horse plague" in Kansas and Nebraska in 1912 was identified as forage poisoning, or "so-called" cerebro-spinal meningitis, but has been since identified as encephalomyelitis. In September of that year, A. Bostrom, State Veterinarian of Nebraska reports:

The epizootic disease among horses in Nebraska extends over two-thirds of the state. . . . We know absolutely nothing concerning the nature, cause, treatment or prevention of this disease. The disease is very fatal, not more than 5% recover.

Investigation by the Bureau of Animal Industry showed that mouldy or damaged feeds, as a result of an excessively damp summer, were the exciting causes.

A. T. Kinsley reports seeing 400 cases and autopsying 40. He notes:

The extent of the losses from this disease has been exaggerated. In the territory where the disease was most prevalent it appears that less than 40 percent of the horse population died. . . . The press apparently did injustice by their startling statements. . . . The people in Kansas particularly were almost panic stricken, due largely to the press notices.

Without depreciating the importance of the disease, J. R. Mohler of the Bureau of Animal Industry observes:

Its appearance in America is by no means of recent occurrence, for the affection was reported by Large in 1847 and by Liautard in 1869 as appearing in both sporadic and enzootic form in several of the eastern states. . . . It is prevalent with more or less severity every year in certain parts of the United States . . . in 1882 as well as in 1897 the horses of southwestern Texas were reported to have died by the thousand, and in the following year the horses of Iowa were said to have "died like rats." However, Kansas seems to have had more than her share of this trouble, as a severe outbreak that extended over almost the entire

state occurred in 1891, while in 1902 and again in 1906 the disease recurred with equal severity in various portions of the state.

As has so often been the case, hordes of quacks descended upon the hapless horse owners, promising to cure they knew not what with whatever they may have had at hand. Mohler observes:

One of the most unpleasant developments at the outbreak this year was the great amount of "faking" which seemed to be the only contagious feature connected with the disease. All kinds of drug specifics, serums and vaccines developed like mushrooms and were exploited in almost every community devastated by the disease. Many tainted dollars were obtained from the suffering horse owners who grasped at every newly advanced treatment like drowning men clutching at straws. . . . In Nebraska, blackleg vaccine was reported to have been used as a preventive on at least 1,600 horses and nearly 1,500 of them are said to have died as a direct result of the vaccine.

In 1846, in Clinton County, New York:

a disease that many horses were troubled with the past winter in this and the adjoining counties . . . did not prove fatal, but produced abortions in mares in every case.

Horses as well as mares were affected, the symptoms being stiffness of the legs, running of the eyes, inappetence, and loss of flesh. Abortions frequently did not occur until some time after recovery.

### Horse Doctors vs. Horse Diseases

That the equine population suffered as much from horse doctors as from horse disease is suggested by the rash of itinerant neurotomists which appears to have hit Ohio in 1848. In expounding on the value of agricultural papers, the editor of the *Albany Cultivator* says:

A correspondent of the *Ohio Cultivator*, states the case of a farmer who lost \$150 by neglecting to take that paper. He had taken it formerly, but concluded that he could do without it. After he had discontinued it, certain practitioners of Neurotomy on horses were traversing that State, and the paper cautioned the farming public repeatedly against the practice. But this farmer did not see these cau-

tionary remarks, and suffered two fine horses to be operated upon, paying him ten dollars, which resulted in the entire ruin of his two horses.

The obvious moral was: "Farmers must not expect to be guarded against impositions, unless they inform themselves."

The following year an Ohioan states:

The operation of Neurotomy, as described in Skinner's *Youatt*, has in every instance, in this part of the country, proved fatal. Thousands of dollars worth of horses, operated on, have been lost. . . . In June, the hoofs of some of the horses operated on, literally rotted off, while the animal, insensible to pain, continued to stamp the lacerated and denuded stumps on the ground, to drive away the flies, which bit it above the point operated on.

More or less as a defense of *Youatt*, the editor quotes him to the effect that the most strenuous defenders of the operation:

cannot deny that the horse will batter and bruise that foot, when he has lost sensation in it, which should have been tenderly used; that even the hoof will sometimes be lost, after operations performed with the greatest judgment; that the lameness will sometimes return after the animal has gone sound, one, two, or three years . . . [and] that the horse is more liable to accidents.

Many animals during this period received no veterinary attention of any sort. The editor of the *Cultivator* states:

Perhaps there is not a greater loss of cattle in this country, from any one cause, than from the complaint known as *hoove* or *blown*. . . . As to remedies, many of our farmers never use any—the animal is often left to itself—if it recovers, the owner is satisfied; if it dies, he has the hide.

And as might be expected:

The diseases of poultry have seldom received attention in this country, from persons qualified to treat them judiciously. The management of this interesting and useful description of farm stock, both in sickness and health, is usually entrusted to children, or persons who are incapacitated for other business. The consequence is a general ignorance of their peculiar natural habits, as well as their diseases.



### Piercing Inquiry

Ohio appears to have attracted a number of veterinary practitioners by the late 1850's, if the number of contributors to the *Ohio Cultivator* affixing the "V.S." after their names is a criterion. How many of these may have been graduate veterinarians is a moot point; in general, their writings speak for their qualifications. In one of a number of items communicated by him in 1857, W. Pierce, V.S., states:

We have been called to witness a singular disease among the cattle in this county—a disease that never appeared here before. It is called the black leg by some authors. . . . I think it might be called the *black foot*, as the toe of the foot appears to be the first part affected, and the end of the tail is affected in proportion to the progress of the disease. . . . The affection appears to work back along the sole of the foot, and cracks at the heel. . . . The disease has prevailed in certain sections of the States for several years . . . [but] no one as yet has been found who knows anything about it, or any remedy for it. . . . I think it high time to investigate the matter, when a good farmer must lose his stock of cattle, without being able to get any information with regard to the disease or its remedy. It is highly important, and should engage the attention of every Veterinary Surgeon in the United States.

The editor states:

Wherever this disease has occurred, the animals were known to have fed on hay that was spurred, and this has always been assumed as a cause of the malady.

Two months later, Pierce writes:

The cause appears to be settled among us, and all who have thoroughly investigated, now agree with friend [editor] Harris's remarks on our first article. We have examined most of the cases in Portage county, and find without exception the ergot or spur, where we find the disease.

He mentions having made a postmortem examination:

assisted by P. C. Bennett, M.D. . . . We have purchased five head of those diseased cattle, for the purpose of experiment . . . [to] enquire if this ergot affects the animal, and how . . . [and to] discover an antidote and a correct treatment in the several stages of the disease.

Evidently some farmers in the area had a good concept of contagion, if not of the cause of this particular disease, for Pierce relates:

Where this disease exists among cattle, some consider it an epidemic, and highly contagious. They refuse to drive cattle along the road where it is known to exist. Some will wash their boots if they tread on the yard of the sick, before entering their own yard.

Pierce traced the source of "contagion" in two herds eight miles apart. One farmer had bought half the other's hay, and "the ergot or spur was abundant in said hay. . . . All the cattle that eat of that mow of hay are either dead or badly diseased."

Later, Pierce reports on his experimental animals:

three head were hopeless . . . two . . . not so bad. . . . I commenced treating them all with diuretics and alteratives, medicines internally, and applying antiseptics to the lame feet. . . . The cattle all soon exhibited a favorable change . . . after treating them ten days. . . . Nearly all lost one, and some both shells of the hoof off one foot, but not until a new one had nearly grown out.

It has been stated . . . that the ergot is the cause of cows casting untimely calves. — This is not my experience; on the contrary, all the calves of such diseased cows appear healthy although not strong, and have taken the milk up to the time of the death of the mother. . . . Many new ideas have suggested themselves to me while treating the above cases. . . . Some of us, if not all, are certainly behind the times. This matter should have been settled years ago.

In an attempt to catch up on things, Pierce evidently read many medical texts, and in a later communication he presents an elaborate theory of the mechanism of ergot poisoning; despite some flights of fancy, he does, however, quite correctly attribute the gangrene of the extremities to a "stagnant circulation."

### Pox Prevalent

The following year Pierce writes on "Cow-pox and Scrofula in Dairies," and says:

It is seldom in a large dairy that these diseases do not exist to a greater or less degree; and if one or more is affected, the virus by the hand of the milker is conveyed to all the rest. The practice of milking with a hand wet in the milk is much followed, and by this practice, inoculation is almost certain.

By "scrofula" Pierce means "hard tumors under the skin of the legs, neck, belly and bag," but does not elaborate on the matter. He adds:

Dairymen also suffer loss from an unhealthy condition of cows in the winter. If they become debilitated, hidebound, bleary-eyed, cold horns, cough, shake the head, grind the teeth, do not ruminate, and become constipated, they are said to have the hollow horn and tail; their horns are bored, the tail cut off, and some application made, and called cured. . . . The cows poor and scabby, sore teats, ugly and cross, the owner wonders why he can't make more butter and cheese, and says it is all in the season . . . but perhaps the fault is, he does not understand making good milk. . . . The fault was in the milk, and the cause in the cows.

The *American Agriculturalist* for 1856 reprints an article by Pierce on milk fever in cows, from the *American Veterinary Journal*. In this, Pierce says:

This disease appears to increase both in prevalence and fatality. A few years ago its occurrence was so rare, that it was not investigated, neither was it then so fatal. It is now so common on the Western Reserve, or Northern Ohio, that the dairy men begin to fear sad havoc amongst their cows.

Noting that it is most common in high yielding cows, some now giving 25–35 quarts daily, he states:

This enormous flow of milk overtaxes the system at a time when the animal is under the influence of reproductive excitement. . . . I have never known a poor milker . . . die of milk fever.

A cow that recovers "is seldom worth keeping, as she would be liable to have it again next year. All such cows should be fattened immediately, and disposed of."

### Shadow and Substance

Another practitioner who makes numerous contributions to the *Ohio Cultivator*

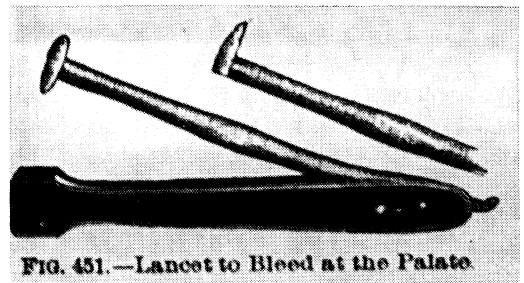
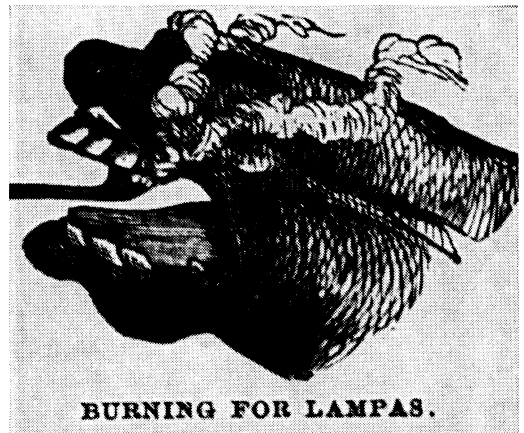
at this time is T. Webb, V.S., of Zanesville. A note on "Lampas in Horses" was occasioned:

by passing a blacksmith shop, and seeing a horse refuse to submit to the barbarous operation of having the lampas, as it is termed, burned out. . . . The practice of burning out lampas has received the seal of the ancients, but, I trust, in this age of progression, such ancient barbarities will be superceded by practical science.

He suggests that astringent mouthwashes will be adequate to reduce the tumified palatal mucosa.

In writing on the "Treatment of Disease in Horses," Webb makes a plea for more enlightened attention to this matter:

Most works on farriery pretend to the idea that any person reading them may undertake



Lampas (tumified palatal mucosa), long an imaginary "disease" of horses, was "cured" by bleeding or cautery, both of which methods had their strong adherents. The condition, still seen in young horses, is a physiologic engorgement of the palate. Manning: *Stock Doctor*

the treatment of any of the serious diseases the horse is subject to. This is a grievous error . . . the lives of our superior horses are frequently sacrificed by such false illusions. . . . To scientifically treat disease, the practitioner must be skilled in anatomy and physiology; without that, we exhibit the shadow, but hold not the substance of pre-eminence.

In speaking of the differential diagnosis of abdominal complaints of the horse, he says:

How frequently have the owners of stock witnessed the above symptoms, while every looker-on, without any medical knowledge, and merely by a cursory view pretends to understand the disease, and prescribes accordingly. Will those would-be oracles prescribe for their families while laboring under the same disease? I think not.

And in a lengthy article on "Lung Fever," he concludes by saying: "Enough has been said to satisfy the owner of valuable stock, that none but scientific practitioners should interfere with it."

Wolf teeth and "hooks" in horses were as much a problem in Ohio as elsewhere, and the *Cultivator* for 1857 carries an article on these by C. M. Wood, V.S., which had appeared in the *American Veterinary Journal*. In this he states:

The Editors of certain newspapers in various parts of the country, are accustomed to publish occasionally, recipes in their papers for the cure of diseases in animals. In almost every case, such publications tend to do more harm than good; for diseases are liable to be mistaken, and a remedy for one disease may prove the reverse for another. But supposing the disease to be accurately ascertained, in too many instances the remedy proposed is worse than the disease.

Wood goes on to deplore the practice of knocking out wolf teeth and cutting out the "hook," which, he says, should be spelled *hoax*. The editor apparently was broad minded, for in an earlier issue he had printed an article on wolf teeth in which the correspondent states:

I have had occasion to examine some 20 or 30 horses that had the Wolf Tooth, or more properly the blind tooth, and have always saved the eyes of the horse, if the tooth was knocked out in time.

The editor, however, on being asked for a cure for hollow horn, recognizes this as "a collateral development of some other disease," and quotes from Dr. Robert Wood's article in the *American Veterinary Journal*, to the effect that the problem is usually one of catarrh. In deprecating the usual practices associated with hollow horn, Wood says:

It is a too common practice of owners of neat cattle, to dose them when sick, regardless of what the disease may be, with heterogenous compounds, the virtues of which they know but little. And it is not unfrequently the case, that the animal becoming worse instead of better, under the treatment, that a veterinary surgeon is called, who upon examining his patient, finds it difficult between the signs of the disease and those produced by the remedies that have been employed, to form a correct diagnosis of the case.

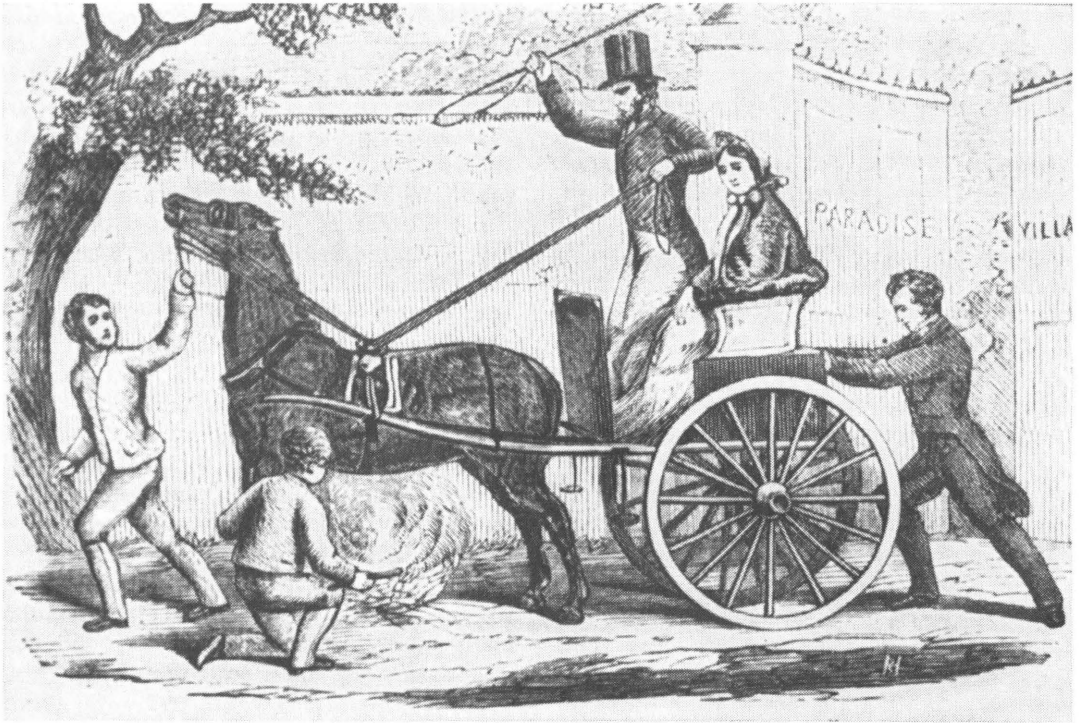
Unsatisfied, however, the editor adds:

Mr. Wood does not tell us how this disease is to be treated, but hints that a regular practitioner should be consulted; which is all well enough where there is a Veterinarian fit to be trusted. But unfortunately, we have in this Western world but few such, and those who make pretensions to skill in such matters, are, with a few honorable exceptions, for the most part, a set of butchering quacks of the most abominable kind.

To save the farmer from these, Dadd's treatment of catarrh is given. Robert Wood was a brother of Charles M. Wood, and like his brother, also served as an early president of the United States Veterinary Medical Association after it was organized in 1863.

## THE NEED FOR VETERINARY EDUCATION

Some interest in the possibility of establishing a veterinary school continued to be demonstrated throughout the 1840's, but the thinking of one writer in 1847 suggests a reason for talk not being translated into action. In describing a visit to the Royal Veterinary School at Alfort, France, this "practical man" mentioned the low rate of tuition, the low charges for services to clients, the "practising [ of ] occasional ex-



A reputedly common problem, "jibbing," cured in this way undoubtedly gave rise to the ageless story of the balky animal who, after having a fire started under it, moved just far enough forward to allow the carriage to burn up. Mayhew: *Horse Doctor*

periments," and "a miniature park for the recreation of the pupils," (who literally led an intramural existence). He says:

These things together make up an institution, which is an honor to the country, and which, for the present, at least, we must content ourselves with admiring, without imitating. For if tried by the test, to which every thing of a public nature must be submitted in our country, it will be found that the veterinary school, like the garden of the Tuilleries, and the fountains of Versailles does not pay. That is to say, receipts in money do not balance the outlay of money. Whether increased inquiry, and stimulus to inquiry, do not more than make up the deficit on the balance sheets, is a way of considering the question, too heretical to be for a moment indulged in.

One scheme, designed to keep the cost of instruction at a minimum, was advocated by the prominent agriculturalist, Henry Colman, in 1845. For a proposed agricultural school in New York, he thought:

One or two instructors should be employed constantly for teaching the main branches of education, and a competent farmer should be employed to manage the agricultural department, and to give the necessary practical instruction. Beyond this, no resident instructors would be required,—but regular and full courses of lectures and experiments in geology . . . comparative anatomy, the veterinary art, [etc.], by competent professors of these sciences, who might be employed for these objects annually, without the necessity and expense of constant residence,—as is now frequently done at our medical schools.

The latter, of course, is currently done at medical and veterinary schools, but not as a substitute for a regular faculty.

In an apparently extravagant vein, the trustees of a proposed "Peoples' College" in western New York proposed in 1859: "the endowment of nineteen Professorships; among which are: Anatomy, Physiology and Veterinary; Natural History; Chemistry."

It would appear that this specious mode of "Practical" thinking was the real barrier to the establishment of publicly supported veterinary schools. Men like this could envision an agricultural institution as a "labor school" which could be conducted with little outlay of hard cash. It is perhaps just as well that these individuals did not envision an apprentice type of veterinary training such as was suggested in the proposal for an agricultural school in New York. But as later experience was to demonstrate, the establishment of corporate veterinary schools, where a primary desideratum was that it perforce be conducted at a profit to the proprietors, was an equally poor substitute for schools sufficiently well supported to provide for experimental inquiry and at least a modicum of the niceties of living. Schools conducted for profit may have fitted their students for communion with the sick animal, but could not hope to fit them equally well for coping with the scientific and cultural adjuncts to professional life.

The efforts of well-intended persons at this time, however, should not be disparaged, for there were those who undoubtedly saw the need for the kind of instruction which experience has dictated as being essential. Particular credit is due the State Agricultural Society of Massachusetts, which appears to have been the first body to have taken overt action on this matter since the short-lived attempts of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture early in the nineteenth century. As reported in the *Cultivator*, the Massachusetts Society in 1846:

has taken active measures for the promotion of knowledge in reference to the anatomy and diseases of animals. They have purchased in Paris, at a cost of \$800, a figure of a horse of full size, so constructed that it may be taken to pieces, and will accurately represent the muscles, blood-vessels, heart, lungs and other organs, of their natural size and appearance. They have also directed the preparation of full-sized skeletons of the horse and ox. They have engaged Dr. Brooks to give a course of lectures on the diseases of the horse which it is expected will be given next winter.

The legislature of Massachusetts also gave some thought to the need for veterinary education at this time, but as a discipline in a school of agriculture rather than as a separate institution. A lengthy report of European schools, and a plan for a school in Massachusetts, drawn up by President Hitchcock of Amherst College, is given in the *Cultivator* for 1851. Certain of his general observations might well have been noted by those who were later to be concerned with establishing the system of veterinary education in this country. Thus the validity of his first conclusion: "That these schools usually fail, if they do not receive efficient aid from the government," was to be amply demonstrated later by the wide-scale failure of private veterinary schools, both academically and financially.

Secondly: "Agricultural professorships, in colleges and universities, are not sufficient"; they would attract too few students, and those they did would not fit in — one group or the other "would feel no pride in the institution." Inasmuch as Hitchcock envisioned veterinary professorships in an agricultural school, it is obvious that it did not occur to him that exactly this same thinking would apply. Those who advocated veterinary teaching as a minor adjunct to medical or agricultural schooling little realized what species of step-child they would have created. Hitchcock's plan included:

lectures and recitations in . . . Anatomy and physiology, human and comparative . . . Veterinary medicine and surgery . . . A museum of human and comparative anatomy, including a manikin . . . [and] a scientific and agricultural library.

A professor of "Anatomy, physiology, and veterinary medicine, and surgery" was to be one of the six instructors necessary.

In urging the establishment of an agricultural college the editor of the *Cultivator*, in 1853, states, concerning Veterinary Surgery and Pathology:

The importance of instruction in this department is too much a matter of every-day experience to demand explanation. Lectures on

animal physiology and anatomy, illustrated by skeletons of the domestic animals, and giving a synopsis of the diseases to which they are subject, with the best modes of treatment, are quite indispensable to such an institution.

Ample gratification, presumably, was afforded by inclusion of the following courses in the first prospectus of the New York State Agricultural College in 1860: "Outline of Comparative Anatomy, Principles of Veterinary Practice, [and in the last term ], Veterinary Practice."

### More Harm Than Good

Until we have competent veterinarians, says the editor of the *Cultivator*:

Having seen a great deal of doctoring for sick animals . . . we have long since come to the conclusion that the most skillful physician we have ever met is Doctor Nurse. If an animal it not carefully taken care of—nursed—all the medicine in the world can do but little good. And, on the other hand, with good nursing, medicine is generally unnecessary. . . . In at least nine cases out of ten, as commonly administered, medicine does more harm than good. . . . The majority of sick horses get well; every owner tries some remedy; and that particular medicine that he happened to be using at the time, gets all the credit—although as a general thing it retarded more or less his recovery.

What he fails to mention, however, is that he—along with the rest of his fraternity—printed all sorts of "infallible cures" from correspondents without comment, and—as he says—many did more harm than good.

In 1855, the Ohio Agricultural College at Cleveland announced its second season, with "instruction given in lectures, as in Medical Colleges," to include: "Comparative Anatomy and Physiology . . . [and ] Veterinary Medicine."

The *Country Gentleman* in 1853 offers a plan for an agricultural college, for which:

The course of study may be divided into four departments, as follows:—Practical Agriculture . . . Natural Science . . . Mathematics . . . Veterinary Surgery and Pathology.

The year following, however, the editor

thought a veterinary school as such was needed:

In some respects we must acknowledge that . . . we are still behind some of our European brethren. For example, almost every European State has its School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. . . . America has been even slower than England in this respect, and, except that a school has been lately opened at Montreal there is not one, (save perhaps a private one superintended by Dr. Dadd of Boston,) in the whole Western world. Some are yet in doubt of their utility. When Americans become thoroughly convinced of their utility and of the fact that they will pay, there will be no want of them any longer. And we think a great amount of advantage might justly be claimed as due to them. . . .

They have so enlightened the community as to have swept ruthlessly and for ever away, as medicaments, the whole heap of "compound powders" that have been so long employed by farriers and which to druggists and other vendors constituted so profitable an article of commerce. . . . They consisted of about one part of the genuine root or seeds, mixed with four or six parts of bean or pea meal or ground linseed cake, colored and scented *secundum artem*. The banishment of such impositions is one of the benefits derived from veterinary study, and schools. . . .

The lancet, also, is less used than formerly, and only when absolutely necessary. It is well established that it is folly to waste, and wisdom to husband the powers of an animal. Periodical bleedings, once so customary, are now shown by a better knowledge of animal physiology to be utter folly and injury. Violent purging, too, is discarded, and cathartics are now rarely administered, as formerly, at stated periods. The rowel has given place to the seton, and less irritating agents are resorted to for blistering. In short, science and common sense are beginning to banish the ignorance and quackery of old farriery.

This concept being novel to most Americans at this time, the editor might be forgiven for having, two weeks earlier, advised a correspondent who asked for a remedy for the blindness caused by wolf teeth: "The teeth should be removed as soon as they, or their effect on the eyes, is discovered, when the blindness will cease to increase." In all fairness to the editor, Luther Tucker, it should be stated that this

item is something of an anomaly among his offerings on animal disease.

In a feature article on "Diseases of Animals often caused by Mismanagement," it is stated:

One can hardly spend a few hours on a well traveled road, or in a village thronged with teams, without witnessing such treatment or rather mis-treatment of animals as must result in producing great discomfort and suffering, if not actual disease. For want of judgement or want of consideration and proper feelings, there is everywhere to be seen quite a painful amount of negligent, improper and cruel treatment of domestic animals. Perhaps veterinary practitioners more frequently see cases of disease from such treatment than from all other causes combined.

### HUMANITY AND HOMEOPATHY

The subject of cruelty to animals was occasionally referred to in the agricultural journals, and it may be supposed that these papers had some effect in bringing about a general elevation of public attitudes on the matter. A correspondent in the *New England Farmer* for 1839 states:

The way to overcome . . . [the] propensity to inflict cruelty upon domestic animals, is to enact no laws upon the subject, but to spread abroad a salutary influence in the community by persuasive means.

In 1840 the *Farmer* states:

For mercy's sake, in this hot weather, deal gently with your oxen. . . . There is nothing lost in being reasonably merciful to the brute. On the contrary this is true policy, as well as a dictate of genuine humanity. He who would overtax or abuse a faithful ox or horse, deserves to do his own pulling and trotting, without the aid of these noble servants.

And in a lengthy editorial on "Mercy to Cattle," the editor, Henry Colman, suggests that the farmer's dreams:

should not be disturbed with the ghosts of half-starved cattle tied to their stanchions, so near to a mow of good hay that they can just touch it with their tongues but not extract a lock; and with the images of barn-floors, through the cracks of which the wind blows a gale; and poor shivering cows and horses lying down in their own ordure, which has not been cleaned out for a week, and with piles of snow around and over them in such abundance as to

give the stable little preference over the open yard. We pity such a man because he is destitute of the best feelings of a man; but we pity his cattle still more. . . . The better care you take of them, the better care they will take of you.

Apparently the "fashionable operations" on horses had been done with decreasing frequency in the 1830's, but in 1841:

We are sorry to perceive that the barbarous, cruel, and injurious practice of docking and nicking horses is again beginning to be looked upon with favor, after some years of merited disuse. — We wish to enter a decided protest against the system, as injurious to the horse and offensive to good taste. . . . None but a narrow-minded, ignorant man, would have in the first place ventured on such a violation of vested rights; and none but blockheads or jockeys, destitute of the better human feelings, could have perpetrated or tolerated the invention.

### Barbarism Bared

On seeing a docked horse tormented by flies, he admits:

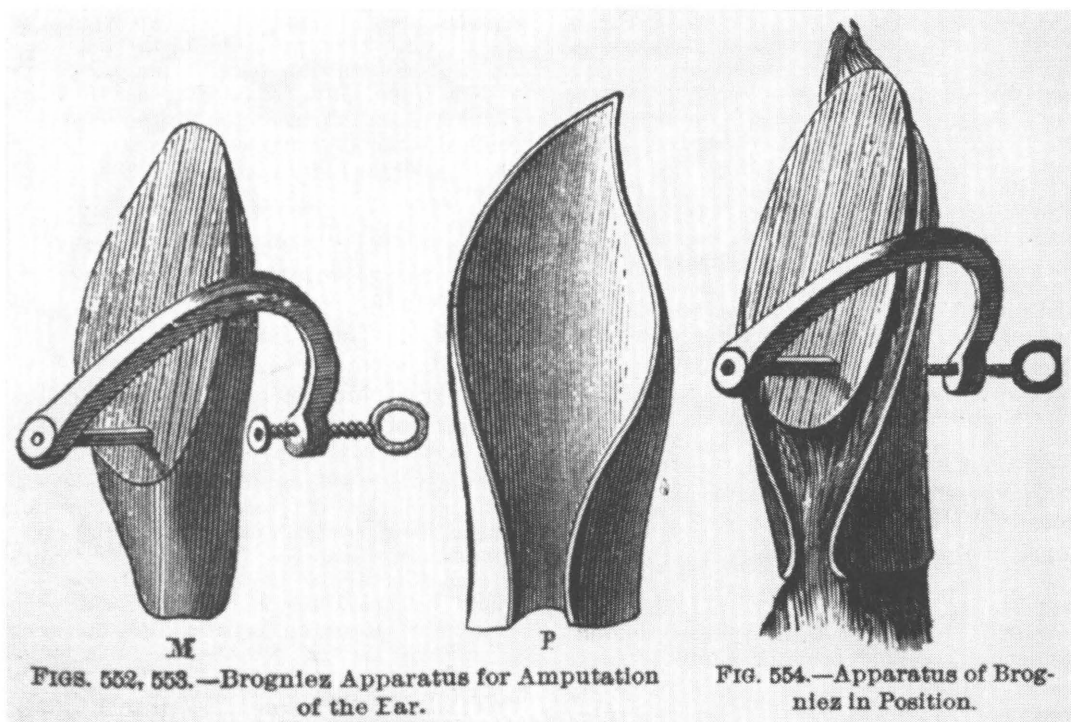
We have almost wished that the perpetrator of the outrage, in a state of nudity and his hands tied, could be placed in some of our swamps, for half an hour.

And on the neglect of swine, a correspondent states that despite some of their less than noble traits: "I certainly would not have them excluded from the pale of humanity simply because they are hogs," and suggests that there should be in each town a "Society for ameliorating the conditions of Swine in winter."

In a more specific vein, in an article in 1840 upon "The Treatment of Sick Animals," it is stated that many "unnatural and injurious practices" are perpetrated upon sick animals:

who, if they had tongues to speak, would tell sad tales of the wrongs to which they have been, and still are, subjected. . . . We would insist, that when an animal is well he never requires any medicine . . . and when he is sick . . . always mistrust the man and the remedy, when your friend declares that an article is always *good* or a *certain cure* for a disease, without reference to its symptoms — prescribing for the name of the disease, rather than the disease itself: this is the very essence of quack-





Ear cropping, along with tail bobbing, was a common cosmetic operation on horses in some areas during the nineteenth century. Liautard: *Surgery*

ery, in man or beast. . . . There is never occasion for the administration of the disgusting combinations which the poor animal is made to swallow, from the whim of an ignorant horse or cow doctor. Many a fine beast has been lost by its owner trusting to such prescriptions. . . . [We] have a powerful assistant in *nature*, if she is fairly used . . . specifics, as they are called, are much fewer and less to be trusted than their proprietors would have us believe.

Later editors, who accepted advertising for all sorts of miraculous medicines for either man or beast — or both — had either not read this bit of philosophy, or chose to disregard it. In fact, this editor, along with his fraternity for more than a century, chose to disregard it in printing contributions from people unqualified to give advice.

And a correspondent to the *Michigan Farmer*, who identifies himself as “Farrier and Blacksmith,” in decrying the use of blinders on horses, says:

Art never invented a more fatal thing to the eyes of horses than when she devised this

plan of depriving the horse of what nature intended he should enjoy. . . . They gather dirt and heat around the eyes. Dirt irritates the eye and heat produces inflammation . . . overexertion of the nerve soon brings on disease. . . . Blind bridles and disease are inseparably connected. Custom hoodwinks the senses of men, as much as blind bridles do the vision of horses.

In 1858, the editor of the *American Agri-culturalist* protested:

Docking horses is bad enough, but docking cattle is worse. . . . The advocates of docking maintain that cattle need bloodletting every Spring. They say that the end of the tail becomes soft, and in connection with this, joints of the legs swell and become weak and tremulous, and that the only remedy is a cutting of the tail. . . . Cutting off a cow's tail, to cure the Spring sickness! Why not as well cut off a man's leg to cure his chilblains? The practice is nonsensical and barbarous. . . . We half suspect that one reason why hired men are so fond of doctoring cows in this way, is that the treatment saves them from many a brush of the tail during milking-time.

A writer in one of our foreign exchanges speaks of this docking-mania as prevalent in England, and as mixed up with more superstition than here. . . . In some districts, farmers think there is witchcraft in the business, and practice “charms,” as well as docking. They bind a twig of the rowan tree on the end of the cow’s tail, and compel a black cat to pass three times around the cow, and over her back and under her belly, which so enrages pussy that she mews and scratches with great fury until she breaks away from the necromancers and runs off with flying tail, convincing all beholders that surely the devil has got into the cat.

### Homeopathy for Horses

In the *Cultivator* for 1841, a correspondent notes that his earlier statement “of the cure of dysentery and diarrheas, &c. by homeopathic medicines”:

was received, but could not be published, lest it might lead to controversy; that nothing should be admitted into the *Cultivator*, not strictly agricultural.

The following year, another correspondent joins with the former in regretting that the subject of homeopathic medicine for man should be excluded as foreign to the objects of the journal, but, perhaps believing in joining forces with those you cannot beat, he offers a brief for homeopathic treatment of domestic animals:

Deplorable as has been the condition of the healing art in relation to the human family, it has been still more wretched as applied to horses. The leading canon of the veterinary schools has been, that all the disorders of the horse tend to inflammation; hence inflammation must be checked by depletion; then, for all disorders of every name, copious bleedings, drenching, cathartics, and powerful diuretics, are indiscriminately recommended. In nine cases out of ten, the horse dies under the treatment, and the owner has the pleasure of paying a long farrier’s bill, and the consolation of knowing that the horse died *secundem artem*. The great work of Youatt is unquestionably the most scientific treatise that we possess on farriery; yet even in this, one cannot read three pages without becoming sensible that the writer knows little of the subject on which he is treating, and that the chance of saving the horse is as good, if left to the

unaided powers of nature, as when treated on the most approved principles of the veterinary art. But Homeopathia offers to the proprietors of horses and cattle unfailing sources of relief and cure . . . . A homeopathic physician will think it no disgrace to exhibit the triumphs of his art even on a horse . . . homeopathia is no humbug.

As proof of the efficacy of homeopathic treatment, the writer offers a case attended by Dr. Humphreys of Philadelphia: “at the request of Wm. H. Smith of that city, a graduate of the veterinary college of London.” Humphreys states he had been called to see a horse:

laboring under a disease vulgarly called staggers (Phrenitis) for ten days. . . . I found the animal lying on the ground . . . [with] every appearance of a speedy dissolution. Dr. Smith feeling assured that any means in his power would be unavailing, determined as a mere experiment, to try homeopathia, not dreaming of the least success.

One dose of belladonna, twelfth dilution, was administered, and the horse was on his feet in two hours. A total of ten doses at twelve-hour intervals “perfected the cure”; thus “a new and brilliant light has dawned on the paths of [veterinary] medicine.” The twelfth dilution would contain about one part of the active ingredient in a trillion parts of water. Human beings at least had the advantage of being able to read the label so they would know what the medicine was supposed to do.

### The Humane Homeopaths

Veterinary homeopathy enjoyed a brief period of popularity during the last half of the nineteenth century — being taken up belatedly and dropped with alacrity, by comparison with human practice — more or less as a protest against the harsh practice of the “regular” school. That the bleeding, blistering, and purging of the so-called (by homeopaths) allopathic school frequently did more harm than good can hardly be denied. But it may be doubted that the frequent doses of next-to-nothing of the homeopaths did much more good than

nothing, and may have done some harm by depriving the patient of specific treatment when this might have been of some avail.

Dr. Humphreys' Homeopathic Remedies, already famous in the human field, entered the lists of veterinary medicine in 1860 with ten Veterinary Homeopathic Specifics with which all the affections of the animal kingdom could be treated. In the preface to the first edition of his *Veterinary Manual* (1860), Humphreys observes:

Ignorance and cruelty seem to have controlled this branch of medicine — not that men are of necessity careless in regard to the lives of their animals, or designedly cruel as to the measures used to restore them when sick; but so little real knowledge prevails concerning their diseases, and so much error as to the proper methods of cure, that the most absurd and cruel measures almost of necessity prevail, with corresponding results.

Some stock owners, he says:

have more humanely, if not more wisely, abandoned all treatment, preferring to let nature contend with disease alone, rather than with disease and drugs united. But, thanks to Homeopathy, there is a better way.

That the system had not yet found acceptance in the United States, Humphreys attributes to "the inherent intricacies of the system," which — of course — his manual was designed to obviate.

In the second edition of his *Manual* (1872), Humphreys notes that upon the introduction of his veterinary specifics, "there was a considerable degree of hesitancy and embarrassment in their use . . . [which] has happily passed away." Perhaps this was because:

The doses have been rendered more uniform, and ten drops has been fixed as the standard for horses. . . . And such has been the demand for them that our Books have run out and the entire energies of the establishment have been taxed to keep up with the demand.

By 1877:

a demand for a yet more complete and comprehensive work has been created. The general treatment of the diseases noted in the previous

editions has been preserved, only that the doses of medicine have been somewhat increased, to conform to more popular usage and the practice of many veterinary surgeons.

It may be presumed that this also resulted in the sale of more medicine.

In the fourth edition (1886), Humphreys reminds us that twenty-five years ago, when he had introduced his ten veterinary specifics:

Veterinary physicians in general were as crude as the people, giving the most abominable and deadly doses . . . a legacy of the cast-off and obsolete measures once resorted to in treating people by the physicians of a past age. All this has been overcome by the good sense of the people, and the success of HUMPHREYS' HOMEOPATHIC SPECIFICS.

It is perhaps significant that Humphreys attributes none of this improvement to the establishment of veterinary schools. The horse owner, he says, should be able to recognize and treat disease, but there is no need for him to be (or to call) a veterinary surgeon when homeopathy is "so simple that any intelligent person may readily cure a very large proportion, nay, almost every disease to which his animals are exposed."

These intelligent people, judging by the testimonials included in the book, include farmers, stock breeders, livery stable men, horse-railroad men, mining, brewery, manufacturing and express company men, and the Quartermaster General of the United States, who in consultation with a group of cavalry officers had recommended the adoption of Humphreys' medicines by the Army. Veterinarians are conspicuous by their absence, and for good reason; Humphreys himself says, in effect, that it matters not how much or how little of what one or more of his "specifics" was used, and thus one man could fool himself as easily as the next if he so chose.

In essence, homeopathic philosophy taught that minute and frequent doses of a drug, which in large doses would produce symptoms of the disease being treated, would create a "curative impulse." Thus a little of any "specific" medicine, like a



Homeopathic veterinary remedies were popular—more so with owners than with veterinarians—during the latter part of the nineteenth century, but their use waned before their popularity in human medicine fell into the discard.

catalyst, was as good or better than a lot. In some respects, however, it seems like fighting a forest fire, using a dead match to start a series of backfires. At any rate, with the supposedly active principle diluted sometimes to one part in a billion or more, it would seem that rubbing the bottle on the animal would be about as effective as giving it a few drops.

At a time when magic played a large part in healing, various systems of numbers were followed religiously; thus the four humors, four phases of the moon, four sea-

sons, etc., were considered, as was a system of threes based upon the Holy Trinity. Humphreys' *Manual of Veterinary Specific Homeopathy* placed complete dependence upon ten "specifics" with a standard dose of ten drops:

yet to give two or five drops more in any given case would probably not be hurtful, while to give a few drops less would not endanger the curative action for want of the requisite quantity.

Like pregnancy, perhaps, either you were or you weren't.

### Therapeutic Travesty

With Humphreys' system, all the diseases of all animals could be treated with one or more of his ten "specific" remedies. Like most patent medicines, no indication of their contents was given, and considering the small amounts of active ingredients, this probably was of little consequence.

Thus, Specific A.A. was for fever, inflammations, and congestion and would take care of moist eruptions, fistula, swelled legs, tumors, contused wounds, incised wounds, staking, founder, synovitis, cataract, ophthalmia, pericarditis, endocarditis, anemic palpitation, phlebitis, milk fever, hog cholera, burns, goiter, flukes, etc., etc. Reasonably good directions are given for differential diagnoses of endocarditis vs. pericarditis; atrophy vs. hypertrophy of the heart; so-called spasm (palpitation) of the diaphragm vs. true spasm of the diaphragm

(hiccough); and the like, but the treatment is essentially the same for each, i.e., ten drops of A.A.

Each condition was treated symptomatically; thus if a cough accompanied one of the above, the "specific" for coughs, bronchitis, and inflamed lungs should be given also (in alternating doses). Other remedies were for strains, injuries and lameness; influenza, quinzy, and nasal gleet; bots, and grubs or worms; colic, belly-ache, wind-blown, and diarrhea; miscarriage, imperfect cleansing, and hemorrhage; urinary and kidney diseases, and dropsy; ulcers, mange, farcy, abscesses, etc.; indigestion, bad condition, paralysis, and stomach staggers. These were all internal medications; in addition, four external applications were used: sulfur ointment, calendula lotion, tincture of arnica, and "the Marvel of Healing," which could be used internally as well.

**SPECIAL VETERINARY SPECIFICS.**

**NOT IN THE USUAL CASE.**

Put up only in 4 oz. and 8 oz. Bottles.

—♦♦♦—

<b>L.L. {</b>	<b>Masturbation or Self-Abuse in Colts</b>
<b>Cures {</b>	<b>or Stallions.</b>
<b>M.M. {</b>	<b>Sterility or Failure to Breed in Cows,</b>
<b>Cures {</b>	<b>Mares or other Animals.</b>
<b>N.N. {</b>	<b>Sexual Weakness, Loss of Vigor, or Impotence</b>
<b>Cures {</b>	<b>in Stallions.</b>
<b>A.A.X {</b>	<b>La Grippe; Influenza; Distemper; Lung</b>
<b>Cures {</b>	<b>Fever after La Grippe, or Distemper.</b>
<b>E.E.X {</b>	<b>Pneumonia or Lung Fever after La Grippe;</b>
<b>Cures {</b>	<b>Heaves or Broken Wind.</b>
<b>F.F.X {</b>	<b>Diarrhea, or Scouring in Colts or Calves.</b>
<b>Cures {</b>	
<b>T.T. {</b>	<b>Lock-Jaw, Tetanus, Trismus, Vertigo, Spasms,</b>
<b>Cures {</b>	<b>Convulsions, Staggers.</b>



**PRICES OF SINGLE BOTTLES.**

SINGLE BOTTLES, containing over 30 doses.....	\$ .66
SINGLE BOTTLES, Medium Size, containing FOUR times as much as small bottles, 200 doses, .....	2.00
SINGLE BOTTLES, Large Size, containing EIGHT times as much as small bottles, 400 doses, .....	3.00

**PRICES OF STABLE CASES.**

STABLE CASE, Black Walnut, Handle, Lock and Key, containing Manual (400 pages with chart), Ten bottles Specifics, Jar Veterinary Cure Oil, and Medicator complete, .....	7.00
STABLE CASE, Black Walnut, Handle, Lock and Key, containing Manual (400 pages with chart), Ten medium size bottles Specifics, Jar Veterinary Cure Oil, and Medicator complete, .....	20.00
STABLE CASE, Black Walnut, Handle, Lock and Key, containing Manual (400 pages with chart), Ten large size bottles Specifics, Jar Veterinary Cure Oil, and Medicator complete, .....	30.00
JAR VETERINARY CURE OIL, .....	1.00
HUMPHREYS' VETERINARY MANUAL (400 pages, with Chart).....	.50
MEDICATOR (for administering Specifics), .....	.25

Homeopathic remedies were based on the concept that frequent minute doses of a "specific" drug, which in large doses would produce symptoms of the disease, acted as a "catalyst" in curing that disease.

The only remedy for which any indication of the active ingredient is given is this latter "Marvel of Healing," which was "a pure distillation of Hamamelis," and was good for such problems as: hemorrhage, toothache, neuralgia, piles, varicose veins, gravel (urinary calculi), burns, diarrhea, catarrh, and as "a toilet article for shaving, bathing, etc." And why not? For a dollar a quart, who could go wrong?

Perhaps because Humphreys' remedies cost only about one cent a dose, thousands willingly bought his medicine chests (10 x 200 doses in walnut case for \$20.00), together with his veterinary *Manual* for diagnosis (which "any sensible, faithful man of ordinary intelligence can master without difficulty"). It may be presumed that this class of people was not particularly interested in the active ingredients or principles of treatment employed, and none are given. And, of course, the dilutions employed in homeopathic medicine were such that their action, if any, was rather dubious.

For bloat in cattle, which presumably any man "of ordinary intelligence" could diagnose:

Specific F.F. is sovereign, and may be given a dose every quarter or half hour; it cures every time. We give the method of puncturing, which, however, need never be resorted to if the Specific F.F. be administered.

O, ye of little faith!

With the only requirement being that a proper diagnosis be made so the proper specific could be employed, attention to differential diagnosis of colic and enteritis is stressed "to avoid error in the treatment." The treatment for colic consists of:

Specific for Colic, F.F., a remedy which rarely fails to arrest this disease. Give fifteen drops on the tongue, and repeat the doses every half, or even quarter hour until relieved. . . . If fever should also exist, then alternate the Fever Specific, A.A., with that for Colic, F.F. . . . If the attack has clearly been occasioned by an over-feed, it will be best to alternate the Specific for Indigestion, J.K., with that for Colic, F.F.

So much for colic. For enteritis:

As early as possible, give the Specific for Inflammation (Fever), A.A., fifteen drops, and repeat the doses every half hour. . . . If not better in two hours, the Specific for Colic, F.F., may be alternated with that for Inflammation. . . . After the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, a dose or two of the Specific J.K., for Indigestion, will complete the cure.

Success, apparently, depends upon "who's on first."

Abortion in cattle according to Humphreys' *Manual* may be caused by atmospheric conditions, trauma, severe illnesses, iron in drinking water, intercourse with the bull during pregnancy, etc., "and when it occurs in a herd, it is very likely to extend to others." The treatment consists of

fifteen drops of the Specific for Miscarriage, G.G., every six hours. . . . This interval should elapse between doses, as too rapid ones may even defeat the object, by over-excitement of the system, while a single dose often arrests a miscarriage at once. . . . If slinking prevails in a herd or neighborhood, a dose of the Specific for Miscarriage, G.G., given say twice per week, will arrest its progress and prevent miscarriage, a result that can only be achieved by this benign and scientific treatment.

Like other do-it-yourself systems, Humphreys found it necessary to include a section on "How to Choose the Remedy" and states:

you will have some idea of the nature of the disease, and will at once turn to the Index and page in the *Manual* describing that and similar diseases and continue the search until the true description is found, and the proper treatment will be pointed out. . . . In case a wrong medicine is selected or given, no injury will be done. . . . And when a sufficient length of time has passed to clearly show that no good has resulted, the case should be looked over again, and a more appropriate Specific selected.

How unfortunate that penicillin had not yet been discovered! So much for veterinary homeopathy.