

PART TWO

**Development of the
American Veterinary
Profession**

USVMA—The First Quarter Century

A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY of the American Veterinary Medical Association, founded in 1863 as the United States Veterinary Medical Association, would require a book-length volume in itself. As the largest organization of its kind in the world, its record is the history of the rise of the American veterinary profession from utter obscurity to world-wide recognition. Its humble conception and birth during a period of national peril could hardly have presaged, even to its most enthusiastic supporters, the position of strength the Association occupies today. Except for the fact that a majority of its founders were members of the Philadelphia and Boston associations, it is doubtful that a national association could have been formed at this time, much less kept from falling apart. Even this experience, which appears to have been rather more than less of a provincial nature, would not have been calculated to lead to the formation a strong national association.

ORGANIZATION: 1863

The deceptively titled American Veterinary Association had existed for hardly more than the one overpowering object of of its principal promoter, Robert Jennings — that of establishing a functional veterinary college in Philadelphia. The Boston association undoubtedly served more of the functions of a local association today, but

it was more metropolitan than cosmopolitan in its membership and philosophy. The influence of the Boston group may be seen in the fact that five of the first six presidents of the United States Veterinary Medical Association were, or had been, members of the Boston association.

Perhaps the fullest account of the events leading to the formation of the USVMA is given by Jennings in 1884. Although by his own hand he places himself at the head of this movement, his account is sufficiently well documented to lend some credence to it. In response to a letter from Jennings in 1859, C. M. Wood of Boston stated:

as to the "National Association": I fully agree with you, and both myself and friends here will hold ourselves in readiness to attend a meeting in New York city for the purpose of such an organization at any time that will best suit the convenience of parties desirous to unite with us in the cause.

How ready Wood and his colleagues were may be open to speculation, but it is apparent that they did not, at this early date, start packing their bags.

Some suggestion of the reason for nothing transpiring at this time may be found in a letter from George Dadd to Jennings in 1860:

In regard to the National Veterinary Medical Association I am afraid that you could not get enough "vets" together to make it an ob-

ject. Jealousies and prejudices are very strong among the members of the craft, mainly graduates from the other side of the water look with supreme contempt on all who will not endorse the creed or dogmatical diction of the autocratic schools. Then again, you are aware that you, as well as myself, have enemies within and around our fields of practice, that from mere feelings of jealousy they will not give countenance nor support. Still if you deem it proper to form a N.V.M.A. you may count on my assistance and support.

This appears to be Dadd's last concern with the Association; he was soon to sever his connections with the Boston scene, and by 1863 he had been in Chicago for some time. There is no record of his having made any contribution to the USVMA prior to his death in 1868, nor is it likely that he was consulted.

Preliminaries in Philadelphia

The next mention of a national association is in March 1863, when at a meeting of the AVA in Philadelphia, Jennings: "suggested the propriety of calling a national convention of veterinary surgeons for the purpose of advancing the standard of veterinary medicine and surgery in the United States." It was resolved:

That the formation of a National Veterinary Association not having been previously anticipated, the President be and he is hereby authorized to call, at an early day, a meeting of the veterinary profession in the United States for the purpose of permanent organization . . . to meet in the city of New York or Philadelphia some time during the coming summer . . . [and] that the Secretary be, and he is hereby requested to communicate with members of the profession in the several States, requesting their attendance at the convention when called.

Of some interest is the fact that veterinarians from five states were present at this meeting.

Jennings apparently obtained a good response to this resolution. John Busteed, M.D., who had been unsuccessful in organizing the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1857, wrote:

Although not a veterinary surgeon, I am deeply interested in all that pertains to that much (in this country) neglected and important science. I have been for the last sixteen or eighteen years trying to elevate that branch of comparative anatomy to a more eminent position than it occupies at present. It will afford me much pleasure if I can in any manner assist you or your associates in perfecting the object purposed. That such an association is much needed there can be no doubt, that it will not only be beneficial to the profession, but to the country at large, and the government in particular. I think with you, that the time has arrived for veterinary surgeons and others practicing or interested in the art to claim for themselves a status to which they are, when properly educated, entitled.

Busteed, who later studied at Alfort, and was more successful in a second attempt to organize the N.Y.C.V.S. in 1865, suggested New York as the proper place for the meeting, and that: "Agassiz would be the most suitable person to deliver the introductory lecture." The noted Swiss-American naturalist, Jean Louis Agassiz, had founded the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, and was greatly interested in the anatomy of domestic animals. Busteed's suggestion, however, fell by the wayside.

Wm. T. McCoun of New York, who had been present at the framing of the resolution by the Philadelphia society, wrote:

Mr. Chas. Stetson, of the Astor House . . . is a great admirer of the profession, and is willing to lend us all the assistance that may lay in his power. He offered to me gratuitously the use of a large parlor. . . . To give the thing tone and respectability we must go to a respectable place, and the Astor House has a wide-spread reputation as such.

It is of some interest that the first veterinary association in England was formed, and met, in a tavern. Fortunately, this course was not taken in the United States, but then the inns of old England were of a different sort from the saloons of the states.

A. S. Copeman, then a practitioner of Utica, New York, but who had been associated with Dadd at the Boston Veterinary

Institute, wrote concerning “the propriety of making some alteration in the name or title of the ‘National Veterinary Association’”:

You too well know the bitter enmity, strong prejudice, and mean, petty jealousy, now existing among veterinary surgeons in the United States. . . . If the gentlemen would consent to a change of title, say to the National Society for the Advancement of Veterinary Science, or Knowledge, a door would be opened for the admission of all competent and honorable workmen, all true patrons of the art, as well as those who admire knowledge simply for its real worth and power. By adopting such a name all party-feeling and strife may be prevented. Doctors know the value of this term. Proper rules would exclude all unworthy persons. . . . Let a liberal code be adopted that will bring together a large portion of the “working class” of our profession.

Some of the self-made practitioners, he says, “in many respects are better qualified to practice than some of the two session graduates from abroad.”

Others also apparently were concerned that adoption of too rigorous a qualification for membership would result in the fledgling association falling into the control of European graduates. But with Jennings, whose only “degree” was from his own nonfunctional institution, as a chief promotor, it does not seem likely that there was any intent to foster such a program. Others were primarily concerned over the possible admission of quacks. C. M. Wood, who, like Copeman, had only what amounted to an “honorary” degree from the Boston Veterinary Institute, makes a strong issue of this point:

I am aware of the necessity of the co-operation of all the veterinary practitioners to give strength and efficiency to the order. But permit me to say that I beg to be informed as to what are the qualifications required in such as may form the proposed convention. There are many persons who have taken up the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery who have had no proper instructions in those subjects and are entirely ignorant of the principles on which they are founded. They have assumed the title and duties of professional men only for the name and living which may

be derived from it. . . . The quacks of our profession have never had any respite (from me). . . . I have stood almost alone in this city espousing the cause of legitimate science, and my efforts have not been unavailing. . . . At a meeting of our “vets.” here last evening it was voted for several to come, but we must wait your reply to this for information asked for.

Alexandre Liautard, who had come from France only three years earlier, wrote:

My acquaintance with my professional brethren is exceedingly limited, having been myself but a short time in America. I will, however, be most happy to confer with them upon any subject pertaining to the advancement of veterinary education and science.

The above, and other letters were read at a meeting of the Philadelphia society in April, 1863, whereupon the following preamble and resolutions were adopted unanimously:

Whereas, Veterinary science in this country has been kept in comparative obscurity in consequence of its practice having been confined mainly to the hands of men uneducated in the anatomical and pathological relations of the various diseases to which our domestic animals are subject, as well also as to therapeutic action of the remedies used in combating disease. This deplorable condition of the veterinary profession has been the means of excluding the qualified practitioner from the army in the United States. The losses to the national government in consequence from the purchase of large numbers of horses unfit for the duties required of them, having amounted to millions of dollars, therefore,

Resolved, That the friends of veterinary science favorable to forming a National Veterinary Association for the advancement and diffusion of veterinary knowledge meet in convention in the city of New York on Tuesday, June 9th, 1863.

Resolved, That veterinary surgeons in all parts of the United States, and all persons favorable to such an organization be invited to attend the convention.

A local (New York) Committee of Arrangements was appointed, consisting of John Busteed, M. D.; W. T. McCoun, V.S.; A. Liautard, V.S.; Chas. Pilgrim, V.S.; C. C. Grice, V.S.; Robt. Curtis, V.S.; and George Wilkes, Esq.

At the Astor House

The *New York Times* for June 7 and 8, 1863 carried the following notice:

To Veterinary Surgeons. There will be a meeting of Veterinary Surgeons at the Astor House on the 9th of June, at 2 o'clock P.M. All interested in the advancement of veterinary science are invited to attend.

A. Quintard [sic], V.S.
A. Large, V.S.
Wm. T. McCoun, V.S.

The convention met as scheduled at the Astor House in New York City on June 9–10, 1863, and was called to order by Wm. A. Wisdom, of Delaware. Busteed was appointed chairman to organize the meeting, and Jennings was named secretary. A committee headed by J. H. Stickney was named to draft a constitution and bylaws, which were read the following morning and adopted. An election of officers resulted in the choice of Josiah H. Stickney of Boston, a London graduate, for president; A. Liautard of New York, a graduate of Toulouse (France), for secretary; and A. S. Copeman of Utica, New York, a nongraduate, for treasurer.

As reported by Jennings:

After considerable discussion the name "United States Veterinary Medical Association" was adopted, by which the organization will be known.

It would be of considerable interest to know something of the nature of this discussion in view of the objections previously made by Copeman. Apparently "United States" was selected in preference to "American" inasmuch as the latter had been pre-empted by the American Veterinary Association. Isaiah Michener of Pennsylvania later stated that it was he who suggested the name that was finally chosen. A major factor may have been that "American" would have included the Confederate States of America.

While the available records of the organization meeting do not mention the Civil War as a factor in choice of a name for

the Association, D. M. Campbell states, with regard to the change of designation to AVMA in 1898:

War psychology had determined the selection of the first name, and the influence of another war had considerable to do with the change. When the United States of America was warring with the Confederate States of America, northern veterinarians were naturally particular to have it known that they belonged to the former. With the rapprochement that came when soldiers of the South served with soldiers of the North in the Spanish-American War, about the last of the old prejudices vanished and all North and South alike were proud of the title "American."

It should be noted, however, what while the latter statement undoubtedly is true enough in itself, the change to "American" was proposed in 1897 — nine months before war was declared. Incidentally, this was at the meeting in Nashville, the first to be held in the South. But the name change had originated in recognition of "The professional and economic union between certain parts of the United States and British North America." Thus it would seem that conjecture concerning the original name should be identified as such.

Other activities of the meeting included an address by Robert McClure on "The Origin and Importance of Veterinary Education and Science," and one by C. M. Wood on "Veterinary Education." Jennings reported that he:

exhibited the ecraseur for castrating horses, a French invention, introduced in the United States by him for that purpose in the year 1852, but it was not favorably received by stock owners. He explained its advantages and working, but it was not at that time appreciated by the members of the convention.

Jennings also exhibited some pathological specimens, and addressed the meeting, as did Copeman and others. Altogether, this was a busy agenda for a two-day meeting of an organization which had not existed before being called to order. What is surprising is that a constitution and bylaws could be drafted in one evening to the sat-

isfaction of the delegates to the convention. Unfortunately, the records of subsequent meetings do not always indicate such celerity of action or singleness of purpose.

The Founding Forty

The most complete source of information concerning early Association activities is the Minutes Book, the original handwritten account of the meetings from 1863 to 1893, but even this contains some obvious inaccuracies. Also, inasmuch as the minutes are only summaries of the meetings, there are obvious instances where the full story is not included, and, possibly, occasional "slanting" of the reporting. Where discrepancies between the minutes and other sources occur, an attempt has been made to rectify these, e.g., Humphrey Sill, as given in the minutes, turns out to be Silliman Humphrey. In other cases, however, it has been necessary to make a decision as to which source of information is probably the most correct, or the conflicting data are presented.

The list of delegates to the organization meeting numbers forty men from seven states, but it is apparent that others were present, who — for various reasons — were not included with the charter members. The founding forty were:

Also listed "from London" — presumably as visitors — were John Arnold and J. K. Quickfall. Other officers elected at the organization meeting were:

Vice presidents: Curtis, Jennings, Saunders, Ripley, Bowler, Wisdom, McClure. Corresponding secretaries: McCoun, Walton, R. Wood, Michener.

Board of Censors: Large, Dilts, Thayer, Essenwein, Palmer.

Of more than passing interest is the fact that in 1946 L. A. Merillat suggested the birthdate of the AVMA should be placed at 1854 — the founding of the American Veterinary Association — rather than 1863. While it is true that in some respects the AVA was about as representative of the veterinary profession as was the USVMA at the time it was founded, it is evident that following the organization meeting, the USVMA clearly disclaimed any connection with the AVA. And while Jennings at first appears to have been a major power in USVMA proceedings, it may well be that his aggressive character was a principal reason for his rapid fall into disfavor.

Minutes of the Meeting

As recorded in the fine hand of A.

<i>New York</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>	<i>New Jersey</i>
John Busteed	O. H. Flag	A. C. Budd
Louis Brandt	James Penniman	Jacob Dilts
John F. Budd	Wm. Saunders	T. Cooper
Charles Burden	J. H. Stickney	J. C. Higgins
C. H. Birney	E. F. Thayer	S. Humphrey
W. H. Banister	C. M. Wood	R. Jennings
A. S. Copeman	Robert Wood	W. R. Mankin
R. H. Curtis	R. Farley [?]	A. Philips
A. Large		Jacob Philips
A. Liautard	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	J. F. Walton
W. T. McCoun	J. C. Essenwein	<i>Maine:</i> E. F. Ripley
James Mulligan	R. McClure	<i>Ohio:</i> G. W. Bowler
E. Nostrand	G. Mellor	<i>Delaware:</i> W. A. Wisdom
	I. Michener	
	E. H. Palmer	

Liautard, the minutes of the organization meeting of the USVMA begin:

At 2 o'clock P.M. according to previous arrangements, a large number of Veterinary Surgeons and Practitioners of the Veterinary Art in the United States and also several friends of Veterinary Science met at the Astor House for the purpose of forming an Association for the improvement and advancement of Veterinary Science.

The first order of business was the reading of "the minutes of 2 previous meetings held in the city of Philadelphia." Thus it would appear that these meetings, called by Robert Jennings on behalf of the American Veterinary Association to lay the ground work for the meeting at the Astor House, were considered at the time to be with propriety identified with the object at hand. Jennings was made secretary for the organization meeting, and apparently in this capacity entered the minutes of these two meetings on the first two leaves of what became the USVMA Minutes Book. However, all that remains of these is a notation:

Margin of leaves on which R. Jennings inserted minutes of meetings held in Philadelphia previous to the formation of this Association, and while acting as Secretary.

Just how many more men were present at the organization meeting than are recorded as charter members probably never will be known. From the manuscript of an address by W. Horace Hoskins it is apparent that Thomas B. and James B. Raynor, perhaps with several others, were among those of the Pennsylvania delegation who walked out of the first meeting. Possibly this occasioned an article in the Bylaws stipulating: "No member shall withdraw during the session without special permission from the chair."

At the first semiannual meeting in 1864, a letter from Jennings was read, "claiming the right, that Thos. B. Raynor ought to have his name down in the By Laws as a member." C. M. Wood answered, "T. B. Raynor not being present . . . had no right to present himself except to the

board of Censors." At the annual meeting (1864), T. B. Raynor's credentials were accepted, along with those of P. J. C. Penny, and Jennings moved that "the board of censors examine the candidates":

T. B. Raynor was called before the board, but refused to answer any questions, he claiming the right of membership by virtue of his early associations with the organization of the Association; his claim was refused. P. J. Curran Penny, having been announced, was admitted to the board & passed his examination before A. Large, on anatomy, E. F. Thayer, on Physiology, C. M. Wood, on Theory and practice of medicine, in a practical manner, and is recommended by the board, to become a fellow [member] of the Association.

Jennings then moved, "that Thos. B. Raynor, and Mr. Farley, of Mass. be accepted as members, they having been active in forming the association." However, after considerable discussion, "it was moved . . . and seconded . . . that the report of the committee be final." Apparently all that remained was that—again on the behest of Jennings, "the fee \$5. — be returned to T. B. Raynor." Thus it is apparent that Raynor and Farley did not become members; Raynor became active in the Association years later, but neither Farley's nor Penny's name seems to be mentioned again. The minutes are not at all clear as to whom was admitted or when. The first clear-cut identification of a new member is the appearance of Henry Lawrence, whose credentials had been discussed on four previous occasions, on the roll of members present at the annual meeting for 1866.

Thorn in the Side

Except for adoption of a motion in 1865 that "A. McClure [undoubtedly Robert McClure] be expelled from the Association, for his ungentlemanly conduct at the last meeting, and his expulsion be dated from that meeting," Jennings appears to have become the first major thorn in the side of the Association. There can be little doubt that he was a major power in getting



Astor House, site of organization meeting of the USVMA (1863), as it appeared about the time of the fiftieth anniversary of the Association in 1913. *American Veterinary Review*

the organization meeting called, and for some time he loomed large in the deliberations of the Association. At the organization meeting, C. M. Wood secured, "the thanks of the Association . . . due to R. Jennings and R. McClure for their zeal and perseverance in forming the previous meeting of Philadelphia," and both were elected vice presidents (for New Jersey and Pennsylvania respectively).

In 1864 Jennings was nominated for the presidency, but declined in favor of A. S. Copeman (Jennings, Jr., later claimed that this was by "gentleman's agreement"), whereupon Jennings was unanimously elected Secretary. In 1865 Jennings was presented as the nominating committee's choice for President. Nothing appears in the minutes concerning a second nominee, but the tally of votes gave Jennings 8 and C. M. Wood 8; a second balloting gave Jennings 7 and Wood 9.

At the semiannual meeting in 1866, with Jennings present, it was proposed: "The Secretary shall keep a fair and impartial record of the proceedings of the meet-

ings . . .," after which it was moved and seconded:

that some action be taken at the annual meeting, in regard to the late Secretary R. Jennings, he having introduced into the records, the minutes of two meetings, held in Philadelphia, dated March 1863, and prior to the existence of the USVMA, he claiming the right of insertion, for what he termed preliminary meetings, also of withholding certain papers belonging to the Association.

At the annual meeting, with Jennings absent, a committee appointed:

to investigate the charges brought against R. Jennings . . . of tampering with the records . . . considered it a most unwarrantable act on the part of said R. Jennings, and in consequence thereof, they deem it but just to the members of this society, that he be expelled . . . his expulsion to date from this meeting, that he be duly notified of the same, and public notice also be taken of it.

This was carried, and it was further moved, "that the minutes inserted by R. Jennings be expunged from the records. (carried)."

In 1869 William A. Wisdom, one of Jennings' associates in the call for the organization meeting, called attention to the fact that:

Dr. Jennings had complained of the action of the Association in expelling him, as not being in regular order, the Secretary had not notified him regularly, nor was any trial allowed him—he only received notice of his expulsion through Dr. Busteed.

Busteed stated that Jennings had promised to show up at the meeting following his expulsion, but hadn't. Dr. Wisdom "thought the action of the Association in this case might prevent others from joining, as some persons considered Dr. Jennings ill-used." Dr. Michener concurred with the suggestion that Jennings be given a hearing, but Walton urged, "Dr. Jennings ought to let the matter drop for his own sake." Large contended:

the principal cause of his expulsion was his habit of advertising and selling quack medicines . . . that if Mr. Jennings desired to defend himself against the charge of quackery, he should have the opportunity to do so.

In 1870 Busteed noted that Jennings had been requested to appear at three consecutive meetings, but had failed to do so, and "moved that the former action of the Association be confirmed." This was done, and the matter appears to have ended.

It should not be presumed that the Association was preoccupied with such matters, but it is evident that Jennings' associates in particular were not especially happy over the situation. Also, it is evident that—whatever the reason—the USVMA wished to dissociate itself from the Philadelphia group, to the extent of expunging from the minutes a matter which unquestionably had been a part of the proceedings of the organization meeting. How much effect this action might have had in restricting the scope of the USVMA during its early years is hardly amenable to analysis, but it would seem that this tended to divide the loyalties of practitioners in the Philadelphia area. For

a number of years after the formation of the Keystone Veterinary Association, which met in Philadelphia, it attracted a larger membership and meeting attendance than did the USVMA.

Busteed "Busted"

Curiously enough, Busteed, who had presided at the organization meeting and served on the committee which drafted the constitution, was also to fall into disfavor, but for fairly substantial reasons. In 1863, Busteed's chief claim to fame in the veterinary world was as president of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons—which was nonfunctional at the time. In 1864 he was appointed the sole member of the Library Committee; his reports for a number of years were in essence: "No acquisitions." In 1866, upon the urging of Drs. Thayer and Liautard, he was made an honorary member of the Association by acclamation.

In 1871 the Committee on Education, consisting of Drs. Liautard, Large, and Robertson, presented a resolution which was unanimously adopted:

That the United States Veterinary Medical Association request the Trustees of the N.Y. College of Veterinary Surgeons to have an examination of students before admission to the course of lectures, of such a nature as may seem best to them to further the object of a higher grade of education.

This, apparently, did not set too well with Busteed. Although the annual meeting for 1873 was held at the N.Y.C.V.S., Busteed was not present, and he was replaced by J. F. Budd as the Library Committee.

In 1875, after Liautard had formed the American Veterinary College by secession from the N.Y.C.V.S.—with most of the faculty and students—Dr. Large "requested the Sect'y to call at the N.Y.C.V.S. to procure the seal of the Association." Drs. Hopkins and Robertson were appointed to do so but apparently without success. At the semiannual meeting in 1876: "Dr. Wood moved that the Secretary shall obtain the Seal of this Association from Dr. Busteed,"

whereupon it was resolved: "That the President be requested to obtain the Seal from the creditors of the N.Y.C.V.S." In 1877 Dr. Liautard reported having obtained the seal.

That the N.Y.C.V.S. was in disrepute by this time is evident from the response of several schools to a request of the Committee on Education in 1878 for a meeting of representatives of the several schools in America. The American Veterinary College (undoubtedly via Liautard) responded, "she was willing to be present provided her dignity was not insulted by the presence of representatives which the Profession could not recognize." Cornell made it rather more plain, replying:

through Prof. Law that under no circumstances would she be present if the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons was permitted to send a representative—under other circumstances she would take part in the Congress.

By way of enlargement, Liautard explained:

the reply of the American Veterinary College was the decision come to by the Faculty after a due consideration of the subject. . . . The representative to be sent by the American Veterinary College could not meet the representative that would be sent by one of the schools that it was contemplated to invite. Further, he believed that the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons would refuse to meet the American Veterinary College in Congress because she does not recognize the existence of the American Veterinary College. . . . If the other schools would reconsider their decisions they would come to the conclusion entertained by Cornell University and the American Veterinary College, i.e., "that we cannot recognize the men now connected with the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons."

It was then decided by the Association "that all the Colleges of America except the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons be invited by the Committee to attend the Congress."

Closed Corporation

The Association appears to have been something of a closed corporation for the

first few years of its existence. Evidently only ten new members were admitted through the tenth annual meeting, one of which was elected to office during this time. Of the original 19 officers, three had died, and two were expelled during the first ten years. Nine members of this original slate held a total of 77 offices during this period. Obviously, it is this coterie, principally Liautard, Large, Stickney, Thayer, Robert Wood, and Michener, who were largely responsible for guiding the destinies of the Association during this time. Jennings apparently was anxious to have too large a hand in the proceedings.

At the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Association in 1889, R. S. Huidekoper, president, and first dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, reviewed the first 25 years of the USVMA. In this, Dr. Huidekoper expressed disappointment over the little that had been accomplished; the Association numbered only 207, and "only about forty come to our meetings." This, of course, was a poor showing. While about 10 per cent of the nation's 400 or more veterinarians in 1863 had participated in formation of the Association, apparently few more than forty were faithful members a quarter-century later. And by this time the veterinarians of the United States numbered some six thousand. Dr. Huidekoper had anticipated that by this time veterinarians would be serving:

not only as practitioners to the individual, but as health officers for the common weal, as economists for the great agricultural community in their dealings in motor and food animals, as experimental pathologists, who verify the work of and offer medical hypotheses for our sister profession, human medicine.

Although the veterinary profession in 1889 could claim but few men of the stature of its retiring president, it should not be thought that other leaders of the profession were satisfied with the *status quo*. Liautard in particular was equally dissatisfied, and voiced his opinions forcibly and frequently through the *American Veterinary Review*.

In likening the progress of the USVMA to that of a turtle, Dr. Huidekoper recognized:

Veterinary medicine, like the turtle, must drag itself from a lowly origin. Its advance must be slow, through the mire of public prejudice, entangled by the reeds of quackery on all sides; when in clear water it must not resent attacks, but draw in for the moment, safe in its own solid usefulness, to come to the surface again and climb to the shore at the proper time.

Having little to report on the accomplishments of the Association under his tenure as president, Huidekoper presented a review of what had been done in the past. Today, of course, this in itself is a valuable piece of work, although if we divest his year-by-year summary of the lists of officers elected and of papers read at the meetings, it is painfully evident that little else indeed appears to have been accomplished. But, under the circumstances of its existence, the important fact emerges that the hard core of the Association was by its own efforts able to keep the USVMA a functioning entity.

In addition to an annual meeting of the Association, a semiannual meeting, at times primarily of officers constituting the *Comitia Minora* ("Executive Board"), was held from 1864 to 1889; nineteen of these twenty-six semiannual meetings were held in Boston, and twenty-two of the annual meetings were in New York. Thus it can hardly be said that the Association displayed a truly national character in this respect during its first quarter-century. It is perhaps more than happenstance that after this date, when the annual meeting was moved about the country (twenty cities in the next twenty-five years), that the Association began to assert itself as a national institution. During the twenty-four years preceding Huidekoper's administration, either Massachusetts or New York had supplied the president in all but two, and the secretary in all but three years, and all of the treasurers of the Association had come from these states. During the following twenty-five years, nine states, the Province

of Ontario, and the District of Columbia were represented by the twenty-one men who served as president.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: 1863

Appended to the original minutes book is a calligraphic manuscript copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the USVMA as adopted in 1863, apparently in the hand of the first secretary, Alexandre Liautard. At the AVMA meeting in 1905, Alex. Eger, the veterinary book publisher, presented the editors of the *American Veterinary Review* with a copy printed in 1863, and acquired by him through purchase of the library of the late J. H. Stickney. Unfortunately, the *Review* was in private hands at the time, and there would seem to be little likelihood of tracking down this item; its value if found would be obvious — it seems unlikely that another copy exists.

The verbatim transcript is presented in full in the Appendix for those who may be interested in it per se, or for comparison with the present document (which is included in the current AVMA *Directory*). However, some of the more salient points may be summarized as follows:

OBJECTIVES

"to contribute to the diffusion of true science and particularly the knowledge of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery." A lengthy set of objectives in 1913 was reduced in 1956: "to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, including their relationship to the public health." (The dates indicated mean that these provisions were in effect at these times; adoption may have been at a previous time.)

OFFICERS

In 1863 all officers were elected by the membership, and these constituted the *Comitia Minora* ("Executive Board"). In 1913 the Executive Committee consisted of the officers (all elected), plus six presidential appointees. By 1956 a president-elect, editor, and executive secretary had

been added, the latter two and the treasurer being elected by the Board of Governors (president and president-elect plus chairman of the Executive Board — members of which are elected by districts). The House of Representatives, dating from 1934, with delegates elected by the state and other constituent associations, acts for the membership in conducting business. In 1863, but not in 1913, provision was made for receiving “such Delegates as the various State or County Veterinary Societies may elect.” In 1863: “There shall be one Vice-President elected from each State represented.” This was later reduced to one; five were specified in 1913, and by “gentleman’s agreement,” were elected on a regional basis — as is specified today.

COMMITTEES

In 1863 — Library, Intelligence and Education, Disease, Finance; in 1913, Library was dropped (as a committee), and Legislation, Publication, Local Arrangements, Necrology, and Resolutions were added. In 1958, seventeen committees were superseded by the creation of six councils: Research, Veterinary Service, Biological and Therapeutic Agents, Public Health, Education, and Judicial.

MEETINGS

Fifteen members were a quorum in 1863; twenty-five in 1913; 60 per cent of registered delegates at meetings of the House in 1956. In 1863 and 1913 (dropped later): “Every member . . . shall pay due respect to the President and other officers and to his fellows, and [1863] no member shall withdraw during the session, without special permission from the chair.” In 1863 and 1913: “No member shall be permitted to speak a second time, until each member who may wish to address the meeting . . . may have had an opportunity of doing so.” (At a recent meeting of the House, one delegate reputedly spoke some sixty times at one session.)

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

In 1863: “Any Veterinary practitioner or Student of 3 years standing in the profession . . . [with] documents and testimonials relating to his professional qualifications,” could be admitted after passing an oral examination. In 1913, graduates from a 3-year accredited school: “. . . vouched for in their own handwriting by two active members,” were admitted. Initiation fee in 1863 was \$5.00 (dues not specified); in 1913, \$3.00 plus \$5.00 dues; in 1956, \$5.00 plus \$15.00 dues.

HONORARY MEMBERS

In 1863: “the President of the United States, for the time being, shall be ex-officio, an honorary member.” This was still the case in 1913, but later honorary membership was limited primarily to “distinguished scientists.”

THE FORMATIVE DECADE

The early meetings of the USVMA are not fully reported, there being no appropriate medium for this purpose, and the meetings appear to have attracted little attention in the agricultural press or the newspapers. The business transactions of the Association are given, although briefly, in the minutes; these are concerned for the most part with details of organization — and resolution of the Jennings squabble. Scientific papers were presented at most meetings, but only the titles and authors are (sometimes) noted. Not until the *American Veterinary Review* was established in 1877 do we have a clear picture of the proceedings.

In reviewing the meetings during successive years, no distinction will be made between the events which transpired at the annual and semiannual meetings; for many years it was the faithful few who attended both, and in effect were the Association. Although the membership remained fairly static for some time — there appears to have been a net gain of only one member during the first ten years — there was no



State Street, Boston, in the late 1860's, where semiannual meetings of the USVMA were held for more than 20 years. *Boston Guide Book*

lack of interest on the part of those who attended the meetings.

1864–1865

Both of the meetings for 1864 were held in New York. Papers were presented by A. S. Copeman on the composition of the tissues of animals; by G. W. Bowler on rabies; by Robert Jennings on suppression of urine in the horse; and by C. W. Wood on the status of veterinary medicine. Committees on Education, Finance, Library, and Diseases were appointed. Election of officers resulted in the choice of A. S. Copeman, president; R. Jennings, secretary; and C. M. Wood, treasurer. The death of Edwin H. Palmer was announced.

At the annual meeting for 1865 in Bos-

ton, A. S. Copeman, the retiring president, read a paper on "Philosophy of the Sciences." Henry Lawrence was admitted to membership, and Robert McClure was expelled "for ungentlemanly conduct at the last meeting." C. M. Wood was elected president; Charles Burden replaced Jennings as secretary; and E. F. Thayer was elected treasurer in place of Dr. Wood.

J. H. Stickney

Josiah H. Stickney, M.D., M.R.C.V.S., first president of the USVMA was born in 1827. Prior to going to London for veterinary training, he had obtained the M.D. degree in Boston. At the time it was unusual for a physician to study veterinary medicine; later the reverse became fairly

common. Dr. Stickney was characterized by his colleagues as “a clever, highly-educated, thorough diagnostician . . . always ready for a scientific discussion, a consultation or a doubtful diagnosis to settle.” Concerning his personal attributes, a friend of forty years states: “He was modest and yet forceful, unassuming and yet confident, generous and self-sacrificing beyond measure.”

Stickney appears to have been elected as the first president of the Association more or less as a token of the esteem in which he was held by his fellow practitioners. He was also a member of the Committee on Organization which drafted the Constitution, but after his tenure as president, he appears not to have held any major position in the Association. He did not write for the veterinary journals, but did lecture on veterinary science at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. He was, however, faithful in his attendance at Association meetings, and was one of the three founders to see the second quarter-century ushered in. At the following meeting in 1889—the last he was to attend—he responded to the recognition of his long service with a toast to: “The early days of the Association.”

Shortly before he died in 1902, a few days less than 75 years of age, he remarked—apparently thinking of his own illness—“interesting cases come to us about the time we are ready to die.” At the time of his death, “a student and friend to the last moments,” writes of him:

Stickney was bitter against opportunism, distrustful of all that were patronizing; he was caustic and quick in his replies, and never given to idle talk. Honest with himself, he commanded the respect of all, even of those who disagreed with him.

A. S. Copeman

Arthur S. Copeman, V.S., second president of the USVMA, was a self-educated practitioner at Utica, New York, for many years, and in 1855 became Professor of Pharmacy at the Boston Veterinary Institute. He contributed to the *American Vet-*

erinary Journal, and for seven years was veterinary editor of the *Spirit of the Times*. In 1864 he became Professor of Theory and Practice in the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons, but after a few years he retired in favor of a large and lucrative practice in New York City. He amassed a fortune, but lost it through a series of family troubles, and in 1876 took his own life.

Dr. Copeman was characterized as “a hard worker, a lover of the microscope, and a fluent writer.” In speaking at the opening exercises of the N.Y.C.V.S. in 1865, he stated:

The science of veterinary medicine, as it is now beginning to be understood, is a science that has a far wider application and a far nobler mission than the limited duty of leading the sick animal back to health. . . . The great problem of veterinary medicine is not so much how to cure a particular case of fever, but how to prevent the outbreak of pestilence, to discover and to avert all the causes of epizootic and enzootic diseases; in a word, how to preserve the health of domestic animals and thereby increase the wealth of the nation.

C. M. Wood

Charles M. Wood, V.S., M.D., third president of the USVMA, came to this country from England in 1835 and started working as a blacksmith, but soon took up veterinary practice. In 1841 he advertised in the *New England Farmer*: “All diseases of Horses, Cattle or Swine, are attended to. Also, Castrating and spaying.” During the 1850’s he was associated with George Dadd in the Boston Veterinary Institute, and was a regular contributor to Dadd’s short-lived *American Veterinary Journal* and to the *Veterinarian* (London). Writing on “Veterinary Medical Knowledge” in 1858 he deplores the apathy:

so generally manifested, by the *certified* Veterinary Surgeons of this country, in regard to the diffusion of veterinary knowledge . . . they claim the right to remain silent on the subject, unless in the stable, or bar-room. . . . If the truth is not told, people will suppose that error is truth; and go on inflicting misery, instead of ministering relief.

Wood is said to have been the brains behind the Boston Veterinary Institute, but this might be subject to question. In 1861 he was employed as a civilian inspector of animals for the Army of the Potomac. An entirely self-educated practitioner, he had an office in a livery stable in Boston on what was later the site of the famed Parker House. While he was characterized as:

proficient in the details of the profession. . . in treating acute forms of diseases of the internal organs he was a failure. . . . He used from ten to forty [cathartic] balls when any one else would have used one.

He was also characterized as “brusque, antagonistic, and as aggressive as one could be.” Dadd, however, stated in 1856 that Wood “through his own industry and perseverance, stands at the head of our profession” — a high compliment from Dadd.

Obviously, enough others thought sufficiently well of Wood to elect him successively censor, treasurer, president, and censor three times again before his death in 1869.

1866

The annual meeting for 1866 was held at the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons, of which Alexandre Liautard was the nominal head. Many of the later meetings were held here, or at the American Veterinary College after Liautard became its head in 1875. Also suggestive of the considerable influence he had in Association affairs is his election as its first secretary, later three times as president, his editorship of the *American Veterinary Review*, and the fact that he held one or more official positions almost without exception to 1900.

Few of the early Association meetings appear to have been advertised in the newspapers, nor do accounts of the meetings seem to have attracted the attention of the press during the early years. In 1866 the following “Special Notice” appears in the *New York Times* for September 3:

The Fourth Anniversary meeting of the United States Veterinary Medical Association

will be held in the lectureroom of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons, No. 179 Lexington Av. on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 10 A.M. Chas. Burden, Secretary.

A. S. Copeman read a paper on “Diseases of the Chest,” followed by a discussion of navicular disease. A committee was appointed to draft a Code of Ethics which was adopted after presentation later the same day. John Busteed was made an honorary member of the Association.

At this meeting a committee was appointed to investigate charges against Robert Jennings “for tampering with the records and withholding other papers belonging to the Association.” Upon their report, as noted earlier, Jennings was expelled from the Association. R. H. Curtis was elected president; Charles Burden and E. T. Thayer re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

R. H. Curtis

R. H. Curtis, M.R.C.V.S., fourth president of the USVMA, was a London graduate who practiced in Brooklyn in the 1860's. He also ran a riding school: “a thing which in those days was peculiar, as horseback riding was only in its infancy in that part of the state.” He was characterized as “a kind, genuine gentleman,” whose overpowering joy in life was his nephew, Alfred Large, whom he adopted as a son and who later became president of the Association — as close to a father-son combination as ever realized in this office.

Being in his later years at the time of organization meeting, Curtis perhaps had less opportunity to distinguish himself in Association matters than others accorded the presidency. Apparently in ill health, he resigned from the Association in 1868 — a year following his tenure — whereupon he was made the first honorary member of the USVMA. He died in 1869 “at quite an old age.”

1867

The meeting for 1867 was held at the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The revision of the constitution was adopted, and Drs. C. M. Wood, Stickney, Thayer, and Large were appointed "to review and revise the transactions of the past and the future." Just how the future transactions were to be revised is not stated, but the purpose in reviewing those of the past appears to have been in anticipation of publishing the transactions of the Association to that date. Whether or not this was done seems not to be on record, but the following year the matter was put in the hands of the committee on Intelligence and Education.

At the meeting, Alfred Large and Alexandre Liautard reported on the horse disease existing on Long Island, which they termed cerebro-spinal meningitis — probably forage poisoning or encephalitis? — which later sporadically reached alarming proportions in the Midwest and South as the "horse plague." C. M. Wood read a paper on scrotal hernia.

Elected as the new slate of officers were: president, Robert Wood of Massachusetts; secretary, John F. Budd of New Jersey; and treasurer, E. F. Thayer of Massachusetts. Reversing the earlier practice of having several vice presidents from the several sections of New England and the Middle Atlantic states, William Wisdom, patriarch of the group, was made the sole occupant of this office. Wisdom had been a practitioner in Delaware for nearly thirty years when, in 1859, he matriculated at the Veterinary College of Philadelphia, along with Jacob Dilts of New Jersey. Dilts was a graduate of the Boston Veterinary Institute and one of the charter members of the USVMA. Shortly after the lectures had begun, however, the faculty — except for the perennial Jennings — defected, leaving Wisdom and Dilts, in effect, private students of Jennings.

Robert Wood

Robert Wood, V.S., fifth president of the USVMA, had been associated with George Dadd both at the Boston Veterinary Institute as Professor of Cattle Pathology, and as a contributor to the *Ameri-*

can Veterinary Journal. He was characterized as:

a fair student, and had a capacity for the proper gathering and storing of knowledge. He reasoned better than his brother, was deeper and more analytical, while Charles leaned more toward the synthetical. . . . He was a good friend, an all-round useful man of far more than excellent ability . . . anxious and ready to do all he could in behalf of his profession.

Wood practiced at Lowell, Massachusetts, and apparently took private students about the same time he was associated with the Boston school. Both he and his brother were active in the Boston Veterinary Association from the late 1850's, and were the only pair of brothers to attain the USVMA presidency.

Robert Wood was perhaps less scholarly than his brother Charles, but evidently was a more progressive practitioner. He mentions using ether anesthesia for castrating pigs with scrotal hernia and for other operations in the 1850's — when few veterinarians were using anesthesia. In writing on "Catarrh in Neat Cattle, alias Horn Ail," he comments on the usual absurdities connected with the disease, but adds:

I must confess, however, this is not as frequently the case, now as heretofore, the people generally appreciating more and more the value of our art . . . where one animal dies in this city and vicinity, at this time, there were ten, twelve or fifteen years ago.

This would suggest he had been in practice since the middle 1840's. He died in 1892.

1868

The semiannual meeting for 1868 in New York was graced by the presence of Professor John Gamgee of Great Britain, who was investigating contagious diseases of animals in this country for the United States government. At this meeting a committee, including Alexandre Liautard, was appointed "to investigate the subject of printing a veterinary journal." The matter apparently was a decade in advance of its time, for the subject appears not to have been discussed again until 1876. It

was decided to drop from the membership any who were two years in arrears in dues.

At the annual meeting in Boston, I. S. Lombard and James L. Robertson were admitted to membership. Robertson was destined to become secretary and, later, president of the USVMA. The resignation of past-president Curtis was accepted, whereupon he was made an honorary member of the Association. The officers of the previous year were re-elected. The Association adopted a resolution:

That the United States Veterinary Medical Association as a body protest against the appointment by the general government, through the recommendation of General Grant, of Mr. Alexander Dunbar as a clinical lecturer to the army veterinary surgeons and farriers, for an alleged discovery of a mode of treatment of the diseases of horses' feet, the operation being no discovery, but a regeneration of an obsolete idea, and worthy of the attention and patronage of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, it being both an evidence of ignorance and barbarity. Furthermore, Mr. Dunbar has no claim whatever to the title of Veterinary Surgeon, either by education or professional association.

Dunbar was an honest Canadian farmer who had made a small fortune on a method of treating the feet of lame horses; he did not claim to be a veterinarian, but was "elevated" to this status by act of Congress. Except for the objections of one Congress-

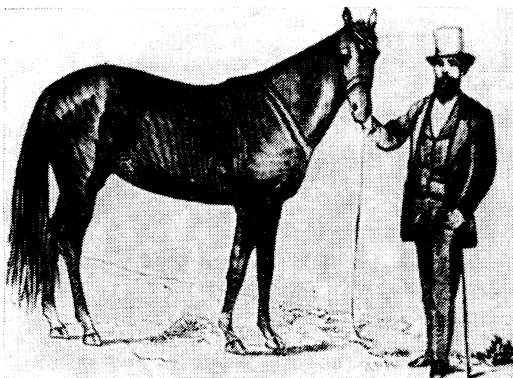
man, Dunbar would have been paid \$25,000 for one year's service, but this was reduced to \$10,000. Although army veterinarians called the system of treatment "foot butchery," Dunbar's method remained in effect for 15 years. Whether the action of the USVMA had any effect or not is not certain, but Drs. Stein, Busted, and Liautard (N.Y.C.V.S.) are thought to have had a hand in supplying the information which resulted in reduction of Dunbar's honorarium. The resolution of the Association is at least worthy of note as an early attempt to assert influence on a national basis for the betterment of veterinary medicine.

1869

The semiannual meeting for 1869 was again held in Young's Hotel in Boston, and the annual meeting in New York. Having discovered that the diplomas of membership, issued since 1863, were illegal because the Association was not incorporated, it was recommended that the diplomas already issued be recalled, and only a receipt for the initiation fee be issued hereafter.

It was resolved to study the matter of petitioning Congress for an act of incorporation of the Association, but in 1872 the committee appointed for this purpose reported: "Upon legal advice it was deemed inadvisable to obtain a charter." As a matter of fact, the Association was not incorporated until 1917; Merillat and Campbell state, "For reasons not clearly explained in the records, outstanding figures in the administration of the association objected to incorporating it."

In going back over the records immediately prior to 1916, the only reason advanced for not incorporating the Association was that it would thus be possible for individuals to sue the Association. Others, however, pointed out that without incorporation individual officers of the Association could be sued (and had been) over matters for which they had not been immediately responsible. Also it was pointed out that another group could incorporate themselves with the same name, and prevent the AVMA from using its own name.



Alexander Dunbar, originator of "Dunbar system" for treating contracted feet which was adopted by the U.S. Army after President Grant had recommended it. Dunbar: *Diseases Incident to the Horse*, 1871

Washington, D.C. Nov 23rd 1866

Alexander Dunbar,

Sir,

Explanation
of your system of treating
the feet of horses satisfies
me not only that it is the
best treatment yet devised
but that almost all complaints
leading to lameness of the horse,
though apparently in the knee, hip,
shoulder or elsewhere, really
exists in the foot. I have had
your treatment applied, with
advantage to four very valuable
horses of my own and have
witnessed the effect of your treatment
on some of the most valuable
horses in the United States—I do
not hesitate to recommend your
treatment to all persons having

large numbers of horses, or
few very valuable, as well
worthy of their attention

Yours Truly
W. A. Burdett
Esq.

Letter from General Grant to Alexander Dunbar, commending the latter for his system of treating the feet of horses. The text reads: "Explanation of your system of treating the feet of horses satisfied me not only that it is the best treatment yet devised but that almost all complaints leading to lameness of the horse, though apparently in the knee, hip, shoulder or elsewhere, really exists in the foot. I have had your treatment applied, with advantage to four very valuable horses of my own and have witnessed the effect of your treatment on some of the most valuable horses in the United States—I do not hesitate to recommend your treatment to all persons having large numbers of horses, or few very valuable, as well worthy of their attention."

Earlier it had been proposed to publish papers presented by members along with the proceedings of the Association meetings, but this year the Committee on Intelligence and Education reported they had received no papers worthy of publication. It was resolved to amend the Constitution to substitute the word "members" for "fellows" of the Association. Resolutions of regret were passed over the loss sustained in the deaths of former presidents, R. H. Curtis and C. M. Wood. Dr. Walter Burnham, apparently a physician, of Lowell, Massachusetts was elected an honorary member — evidently the first "outsider" in this category.

No mention is made of the presentation of papers at the 1869 meeting, but:

An interesting discussion took place at this meeting on "spaying of cows," Dr. Busteed claiming that the operation was first introduced by an American named Thomas Quina [?].

Actually, the operation had been known much earlier, having been practiced with some regularity in northern Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but had been largely dropped until a traveller from Europe found a farmer at Natchez, Mississippi, Thomas Wynn, practicing it successfully. This was in 1831, and although it appears to have become re-popularized in France and England before it was widely practiced in America, most European writers of the nineteenth century credited this "innovation" to America.

Elected as officers for the ensuing year were: president, E. F. Thayer, of Massachusetts; vice president, Isaiah Michener, of Pennsylvania; secretary, James L. Robertson, of New York; and treasurer, Charles Burden, of New York. Robertson, elected to membership the year previous, was the first "new blood" to be admitted to the inner circle; he became a long-time stalwart of the Association, and was accorded the presidency in 1879. The old faithfuls elected as censors were R. Wood, J. H. Stickney, A. Liautard, W. Saunders, J. C. Walton, and A. Large.

1870

The year 1870 appears to have been one of little activity so far as Association matters were concerned: a quorum was not obtained at the semiannual meeting in Philadelphia, and no papers were presented at the annual meeting at the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons. The officers of the previous year were re-elected, thus apparently establishing securely the precedent set in 1868 on the basis of what was perhaps an expedient. Not until about 1900 was there strong sentiment against a man serving two or more terms as president of the Association, following which time the feeling prevailed that the highest office should not be monopolized. By this time, of course, the membership of the Association was more truly representative of the veterinary profession.

Earlier there had been rumblings of discontent over the apparent fact that the Association was dominated by the New York-Massachusetts group, and in a gesture to break the established pattern of meeting alternately in Boston and New York, the semiannual meeting for 1870 had been scheduled for Philadelphia. The fact that a quorum was not obtained apparently prejudiced sentiment in favor of custom, and for a number of years the old pattern was maintained. The first major break came when the annual meeting for 1884 was held in Cincinnati.

While it could be argued that the Association might have become more representative of the veterinary profession had it moved around, it is perhaps more than likely that the Association would not have gained sufficient support to sustain it, for relatively few veterinarians within its sphere of influence supported the USVMA. With only the meetings to serve as a cohesive force, it is more than a little fortunate that the Association functioned as well as it did.

E. F. Thayer

Elisha F. Thayer, M.D., V.S., sixth president of the USVMA, was born at Dedham,

Massachusetts, in December, 1815, and died at West Newton, Massachusetts, July 29, 1889. His father was a physician, but it was some time before the son followed in his father's footsteps. In 1869 the University of Vermont conferred upon him the M.D. degree, but it is not apparent whether this was an earned or an honorary title.

Little is known of his early life, but about 1850 he began to study with Charles M. Wood. He engaged in veterinary practice for some time prior to 1853 when he went abroad to study at London and at Glasgow, where he was a special student of the celebrated John Gamgee. Upon his return he again entered practice, but ill health forced him to give this up for some time. It was undoubtedly his tutelage under Gamgee that so admirably fitted him for his later work with the Massachusetts Cattle Commission in stamping out contagious pleuropneumonia. In 1859, along with George Dadd, he was sent by the state to investigate a new disease in an imported herd of Dutch cattle at Belmont, Massachusetts. Thayer diagnosed the disease as contagious pleuropneumonia, and although his views were in conflict with many physicians and prominent agriculturalists and veterinarians, he was made a member of the Cattle Commission in 1862, and later was its head.

Adopting Thayer's recommendations, the Commission was successful in stamping out the disease in 1865 at a cost of only \$68,000. As a result of his program being continued — Thayer himself was a member of the Commission for nearly twenty-five years — the disease was kept from appearing again in the state, despite the fact that neighboring states were infected. He was also a member of the U.S. Treasury Cattle Commission, along with James Law of Cornell University, and J. H. Sanders, the Chicago cattleman. In his report to the U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture in 1869, Dr. Gamgee states that to Dr. Thayer, the people of Massachusetts "owe much for his skill and industry as their veterinary commissioner."

Dr. Thayer was characterized as:

one who ever had an eye single for the advancement of the profession which he loved, and for the health and welfare of the animal. He was a student, ever at work either in his library, the dissecting table or on the subject, working long into the night. . . . Free from any desire for position himself, it was only when fairly thrust upon him that he would accept such places. . . . His life is an example for the younger members of the profession to follow.

He was one of the best informed men of his time in the profession, and undoubtedly was the ablest in veterinary sanitary police matters, as his record attests.

In 1879 he suffered an apoplectic stroke, from which he never fully recovered, yet he continued to work with both the state and national cattle commissions, and engaged to some extent in private practice until his death ten years later at the age of 73.

Merillat and Campbell state that while Thayer was appointed to the Massachusetts Cattle Commission "because of his recognized ability as a veterinarian, he never claimed to be a veterinarian . . . [and] hid the fact that he was a veterinarian." But except as this might imply "graduate veterinarian," the facts appear to be otherwise: while not one to assume more credit than was due him, Thayer demonstrated loyalty to his colleagues and pride in his profession; contemporary reports identify him as "the veterinary commissioner."

Charles Burden

Charles Burden, V.S., was born in London in 1833 and came to America while young, where he entered into veterinary practice with E. Nostrand in New York City. In 1866 both he and Nostrand entered the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons, the latter graduating in 1867, and Burden in 1868. It is related that during his second year he was the only member of the class. Upon graduation he resumed the practice he had engaged in as a nongraduate, and in 1876 took an addi-

tional degree from the American Veterinary College.

A charter member of the USVMA, he was truly one of the “old guard,” serving as secretary for two years, and treasurer for sixteen, the latter being the longest tenure in any one office to 1935 when M. Jacob completed his seventeenth year as treasurer of the Association. At his death in 1901, Burden was one of but a small handful of surviving charter members of the Association. As censor in 1887 he had been the only charter member to hold office that year.

1871

The meetings for 1871 were held at Young’s Hotel in Boston and at the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons. The eligibility of candidates for membership was discussed, and Peter Nostrand was admitted as a member. Drs. Stein, Percy, and Weisse, all physicians and members of the faculty of the N.Y.C.V.S., were elected to honorary membership.

The original Constitution limited membership to “regular practitioners of the Veterinary Profession.” At the semiannual meeting in 1871, E. T. Thayer proposed his son, Fred L. Thayer, M. D., for regular membership; this was denied, whereupon A. Large proposed that “Medical” be substituted for “Veterinary” in this article of the Bylaws. After discussion of this amendment at the annual meeting, the motion was withdrawn, and Fred Thayer was admitted as an honorary member. In 1872 Dr. Liautard again opened the matter by re-proposing Thayer for regular membership; Dr. Stickney then proposed that the membership clause be altered to read, “any member either of the Medical or Veterinary Profession.” This was carried and, after being laid over for action at the next meeting, was adopted — but not before Dr. Thayer had withdrawn his son’s name, whereupon his (the son’s) status was confirmed by his being elected again to honorary membership — (at least this seems to be what happened; the minutes are confusing on this matter).

A resolution was adopted and a copy sent to the trustees of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons:

That the U.S.V.M. Association request the Trustees of the N.Y.C.V.S. to have an examination of students before admission to the course of lectures, of such a nature as may seem to them to further the object of a higher grade of education.

This appears to have been the first of an initially desultory but continuing series of efforts of the Association to improve the caliber of veterinary instruction. In view of the later dissatisfaction that arose concerning the status of the N.Y.C.V.S. it would appear that this resolution had little effect at the time, but there is little doubt that it was the watchful eye of the Association that anticipated and promoted many of the improvements in the system of veterinary education. It is of some significance that at the organization meeting two papers on veterinary education were read, and at the meeting in 1864 a Committee on Education was appointed. This committee appears to be the only one with an unbroken tenure through the years.

Dr. Liautard presented a paper on “Cerebro Spinal Meningitis,” which was causing considerable concern on Long Island about this time. As noted above, however, it seems likely that this was a form of forage poisoning — the “horse plague” of the Midwest in later years.

Elected as officers for the coming year were: president, Alfred Large of New York; vice president, William Saunders of Massachusetts; secretary, J. L. Robertson; and treasurer, Charles Burden, both of New York. The incumbent slate of censors was re-elected.

William Saunders

While it is a fair assumption that only the more progressive practitioners would have been interested in the objectives of the Association, it is also evident that the group exercised good judgement in electing only the more able men to high office. Representative of the group content to fol-

low rather than lead was William Saunders, V.S., whose father had been a farrier for one of the stage lines in Massachusetts.

The younger Saunders was born in England in 1827, and became a practitioner under the tutelage of his father. A charter member of the USVMA, he was a perennial vice president during the early years, and served several terms as censor. His Association activities, however, appear to have been limited to little more than attending the meetings, and with the influx of new members about 1875, he dropped from notice.

He was characterized as "nothing of a student," but exuded self-confidence, and had powers of observation which led to generally good judgement, depending largely upon experience to carry him through. He took students; one raised to the dignity of a practitioner was described as "a small, insignificant, and, of course, conceited fellow, more fond of smoking either good or bad cigars than of reading a book."

A colleague states of Saunders:

He was a great favorite with almost everyone he met, and was generous and genial, every day. People employed him who recognized him as a man of no great education, and they made no mistake in doing so, for their interests were safe in his hands and his judgement in general practice was good. . . . He was of that class, the unlimited majority who choose the easy roadway . . . his dignified manners and appearance carried him along. . . . He had commercial faculties largely developed, and always had a large business.

He died in 1884; if he had contributed little to the advancement of veterinary knowledge, he at least brought to the practice of veterinary medicine a certain dignity.

1872-1874

The meetings for 1872-1874 were held in Boston and New York as customary, but little that may have transpired seems to be recorded. The Committee on Charter reported that incorporation of the Association seemed "impracticable." Dr. Thayer presented a case of parotid duct fistula, and

cerebro-spinal meningitis was again discussed but, strangely enough, the prevailing epizootic of horse influenza, which undoubtedly caused many of those present to walk to the meeting in New York (1872), seems not to have been mentioned.

New members elected were Theo. K. Very, Robert J. Saunders, J. D. Hopkins, R. W. Finley and Peter Peters. The death of "Dr. Watson" (Walton?) was announced. In 1874 it was proposed to donate \$50 to aid in the erection of a monument to the memory of Claude Bourgelat at Alfort, France, commemorating his founding of the school in 1765. This would appear to have been the first action of an international character by the Association, and as such is of some significance. The incumbent officers were re-elected in 1872 and 1873. The annual meeting for 1874 was not held owing to an error in the date of the notices sent out, and the semi-annual meeting 1875 attracted only the *Comitia Minora*.

It would thus appear that the period from 1870 to 1875 was a low point in the fortunes of the USVMA. It is evident that only a few new members had been attracted, and a number of the "old guard" had died or had become inactive. Fortunately, a sufficient number of the faithful few remained to keep the Association from dissolution. The fortunes of the Association took an upward turn following this period, however, and with the publication of the *American Veterinary Review* in 1877 its continued growth seemed assured.

A. Large

Alfred Large, M.D., M.R.C.V.S., seventh president of the USVMA, was educated at the London Veterinary College, and had returned to the U.S. only a short time before the organization meeting of the USVMA in 1863. Shortly afterward he earned his M.D. degree at the Long Island Medical College, following which he took charge of the practice of his uncle, R. H. Curtis, who had adopted Large as his legal son.

After A. S. Copeman resigned as Professor of Theory and Practice at the N.Y.C.V.S., Large was appointed his successor, and he continued in this position at the American Veterinary College for several years after the latter was established by secession from the N.Y.C.V.S. in 1875. He was one of the first to make the diagnosis of cerebro-spinal meningitis in horses on Long Island, and wrote several articles on the subject for the *Veterinarian* (London).

A contemporary states:

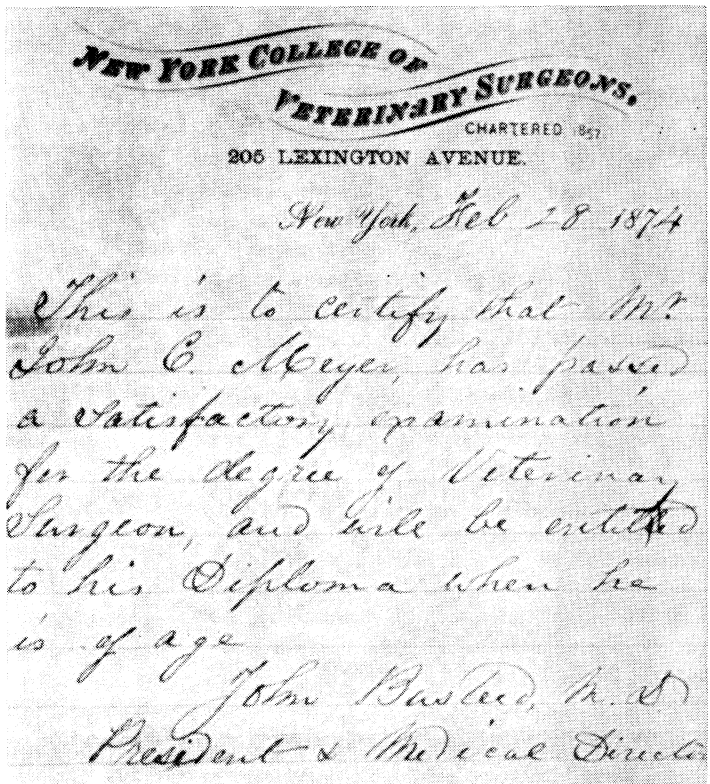
Dr. Large was a fluent speaker, a thorough physician, master veterinarian, and superior teacher. . . . When he was at the Astor House (1863) and when he held his professorship, Large idolized the veterinary profession. He was very fond of medical studies, and the many sacrifices and concessions that he made to veterinary practice were known only by his most intimate friends. But in later years, for some unknown reason . . . he took a great dislike, if not of the profession itself, at least

to the connections it imposed on him, and he left Brooklyn for Massachusetts, where . . . he retired and established himself into consulting human practice.

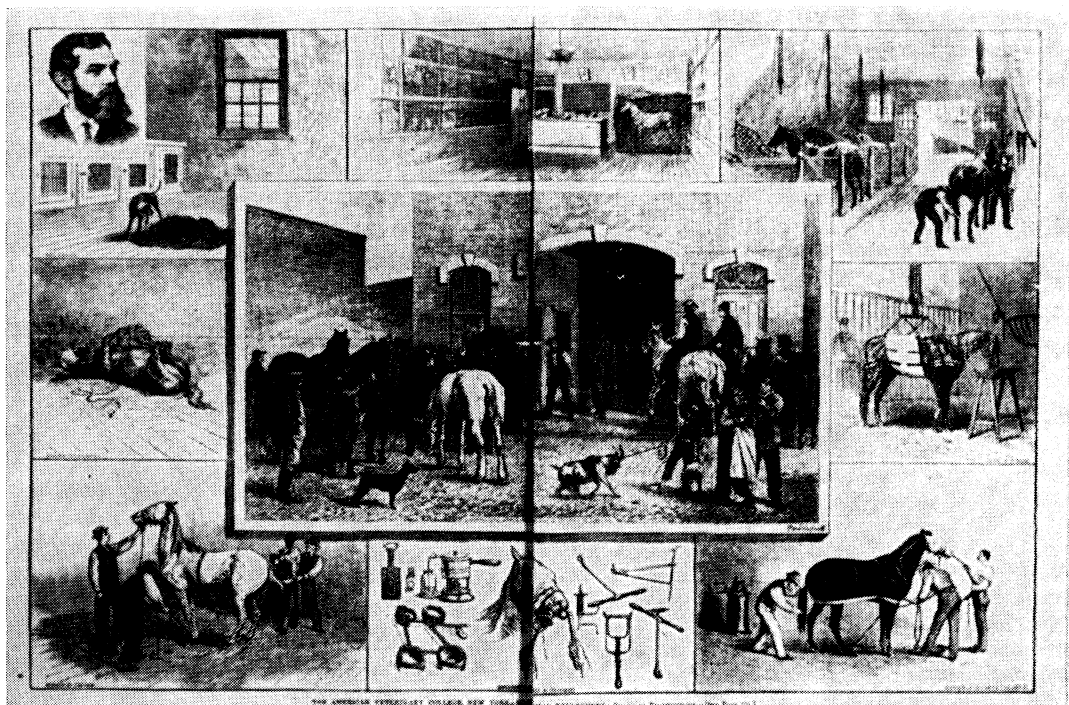
I. Michener

Isaiah Michener, V.S., was born in 1812, and for many years was the acknowledged patriarch of the American veterinary profession, but for some unaccountable reason he was never accorded the highest office of the Association. Few, however, were more active for a longer period than he; a member of the Committee on Organization in 1863, it was he who gave the Association its name, and he served variously as vice president, corresponding secretary, censor, and as a member of several committees.

Self-educated, he in turn served as the mentor of a number of prominent veterinarians, among them eight who went on to qualify as graduates, including his own son, Charles, M. R. Trumbower, and A. A. Holcombe, all of whom became important fig-



The requirement that an individual be of age before being recognized as fit to practice as a graduate veterinarian antedates any of the state practice acts. J. C. Meyer, who joined the USVMA in 1875, became the Association's first fifty-year member. AVMA Archives



Scene at the American Veterinary College about 1880. Free clinics were held one afternoon a week — despite the fact that the school depended on fees for its operation. *Harper's Weekly*

ures in the USVMA. For a number of years, I. Michener, as he was invariably known, and his son served side by side as officers in the Association, and he lived to see his son its president. Another son, Curtis, was also a graduate veterinarian, and a third son a physician. It was no idle boast of his that none of the men who had apprenticed under him had failed to make good in practice.

When in his seventies he was honored at the 1891 meeting as:

one having served fifty and more years in the everyday work of the profession, in the hard and laborious duties of a rural practice . . . honored and revered by all his profession.

In responding to this accolade, Michener recalls, concerning deliberations over naming of the Association in 1863:

several names were suggested, one of which I remember was "Veterinary Association," which was vigorously opposed, because the vets. of

Philadelphia had a short time before a meeting that a reporter attended and the next day published that he had attended a vegetarian meeting and all their talk was about horses. . . . I then suggested the name of "United States Veterinary Medical Association," which was adopted.

After recounting some of the advances made by the Association, he ruefully admits that in his native state the law provided that:

any one who has ever removed the placenta from a cow or found a soft place in her tail to cut into to let the wolf out, shall be entitled to register [as a veterinarian].

Having outlived his son Charles, he died in June, 1899, after having served more than sixty years in the veterinary profession.

EMERGENCE OF A LEADER

The meetings for 1875 were held in Boston and at the American Veterinary Col-

lege — newly formed under Liautard's leadership by secession from the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons. For a considerable period the American Veterinary College — through the influence of Liautard — served as a more or less unofficial headquarters for the Association, with committee and other meetings being held in Dr. Liautard's office.

An appropriation was made for the monument to Claude Bourgelat, and it was ordered that two prizes be given each year for the two best papers on any veterinary subject. Authors of the winning essays were to have their choice of a medal, or books, or instruments, to the value of fifty dollars. The Prize Committee consisted of A. Large, J. H. Stickney, and C. P. Lyman, but it soon became apparent that there was little competition for the prizes.

For the first time in its history, the USVMA admitted a "large" group of new members — numbering 25 per cent of the active membership. The eleven men admitted included two future presidents of the Association: Charles P. Lyman and Charles Michener; also, A. Lockhart, C. H. Stocker and John Meyer, Jr., the latter destined to become the first fifty-year member of the Association. And for the first time a majority of the elected offices (other than the Board of Censors) were filled by other than charter members of the Association: vice president, T. S. Very; recording secretary, J. D. Hopkins; and corresponding secretary, C. P. Lyman. Alexandre Liautard was elected president, and Charles Burden was re-elected treasurer for the seventh time — a position he was to hold for another nine years.

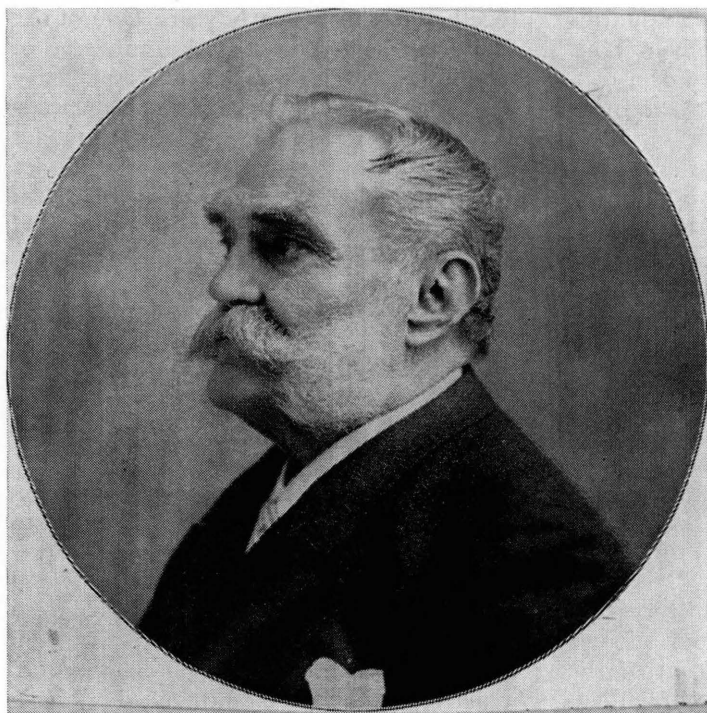
A. Liautard

Alexandre Francois Liautard, V.M., M.D., eighth and fourteenth president of the USVMA, was born in Paris in 1835, and graduated from Toulouse in 1856. Without doubt his coming to America was a signal event for the veterinary profession, for perhaps more than any other one individual it was he who held the USVMA

together during its early years. One of the founding fathers, he was the only one of this select group of forty to hold an elective office for more than twenty years in succession. J. H. Stickney was his only contender with seventeen years of consecutive service as an elected officer. In addition, many of the meetings of the Association were held at either the N.Y.C.V.S., or at the American Veterinary College after he became its head — and undoubtedly upon his invitation.

In 1877 he became editor of the *American Veterinary Review* and, after resigning this post in 1881, became its proprietor and publisher as well when the Association tendered him the journal. Always strong-willed, he apparently preferred to run the *Review* without supervision. Moreover, while he continued a staunch friend of the Association, he also became free to criticize it, which he did in no uncertain terms — and continuously — but in a constructive manner. Undoubtedly his biting satire was a major factor in stimulating the Association to perform at an ever increasing tempo. After he severed his financial interest in the *Review* in 1900 and returned to France, he continued in effect as senior editor for another fifteen years. After purchase of the *Review* by the Association, he continued a monthly feature until his death in 1918 — a stretch of forty-one years during which he contributed regularly to American veterinary literature.

His record as an educator was no less outstanding, despite the fact that the *American Veterinary Review* is his permanent monument to posterity. It was his hand that made the faltering New York College of Veterinary Surgeons a going institution, but when internal affairs became untenable, he withdrew with most of the students to form the American Veterinary College in 1875. This school remained a vital force in veterinary education for the twenty-five years he was its head, a substantial number of the future leaders of the profession coming from the ranks of its graduates.



Alexandre Liautard, V.S., M.D. (1835–1918), during his forty years of residence in this country (1860–1900), probably did more to advance the several fields of veterinary medicine — practice, education, journalism, and association work — than any other individual. *USVMA Proceedings*

Like other mortals, of course, Dr. Liautard was not without his faults. While his continuous advocacy of higher standards for veterinary education undoubtedly was a major factor in this becoming a reality, he continued to hold his own school to the old two-year course — possibly at the insistence of a major part of his faculty. Although he lived in the United States for forty years and amassed a small fortune, he never became a citizen. For much of his life here he was referred to affectionately as “Frenchy” by his closest associates — although perhaps not to his face.

He was characterized as:

very fatherly with his students, stern, and yet intimate, without allowing familiarity. Severe and friendly, strict to all and demanding of each the exact performance of his duties, he was very much liked and yet feared more or less by all. His death in 1918 was an occasion for mourning by the veterinary profession in all parts of the world.

One of his students, J. W. Fink, who graduated from New York University in 1900 after this school had taken over the

combined A.V.C.-N.Y.C.V.S., recalls sixty years later:

The American Veterinary Review was his last personal tie, and he supervised every line therein. He watched us as we wrapped and addressed them, and it always seemed as if he wanted to write a personal note to every veterinarian who received a copy. No detail was too small to escape his notice, and he regarded all of us as “his boys.” When he left, there was a great void at the college.

Few men could hope to live so long in the memory of their students.

1876

In addition to the regular meetings for 1876 in Boston and New York, a special meeting was called in April at Springfield, Massachusetts, at which an effort was made to prepare a veterinary exhibit for the Centennial Exposition to be held in Philadelphia. Nothing, however, seems to have come of this, but there was a department of “farriery,” sponsorship uncertain, at the Exposition. This was to comprise:

a complete and thorough display of all that pertains to Farriery and Veterinary Science. Under these heads will be included, besides horse-shoes and nails, clipping and shearing machines, pads, boots, &c., surgical implements, bandages and appliances, horse, cattle, and poultry medicines, skeletons, anatomical specimens of diseases, and other illustrations of veterinary science, and also the publications and appliances of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Such was the concept of what constituted veterinary science in this enlightened age!

At the Boston meeting E. T. Thayer presented a paper on "Epizootic Aphtha," and C. P. Lyman one on "Internal Disinfection." At the annual meeting held at the American Veterinary College, Henri Bouley of France and George Fleming of England were elected to honorary membership, the first foreign veterinarians to be accorded this honor. The officers of the previous year were re-elected.

It was resolved that a journal be printed semiannually by the Association, to be called the *American Veterinary Review*, with Drs. Liautard and Lockhart as editors. It was to cost members fifty cents per volume, the deficit to be made up from Association funds.

The meeting was adjourned to meet at the Continental Hotel in Philadelphia ten days later, where papers were presented on the "History and Progress of Veterinary Medicine," by A. Liautard; "Zymotic Diseases, and the Duties of the Veterinary Surgeon," by James Law; "The Effects of Stimulants in Disease," by A. A. Holcombe; "Sanitary Measures in Preventing Diseases in the United States and Canada," by D. M. McEachran; "Chronic Lameness in Horses," by T. S. Very; and "Fistula," by E. T. Thayer. This cross-section of veterinary thought of the time was printed in the first issue of the *Review*.

History of Veterinary Medicine

Liautard's history, a paper of 14 pages, is of particular interest as the first significant contribution to American veterinary history. Concerning the exhibits at the

Centennial Exposition, he regretfully notes:

in this great show of the new world, where everything is represented, where every science, art and trade has its place, Veterinary Medicine alone is absent. No matter if it prevents diseases, restores health, improves breeds of animals, regulates sanitary measures, protects trade of animals: no matter, if this immense fortune of \$1,600,000,000 owes much of its existence to veterinary art, to comparative medicine, in our Centennial buildings, in our exhibition, there is nothing pertaining to it. . . .

And why is this? Why is there no provision made in this Country to protect the live stock? With few exceptions there is no one ready to oppose the ravages of an epizootic. All our animals are thus left exposed to all the dangers of disease, and that because with all its importance amongst all professions, the Veterinary is the only one, which has been sadly neglected in America, and which in this year of our Centennial Celebration has made the least progress.

In presenting his history of the profession in America, Liautard expresses the lament of veterinary historians ever since "the lack of documents or records to be looked into," but:

I have carefully looked into periodicals, agricultural, scientific and even sporting papers . . . that I [might] lay the foundation for a better history, to be written when our profession will occupy amongst Americans the place where it ought to be — *second to none*.

Dr. Liautard begins with a cursory survey of veterinary matters in America to about 1850, and follows this with a rather detailed account of the beginnings of veterinary education in this country. His account of the Dunbar incident in Congress relative to the shoeing of Army horses gives considerably more details of this interesting and — in retrospect — amusing incident in our history.

Of considerable interest is his detailed account of the efforts in 1870 of A. W. Stein, M.D., Professor of Physiology at the N.Y.C.V.S., to secure recognition of the veterinary profession by the American Medical Association. After much discussion, a resolution was adopted by the AMA call-

ing for its influence to be used in the establishment of veterinary schools, the appointment of veterinarians to boards of health, and their employment by the Army and the Agricultural Department. The latter item, however, was not adopted until a clause calling for "rank and pay of other medical officers" was deleted. In 1872, Stein was successful in obtaining a resolution by the AMA calling for a committee to study diseases:

transferrable from animals to man . . . to prevent the extension of such diseases to man . . . and what sanitary measures can be effected to arrest the progress of such diseases in animals.

Little action, however, would appear to have been taken upon the matter.

1877

The meetings for 1877 were again held in Boston and New York. A committee was appointed to petition Congress concerning the enactment of more stringent laws for preventing the introduction of disease by the importation of cattle from foreign countries. And in a paper on "Spinal Meningitis," A. A. Holcombe urged the necessity "for the elevation of the profession that our knowledge of the pathology of certain diseases should be improved . . . by careful and exact research."

It was resolved to publish the *American Veterinary Review* monthly, and that the faculty of the American Veterinary College be added to the editorial staff. Dr. Liautard was given a free hand to spend "an amount of money for advertising said *Review*," and a special assessment of the membership was made for unpaid dues and subscriptions to the *Review*.

Elected as the new slate of officers were C. P. Lyman, president; Williamson Bryden, vice president; A. A. Holcombe, secretary; and Charles Burden, treasurer. Five new members were admitted, including John Meyer, Sr.

The Committee on Intelligence and Education was directed to take steps toward calling a convention of teachers in

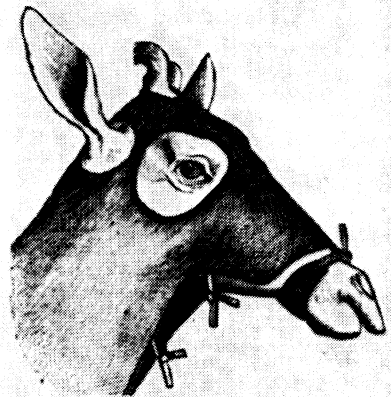


Fig. 1.—HEAD OF GIRAFFE.

the fracture, the other behind, as shown in fig. 2. A broad piece of thick sole leather was prepared, which may be seen in fig. 1, the central part to rest on the jaw, the ends extending upwards on each side, a little behind the corners of the mouth. A silver wire was first introduced through the leather, then passed through the jaw, through the other end of the

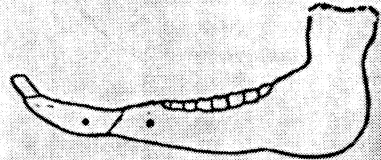


Fig. 2.—JAW OF GIRAFFE.

leather, and back again, as shown in fig. 3. The ends were secured by several twists, and the fractured ends of bone brought closely in contact. The narrow space between the two branches of the bone prevented my making two separate sutures, and at the same time favored the operation in opposing lateral displacement. A piece of webbing passed through eyes pierced

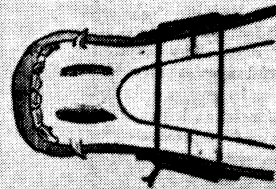


Fig. 3.—HORIZONTAL SECTION OF JAW.

Liautard's repair of a fractured jaw of a giraffe belonging to P. T. Barnum attracted a good deal of attention in the 1870's. Silver wire was used to unite the fractured segments, and a leather hood was devised for immobilization; the animal recovered. *American Agriculturalist*

the various veterinary colleges of the country for the purpose of improving the standard of veterinary science and the curriculum of the colleges.

In his address as retiring president, Dr. Liautard called attention to the progress which veterinary medicine and surgery had made, of which "the birth of the *American Veterinary Review* was the most important of them all."

1878

Boston and New York were again the sites for the meetings in 1878. Communications regarding the proposed Congress of American Veterinary Colleges were received from the American Veterinary College, Cornell, Toronto, Montreal, and the University of Illinois in which each seemed afraid they would be called upon to meet with representatives of some college in disreputable standing. Such a convention being unlikely to succeed under the circumstances, a committee was charged with continuing efforts to effect such a meeting.

At the semiannual meeting, Alexandre Liautard reported on the condition of the *American Veterinary Review*, and requested the privilege of increasing its size and reducing the subscription price from \$5.00 to \$4.00, which was granted. Apparently dissatisfied with the restrictions placed by the Association upon his management of the *Review*, at the annual meeting Liautard expressed a wish to resign the editorship. Evidently there was no one better qualified to run the publication, and he was unanimously re-elected editor "and instructed to select such assistants as he chose, and to conduct the *Review* in whatever manner would in his best judgement conduce to its success."

Reading between the lines, it is apparent that this situation was precisely what Liautard wanted—as a preliminary step toward gaining full control of the *Review*. In this he can hardly be accused of desiring more than the satisfaction of conducting the *Review* as he saw fit, for it is probable that the publication never made much money—certainly much less than Liau-

tard could have made by devoting the same time to his practice. From the standpoint of sound management, it perhaps did not occur to the membership that with the editor having to depend upon annual re-election to the post, that incentive might be lessened by the knowledge that his position was at the potential mercy of a small group. It seems likely, however, that his fears would have been unfounded.

In his report as chairman of the Committee on Education, Liautard observes:

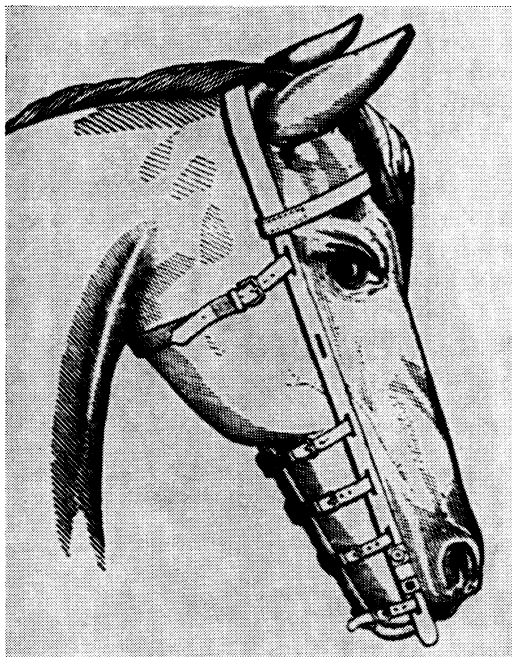
Our people are ignorant of what constitutes the elements of education of the veterinarian, and that for the public as yet, our profession, the business of a horse doctor, of the cow leech, of the gelders, are all the same. The veterinary education of the people, then, is, I think, a subject which is worthy our attention and deserving some of our efforts. . . . The most powerful means of educating the people is the press . . . and if the press is the means of educating the people as to the requirements of veterinary surgery . . . what veterinary science means . . . veterinary education will have made a powerful go-ahead step . . . but I say it is not the gratuitous advice which may be found filling up column after column in the pages of some of our best papers by which we will educate the people on veterinary science.

Professor D. M. McEachran of Montreal was elected to honorary membership, and eleven new members were admitted, including J. F. Winchester, who later became president of the Association. With the admission of twenty-seven new members in three years, it is evident that the fortunes of the Association were looking up. The officers of the previous year were re-elected.

Papers were presented on "Spavin" by Wm. Bryden; on "Parenchymatous Injections" and on "Melanemia" by A. Liautard; and on "Acute Inflammation of the Air Passages and Pulmonary Emphysema" arising from smoke inhalation, by A. A. Holcombe.

C. P. Lyman

Charles Parker Lyman, F.R.C.V.S., ninth president of the USVMA, was born about



Splint for mandibular fracture. With good nursing care, including feeding via dose syringe, the prognosis was usually considered favorable. Liautard: *Surgery*

1848 and received his veterinary degree at Edinburgh in 1874, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1880. He served as Professor of Veterinary Medicine in the Agricultural College of Massachusetts for a time, and from 1879–1881 investigated pleuropneumonia for the USDA in the United States and England.

In 1882 he became Professor of Veterinary Medicine in the Veterinary Department of Harvard University, and the first dean of this school in 1886, retaining both positions until the school closed in 1901. In 1895 as a member of the Massachusetts Cattle Commission he is credited with sponsoring compulsory tuberculin testing.

Dr. Lyman joined the USVMA in 1875, and was elected president 1877–1879, the first who was not one of the founding fathers. He seems to have dropped from notice after the school at Harvard closed, and the veterinary journals do not even record his death, which occurred in Cali-

fornia, February 1, 1918, at the age of 70. A son, Richard P. Lyman, was the first Dean of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University.

1879

At the meetings for 1879, held again in Boston and at the American Veterinary College, four new members were admitted, including W. B. E. Miller, who was later president of the Association. It was voted to pay to the secretary an annual honorarium of \$20. The Committee on Prizes reported that two essays had been submitted, but that neither was worthy of a prize.

A committee was appointed to draw up a set of resolutions to be presented to Congress in relation to the investigation and prevention of contagious diseases of domestic animals. Following two later meetings, a petition was drawn up, and 600 copies were printed and sent to members of Congress, to the heads of departments of the government, and to members of the Association.

Papers were presented on "Contagious Pleuro-Pneumonia," by J. D. Hopkins; "Rupture of the Flexor Metatarsi," by A. Liautard; and on the recurring theme of "Cerebro Spinal Meningitis," by I. Michener. Elected as the new slate of officers were: president, J. L. Robertson; vice president, J. H. Stickney; secretary, A. A. Holcombe; and treasurer, Charles Burden.

As a gentle rebuke to veterinarians who did not support the USVMA, Dr. Liautard added to an announcement of the annual meeting:

This being the only Veterinary Association representing the national interests of veterinarians in the United States, its meetings should command the attention and attendance of every member of the profession. It could and should exercise a potent influence in the advancement of veterinary science . . . by seeking to elevate the standard of veterinary education, the development of educational resources, and the investigation of contagious diseases.

At this time, and for a number of years following, the membership constituted only

a small proportion of the profession — perhaps 10 per cent — and attendance at meetings rarely exceeded twenty-five or thirty persons — fewer than were present at the organization meeting in 1863. The available records indicate that perhaps not more than a hundred men had been admitted to membership (including the founding forty), and the years had begun to take their toll — both by death and delinquency — with the result that the Association numbered only about sixty-five members.

In noting the action of the Association to petition for establishment of a National Veterinary Bureau, the *Medical Record* had observed:

the present status of Veterinary Medicine is so undefined that a National Bureau would not have much more of legitimate professional basis than a National Bureau of Barbers to keep themselves informed upon sycosis.

This, together with other deprecatory statements and misstatements, brought a wrathful reply from “A Veterinarian” (Liautard?), who observed (among other comments in stronger language) “the virtue of the medical profession is not entirely above reproach.”

What the USVMA petition had called for was:

a Veterinary Sanitary Bureau, whose duty it shall be to advise Congress as to what measures shall be necessary to control, restrict, or eradicate any contagious or infectious disease affecting the domesticated animals.

Specifically mentioned were lung plague and Texas fever, for which “Congress is . . . requested to appropriate a sufficient sum of money to enable the Veterinary Sanitary organization to deal at once and effectually with these important matters.” When legislation to this end was introduced, it met initial defeat at the hands of Texas legislators, who, in effect, were successful — temporarily — in legislating Texas fever out of existence.

The McLean Mélange

The case of Lachlan McLean, a noted practitioner and veterinary sanitarian, pre-

sents an interesting commentary on some of the intramural affairs of the USVMA. In considering the qualifications for new members in 1878, the secretary presented “a communication from L. McLain [sic] of Brooklyn declining the honor of becoming a member of the Association,” whereupon, “A. Liautard M.D. moved that the name of L. McLain be erased from the roll in accordance with his desire.” Robert Wood expressed the opinion: “Mr. McLain . . . had intentionally slurred the U.S. Veterinary Medical Association and deserved to be rebuked.” This led T. S. Very to move “that before Mr. McLain can again become eligible to membership in this Association he be required in some way to apologize for his action.” From remarks of Dr. Wood, it would appear that McLean had objected to the inclusion of nongraduate members; Wood contended, “conferring a diploma did not make a gentleman of the recipient nor necessarily a good practitioner, and . . . every man should be respected for his own worth.”

In 1879 McLean applied for membership, along with his son, Roderick, whereupon J. L. Robertson suggested that the Association:

recognize his application now, as sufficient apology for anything which he might have said in the past . . . we ought out of consideration for Mr. McLean’s ability in the Profession, recall the vote of censure.

T. S. Very, who had offered the original motion “took pleasure now in moving that the said motion now be rescinded,” which was done unanimously. However:

Before balloting for L. McLean, Dr. Hopkins made a speech in which he objected to the election of the candidate on the ground that he had personally treated the objector in an unprofessional manner. . . . On taking a ballot the candidate was rejected by a vote of 14 yeas to 9 nays.

Secretary A. Holcombe then moved a reconsideration of the vote, “claiming that it was unjust to reject a candidate recommended by the Board of Censors and Comitia Minora, because he was objected

to by one member . . . on grounds purely personal." This carried, and another vote resulted in McLean's election. Later during the meeting, Dr. McLean's first participation in Association matters was to move that the price of the *Review* be reduced from \$4 to \$3 for students. Dr. McLean became a faithful member of the Association and was elected president in 1885.

A. A. Holcombe

Allen Anderson Holcombe, D.V.S., was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, August 16, 1850. Earlier a student under I. Michener, he attended the N.Y.C.V.S., and graduated from the American Veterinary College in 1876. In 1877 he was elected secretary of both the New York State Veterinary Society and the USVMA. In 1880 he was appointed inspecting veterinarian at Ft. Leavenworth; he resigned his army position to become successively, State Veterinarian of Kansas in 1884, Territorial Veterinarian for Wyoming in 1890, and Bureau of Animal Industry inspector at Chicago (1899) and Boston (1918). He died of a heart attack while conducting a tuberculin test on August 13, 1920.

He was a leading figure at Association meetings for many years, contributed extensively to the *Review*, and was a staunch champion of higher status for the army veterinarian. He was described by his associates as "a man of great personal charm, a brilliant conversationalist and widely informed on a great variety of subjects — a thinker, always ahead of his time."

1880

The meetings for 1880 were held — as usual — in Boston and New York. Fifteen new members, including the stormy petrel, F. S. Billings, were admitted. Papers were read on chloral hydrate anesthesia, by C. H. Peabody; on veterinary education, and on osteosarcoma, by A. Liautard; on alcohol and belladonna in treatment of tetanus, by T. Outerbridge of Bermuda; Lachlan McLean presented specimens of shoes

used in treatment of spavin; and tenotomy, embolism, and soundness were discussed.

Dr. Liautard noted that the *Review* was free of debt and was increasing in circulation. The propriety of paying an honorarium not to exceed \$25 for original articles was left to the editor. Liautard tendered his resignation as editor — as he had twice previously — but the matter was tabled.

As chairman of the Committee on Education, Liautard moved that his earlier motion calling for an examination of candidates for membership be rescinded, and:

that the different veterinary schools of the country, through their Board of Trustees and Faculty, be urged to increase their requirements for matriculation, to lengthen the course of studies, and to have a board of examiners, taken from the regular graduates through the country, to act with the Faculty at the examination for graduation.

Under these conditions, the candidate's diploma would serve as a voucher for admission to the Association. Although (according to Liautard) "several of the members . . . expressed their hearty approval of the suggestions . . . the report of the committee was accepted and placed on file," without action being taken.

J. L. Robertson was re-elected president, and Charles Burden, treasurer; O. H. Flagg and C. B. Michener were elected vice president and secretary, respectively.

J. L. Robertson

James Lindsay Robertson, V.S., M.D., D.V.S., tenth president of the USVMA, was born about 1842, and graduated from the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1867 and from the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York in 1869. After interning he joined the faculty of the N.Y.C.V.S., and in 1876 secured a second veterinary degree from the American Veterinary College, whereupon he became Professor of Theory and Practice at A.V.C., later at the combined N.Y.-A.V.C. After forty years of teaching

and practice, he had been retired as professor emeritus at the time of his death on November 26, 1913.

Dr. Robertson joined the USVMA in 1868, and served as its secretary 1869–1874, and as president, 1879–1881. Dr. Liautard called him “my boy,” and of him it was said, “His thorough knowledge of his subject and his kindly nature won the hearts of all whose privilege it was to have been his students.”

1881

The meetings for 1881 were again held at Young’s Hotel and at the American Veterinary College. At the Boston meeting, a lengthy communication from A. A. Holcombe was read in which the status of the Army veterinary service was detailed, “asking the support of the Association in making the veterinarian’s position in the army what it should be.” As a result, a Committee on Army Legislation was appointed; although it may be doubted that this first committee exercised much influence, it was the beginning of Association efforts on behalf of the Army veterinary service.

The now-perennial matter of Liautard’s resignation as editor of the *Review* was brought up, and as reported by the secretary, C. B. Michener:

In view of the increasing demands made upon the time of the editor of the *American Veterinary Review*, the society decided to present the journal to Prof. A. Liautard, without any encumbrance, as a slight recognition of the work he has done for the Association and profession at large.

What the real motives of Liautard or the Association may have been in this matter are, perhaps, not amenable to analysis, but it is likely that the Association had little choice in the matter. It is evident that in three years the *Review* had become a more powerful influence than had the Association in the eighteen years of its existence — something which Liautard well recognized. Moreover, with the *Review* as a private enterprise, he had no obligation

to follow Association policy, and — for the undoubted benefit of the Association — he became one of its strongest critics, but in a constructive manner. Taking everything into consideration, it would seem feasible to postulate that Liautard wanted the prestige and freedom of action this move gave him. Earlier, he had to depend upon annual re-election as editor — a tenuous position at best.

In one of his first pointed rebukes, Liautard charges:

This association has now been in existence for eighteen years, and what work of any advantage to the profession can it boast of? . . . The profession is said to count about seven or eight hundred members in its ranks, and yet the USVMA counts only sixty-eight members. . . . Are the conditions of admission so rigid that any worthy practitioner cannot be admitted? Why is it that the meetings are so deficient in professional discussions, and so lamentably remarkable for the absence of papers of acknowledged importance?

Liautard’s criticism is perhaps a little too harsh. Earlier the USVMA had petitioned for legislation aimed toward the eradication of animal diseases, particularly pleuropneumonia, and while there seems not to have been continuing pressure from the Association itself, a number of its prominent members were active in prosecuting the cause. Certainly, it was the work of these men which in large part laid a substantial framework for the eventual establishment of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The newly elected officers were president, Williamson Bryden; vice president, Lachlan McLean; secretary, C. B. Michener; and treasurer, Charles Burden.

1882

The affairs of the USVMA reached a low ebb in 1882, when at the Boston meeting it was rather euphemistically reported:

Fully one-third of the members were present [about two dozen], two new members were elected, and the regular committees had no reports to offer. . . . E. F. Thayer presented

some remarks on an osseous nasal polypus which he successfully removed in 1867 [!] The discussion following on the use of the wire ecraseur [introduced by Jennings in the 1850's] was of much interest The meeting then adjourned to dinner, after which the subjects of splenic fever, Texas fever and quitters were discussed.

At the annual meeting — as usual at the American Veterinary College — the officers of the previous year were re-elected — as usual. Whether Liautard's earlier charge that the main fault of the Association was in its officers was directed at Wm. Bryden in particular is a moot point, but it is obvious that little transpired during his tenure as president. However, bowing to custom, his re-election was reassured.

As something in the nature of a rebuke to the regular committees, which had nothing to report, Dr. Liautard, as chairman of the Committee on Diseases, states:

Being unexpectedly called to Europe this summer . . . I was almost tempted to give up the work and follow the example of our friendly predecessors and only report "progress," but at the same time thought that in so doing I would do injustice to our friends and to the Association.

Accordingly, he had distributed one hundred copies of a questionnaire to members in twenty-nine states; thirty replies from fifteen states were returned. In order of frequency of mention, the most common diseases were equine influenza, glanders and farcy, anthrax, Texas fever, hog cholera, chicken cholera, and cerebro-spinal meningitis.

As reported by Secretary Michener:

Dr. Liautard then introduced the subject of inoculation for anthrax. He also presented to the society the different instruments chiefly used in inoculating cattle and sheep. Anthrax blood and virus were shown in hermetically sealed tubes [*virus* was then used as *infective agent*]. Prof. L. suggested the appropriation of society funds for experimental purposes. It was afterward resolved that a committee of three be appointed to make experiments on the value of inoculation by the method of Pasteur, and \$150 was appropriated for the purchase of some sheep and cows for this purpose. Dr.

Liautard was appointed chairman of the committee, with power to select the other two members.

Although a pre-convention notice had stated: "There is no doubt that besides the reports of the various committees, several interesting papers will be presented," the secretary's report of the meeting states, "There were no reports [by three of four committees], and . . . there were no regular papers presented." Drs. Stickney and W. B. E. Miller presented two cases of osteomalacia, but:

other reports of cases were denied the Association owing to the lateness of the hour. The society adjourned to a banquet at Delmonico's, where the evening was passed in the most social and pleasant manner.

Thus it is evident that the Association was in the doldrums at this time; except for Liautard's report on diseases in the United States, and his account of Pasteur's anthrax inoculation, the annual meeting for 1882 would have been something less than productive. And concerning the committee Liautard was to head, no report was made the following year, except that "it seemed almost unnecessary to investigate the Pasteur method, since it is so generally admitted that this is entirely successful." The *American Veterinary Review*, however, under Liautard's management, continued as the chief external evidence of the developing veterinary profession.

Most of the early original articles in the *Review* were in the nature of case reports or summaries of existing knowledge of diseases. The first bona fide report of experimental investigation appeared in April, 1882, on "Cestode Tuberculosis. A successful experiment in producing it in the calf," by William Osler, M.D., of McGill University, and a student, A. W. Clement, later president of the USVMA.

Wm. Bryden

Williamson Bryden, V.S., eleventh president of the USVMA, was born in Scotland and came to this country when a small boy.

He graduated from the Montreal Veterinary College in 1871 and served as a member of the board of examiners of that school for a number of years. He was a charter member and president of the Massachusetts VMA, and served as president of the USVMA, 1881–1883. For many years he was an inspector of cattle at the port of Boston. Upon his death June 28, 1895, he was characterized as “a good friend and ever ready adviser . . . of marked intelligence, and an able student and practitioner.”

AN EXPANDED SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

The meetings for 1883 were held in Boston and at the American Veterinary College. Among the twenty-one new members admitted was W. Horace Hoskins, later secretary, then president, and a long-time stalwart of the Association. Dr. Liautard was appointed to represent the USVMA at the International Veterinary Congress in Brussels. Various case reports were presented, including one by Robert Harrison, house surgeon at the American Veterinary College, on a cesarean section in a cow in which both cow and calf lived. Julius Gerth, Jr., reported on an outbreak of glanders in Newark, New Jersey, “in which he censured the State Board of Health for not taking some steps to eradicate or quarantine the disease.” Dr. Gerth, as a member of the Newark Board of Health, is credited with handling the outbreak, an apparent consequence of which was his appointment as State Veterinarian of Nebraska.

Elected as the new slate of officers were president, W. B. E. Miller, of New Jersey; vice president, W. J. Coates; secretary, C. B. Michener; and treasurer, Charles Burden. The election of Dr. Miller was the first major break in the monopoly exercised by a coalition of Massachusetts and New York members with regard to the major offices of the Association. Earlier, J. D. Hopkins of New Jersey had served as secretary (1874–1877), but the real break did not come until 1887. Prior to this

date, thirteen of fourteen presidents, seven of eight secretaries, and all five treasurers had been from New York or Massachusetts. During the second twenty-five years this number was reduced to six of thirty-four major offices, and to a scant 10 per cent during the second half century.

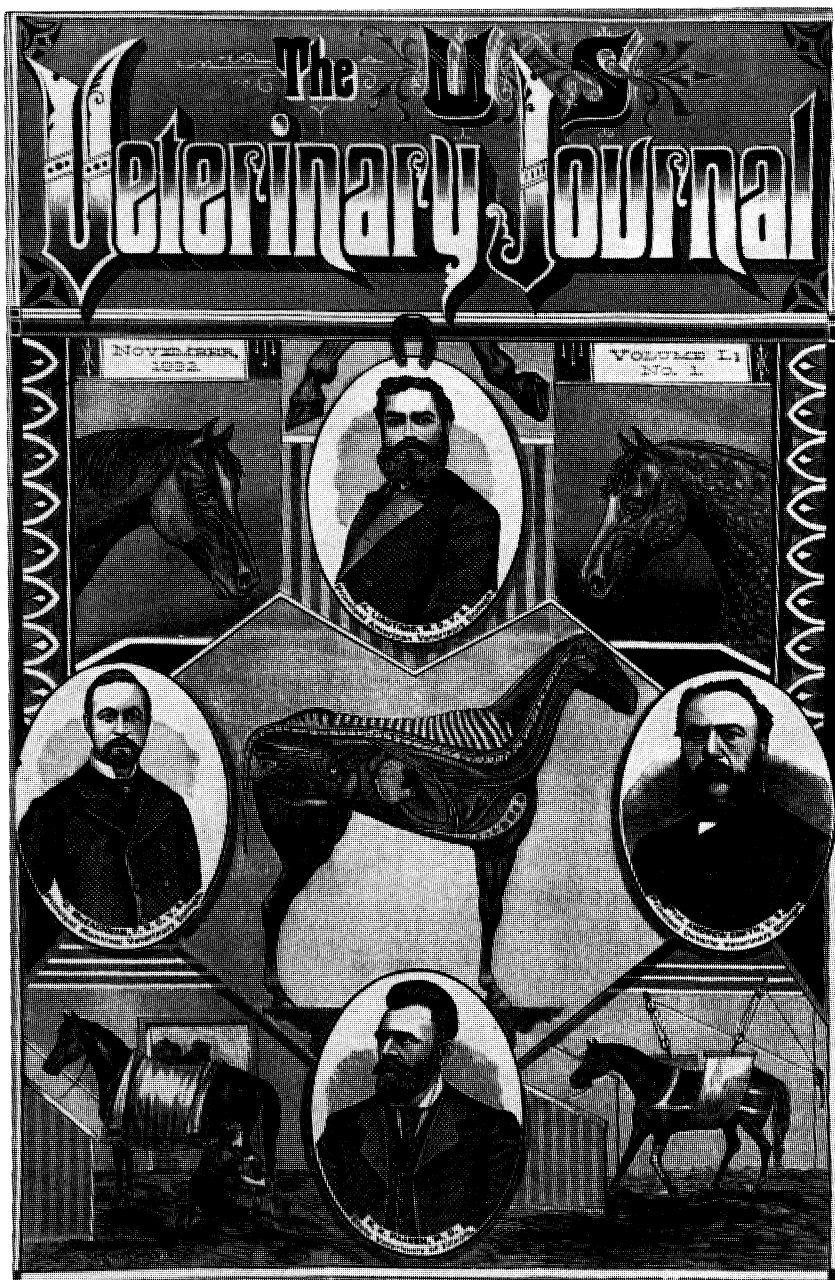
In an editorial in the *Review* for July, 1883, Liautard mentions that a number of the “western” states — Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio — were in the process of calling state veterinary conventions:

to organize and discuss the subject of the advance of veterinary science. This great move cannot be ignored; and it is to be hoped that the West shall not remain alone in it. The Eastern States . . . ought to form their State Associations; and when once each State in the Union has her State Veterinary Medical Association, how easy it will be for all to unite under a grand body, the *American Veterinary Association*.

While it is probable that Liautard was aware of more than he alludes to, his suggestion concerning an “American Veterinary Association” is more than a little puzzling. He, of course, knew full well that the USVMA did not in fact represent the veterinary profession of the entire country and that “western” veterinarians were dissatisfied with the situation. That he may have suggested this second association primarily as a threat to jar the USVMA into action is intimated by his later statement:

Already a large nucleus for such an organization exists. . . . It will be to the United States Veterinary Medical Association that these State societies will naturally attach themselves.

The real facts, however, never did see the full light of day in the *Review*. In November, 1882, the *United States Veterinary Journal*, presumably edited by A. H. Baker, co-founder of the Chicago Veterinary College, appeared. The real promoter, however, was T. E. Daniels, a printer, who evidently had conceived the idea of organizing the American veterinary profession



Cover, first issue of *U.S. Veterinary Journal*. Dr. Liautard strongly objected to the unauthorized use of his picture — which probably implied his endorsement of this rival to his own *American Veterinary Review*. Library, New York State Veterinary College.

and publishing its official organ as a profitable enterprise. He was successful in getting state associations organized in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New York (in competition with the existing state society), and Missouri, for which associations his journal did serve as the official organ until its demise in November, 1884.

A more insidious part of his scheme — the tip-off perhaps being the title of his journal — was that this new national group was to be named the United States Veterinary Medical Association. One of the arguments used by those who had urged incorporation of the USVMA soon after its founding was that any group could incorporate under this name and deprive the *de facto* USVMA of its right to the name. But even with this as a real rather than a merely potential threat, the Association was not incorporated until 1916. Daniels' plan did have one strong point: his national association was to be governed by delegates chosen by the state associations — the same plan adopted by the AVMA half a century later.

W. B. E. Miller

William B. E. Miller, D.V.S., twelfth president of the USVMA, was born in 1840 and claimed Camden, New Jersey, as his home. In 1879 he graduated from the American Veterinary College, following which he rapidly gained a wide reputation. He was among the first to attempt the standing operation for castration, and was well known for his technic with cryptorchid horses; to demonstrate these and other operations he travelled many hundreds of miles. He was a trustee of the American Veterinary College, one of the first inspectors of the Bureau of Animal Industry, president of the New Jersey VMA, and in 1883–1885, president of the USVMA. He died in 1905.

1884

At the semiannual meeting held in Boston, a major topic of interest was the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease at

Portland, Maine, in cattle imported from England. Following a discussion of the matter, R. S. Huidekoper — who was elected a member at the meeting — offered a resolution:

That it be the opinion of this Association . . . that the United States quarantine authorities are, through carelessness and incompetency, responsible for the spread of the infection.

This may seem like harsh judgement for a group of men sitting in Boston to pass upon their colleagues working in Maine, but at least it was made in the presence of G. H. Bailey, Commissioner for Maine on Contagious Diseases. Earlier, Dr. Bailey had reported in the *Review*:

The herd was inspected on board ship by U.S. Commissioner Thayer, and, being pronounced free from disease, were allowed to land. By some oversight, or misunderstanding between the United States officials here, and the agent of the Grand Trunk road, the animals — instead of being transported by cars — were allowed to be driven over the public highway through Portland and Deering to their destination at quarantine.

After the cattle were placed in quarantine, several mild cases of foot-and-mouth disease — first diagnosed as “foul in the foot” — broke out, and the disease was communicated to a number of cattle which had been driven over the same trail.

Drs. Melvin and Mohler, in recounting the history of foot-and-mouth disease in the U.S., state that this outbreak was “comparatively insignificant . . . and restricted to only a few herds, so that the dissemination of the virus was quite easily controlled.” This experience, however, did result in the adoption of more stringent regulations and was the last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease to result from the importation of diseased animals.

For the first time in the history of the Association, the annual meeting was held outside of Boston or New York — at the Grand Hotel, Cincinnati. J. H. Detmers — newly elected a member — moved that the



Scene in Cincinnati a short time prior to the USVMA meeting there in 1884, first "western" meeting of the Association. Contemporary print

American Veterinary Review be made the official organ of the Association, but:

secretary C. B. Michener strongly condemned any such action on the part of the Association, and held it to be unwise to make any journal the official organ of an association that knows no special school or set of men. . . . This sentiment was heartily endorsed, and Dr. Detmers cheerfully withdrew his motion.

At this time, of course, the *Review* was closely identified with the American Veterinary College.

Dr. Liautard urged "that veterinarians be compelled to report all cases of contagious diseases," but Detmers objected: "unless the State first recognized the veterinary surgeons." Liautard then offered a resolution — which was carried — that the USVMA:

suggest the obligation on the part of veterinarians and veterinary practitioners to report to

the proper authorities every and any case of contagious disease he may meet in his practice, in the same manner as the human practitioner is obliged to do so in his specialty, under the liability of penalty for punishable offenses.

A committee consisting of Drs. Hoskins (A.V.C.), Howe (Toronto), and Bryden (Montreal) was appointed:

to confer with the faculties of the veterinary colleges and schools of North America as to their willingness for a convention of the same, to discuss the advisability of adopting a mutual standard of excellence on examination.

The officers of the previous year were re-elected, except that L. H. Howard of Boston was made vice president. About the only concession to "western" veterinarians was the enlargement of the Board of Censors from five to seven — to include John Meyer, Sr., of Cincinnati and W. J. Crowley of St. Louis. The secretary's salary was increased from \$20 to \$50 a year.

In a paper entitled "What we have been — What we may become," D. J. Dixon notes the failure of the Association to double its original membership of forty in twenty years:

in the face of more than a thousand practitioners in the country at the present time. . . . [This] gives ground for the charge that has sometimes been advanced, viz: that while the institution was respectable, and contained many leaders of the profession in this country, it is lethargic and approaching decline.

One solution, he suggests, would be to create eastern and western divisions, each with its own corps of officers, and the USVMA as a "central society," which would call "congresses of the profession" at stated intervals. Perhaps in the knowledge that a competitive society was being talked about, this plan created some interest and a committee was appointed to investigate its possibilities. Nothing, however, seems to have been issued in the way of a report on the matter.

1885

The meetings for 1885 were again held in Boston and at the American Veterinary College. The proposal made at Cincinnati for eastern and western divisions of the USVMA was discussed but any action was held in abeyance. The matter of "time wasted at many of our meetings over trivial points, and also the disposition of some members to occupy the floor to the exclusion of many others," was decided in favor of "short speeches from all members." Later the constitution stipulated a limit of ten minutes for discussion of a point by an individual member.

Frank S. Billings presented a discussion and demonstrated pathological lesions of pneumonia and pleuropneumonia, a number of his contentions being contested by Drs. McLean and Liautard. Dr. Liautard supplemented the prize of \$50 offered by the Association for the best paper presented with the offer of a gold medal. In so doing he expressed hope that the "usual" report of the Prize Committee: "no paper; no

prize; no report," would not be repeated. A committee was appointed to petition for better recognition of Army veterinarians. Among the subjects discussed were intratracheal and intravenous medication, polyuria, castration, euthanasia, nymphomania, tuberculosis, and azoturia. H. T. Yokura of Japan, an A.V.C. graduate, was made a member.

Charles Burden was honored on his retirement as treasurer of the Association, which position he had held for sixteen years. This record for continuous tenure in an elected office was not surpassed until 1935 when M. Jacob completed his seventeenth year as treasurer. The new slate of officers included: president, Lachlan McLean; vice president, J. B. Cosgrove; secretary, C. B. Michener; and treasurer, J. L. Robertson.

In commenting on the east-west schism, Dr. Liautard editorialized in reference to the Cincinnati meeting:

The change in the plan of meeting has no doubt produced amongst veterinarians of the West a more harmonious feeling toward their brother practitioners of the East than before existed, and it is to be hoped that this fraternal sentiment will be strengthened at the coming [New York] meeting. From letters that have reached us we derive abundant evidence that the division that existed on account of the formation of a new so-called "National" body is likely to subside.

However, following the meeting in New York, where "a very harmonious and friendly feeling prevailed," Liautard observed: "Whether it was a great success may be a question difficult to answer. . . . This meeting . . . was just like preceding ones."

At the meeting, several papers offered by the Committee on Diseases "were, by vote, ordered to be published," i.e., apparently they were not read at the meeting. This action evoked a strong letter from James D. Hopkins, Territorial Veterinarian for Wyoming:

I am deeply mortified at the apathy displayed by the Association at the last annual meeting, as well as the lack of interest of vet-

erinarians, in regard to . . . the necessity of wholesome sanitary laws and their enforcement for the protection of domestic animals. . . . You can imagine my surprise to know that the Association adjourned without reference to any question whereby the profession might have benefitted, or the public served through a discussion of the sanitary condition of its domestic animals.

L. McLean

Lachlan McLean, M.R.C.V.S., thirteenth president of the USVMA (1885–1886), graduated from the Edinburgh Veterinary College in 1854 and qualified as a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1880. After practicing in Scotland for a time, he came to Canada in the employ of the British Government. Later, he moved to the States, and in 1866 founded the Brooklyn Veterinary Hospital, where he practiced until 1914. At this time the hospital was not only the oldest in continuous operation in the United States, but during McLean's 48-year tenure he kept it open 24 hours a day and was reputed to have never refused a call.

In 1879 he was appointed a special Veterinary Inspector on the Board of Health of Brooklyn, apparently the first such appointment in the country. His efforts in this post were rewarded two-fold, for in 1884 the post of Veterinary and Food Inspector was created, along with the position of Assistant Inspector—which was filled by his son Roderick after a competitive examination conducted by Dr. Liautard and four physicians. The elder McLean outlived his son, with whom he also practiced, by twenty-five years, and died at the ripe old age of 94 about 1920.

Concerning his work, he urged in 1885:

The practice of some Boards of Health, in employing medical men to do the work of the veterinary sanitarian, is not creditable to either profession. . . . Let our profession so advance that we will be considered an indispensable part of every well organized department of health, for not alone local but also national interests depend upon the vigilance and painstaking of the qualified veterinary sanitarian.

1886

Although a quorum was present for the semiannual meeting for 1886 in Boston, it was discovered that proper notification had not been made, and thus while technically there was no meeting, the day was spent in the presentation of cases and papers. The annual meeting was held at the Rossmore Hotel in New York, where about forty members from six states were present. Dr. Liautard, upon whose invitation (or insistence?) the meetings had been held at the American Veterinary College in late years, expressed surprise that:

this selection was made in preference to one of the numerous appropriate halls, where similar scientific bodies are accustomed to find accommodations. . . . Why a room was not engaged in the Academy of Medicine . . . or why the lecture rooms of one of the two veterinary colleges of this city were overlooked is not very clear to the minds of all the members. . . . In any case it proved to be a fairly interesting meeting . . . very much like its last predecessor, the time being almost wholly occupied in discussing the business of the Association.

Seventeen new members were admitted, including W. H. Lowe, a future president of the Association. It was voted to appropriate \$100 toward erecting a monument in honor of Henri Bouley, the late eminent French veterinarian. The Committee on Education was empowered to spend up to \$150 for its work; and a \$50 prize was awarded for an essay by Tait Butler. At this time the treasury of the Association contained about \$700.

Dr. McLean, on retiring from the chair "regretted that individual members took so little interest in the welfare of the Association, and did so little to advance the profession." On this matter, it is of some interest to note the situation which developed over the awarding of the prize to Dr. Butler, this supposedly being a function of the Prize Committee. Although the two contending papers had earlier been published anonymously in the *Review*, it was decided to have them read at the meeting: "as the committee . . . not to be out of

the fashion . . . had failed to report, and . . . a number of the members present had not read the articles." After voting on the papers and finding the winning one to be by Tait Butler:

a rather unpleasant surprise was experienced by a portion of the members when the fact was learned that the successful essayist was not an American but a Canadian graduate, nor a member of the Association. There was, however, no alternative — the situation must be accepted.

Fortunately, the rules governing the prize stipulated only that the essayist be a veterinarian, for Butler's paper on "Parturient Apoplexy" was a masterpiece. And it may be surmised that this incident helped lead to a fuller appreciation of the interdependence of the veterinary professions of Canada and the United States. In his paper, Dr. Butler notes: "There is perhaps no disease to which bovine flesh is heir concerning the etiology and pathology of which there is less definite knowledge and greater diversity of opinion." And in presenting an effective rebuttal to the theory of F. S. Billings contending that milk fever in cattle is identical with parturient eclampsia in women, he observes:

the wholesale system of adoption [of human medical theories] practised by many writers on veterinary medicine has led to grave and unpardonable errors, and has been chiefly instrumental in bringing about a lack of independence of thought and original investigation.

It is perhaps not too invidious to note that while Butler, who had graduated from the Ontario school only a year before, later became president of the AVMA, Billings was shortly expelled from membership for, among other things, voicing his untenable opinions in an unbecoming manner.

Dr. Liautard, who had served as president of the Association in 1875–1877, was again elected to this office. Wm. Zuill was elected vice president, and Drs. Robertson and Michener re-elected treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Just what the geographical distribution

of the full membership of the USVMA — still under the hundred mark — might have been at this time would be difficult to determine. The listing of forty-one officers and committee members (duplications excluded), however, does offer some suggestion. New York with ten and Massachusetts with five still dominated the field. Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Ohio had three each; New Jersey and Illinois two each; and there was one each from Maine, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C., Rhode Island, Alabama, South Carolina, Indiana, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming Territory.

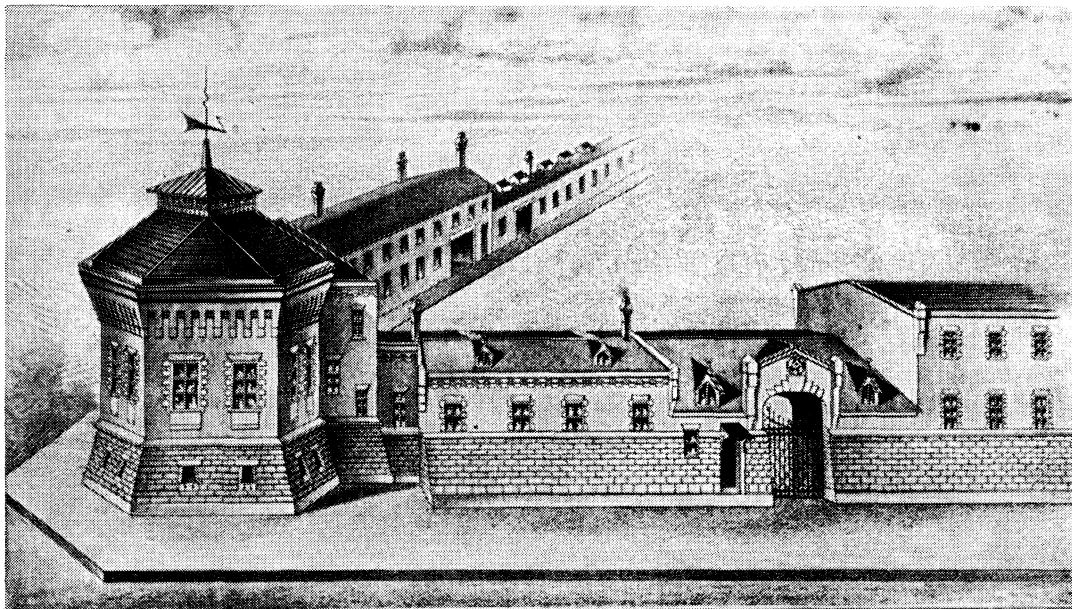
The degrees held by this group are of some interest: twenty-five had the D.V.S. and thus were mostly AVC graduates, four having an M. D. as well; ten had a V.S., two with an M.D. also; six were British graduates (M.R.C.V.S.), one of whom (C. P. Lyman) was a Fellow of the Royal College. Liautard was a French graduate; no nongraduates appear to have held office or committee assignments.

1887

By comparison with most of the semi-annual meetings, that for 1887 held at the Veterinary Department of the University of Pennsylvania was a beehive of activity. The question of admitting nongraduates to membership was discussed; at the annual meeting it was decided thereafter to admit "only graduates from professional schools." The Association also voted unanimously to recommend a uniform matriculation examination, a minimum of three college terms of six months each, and a common examining board for all graduates. Thomas Bland, the last nongraduate to be admitted (1887), died in 1933.

In response to a discussion of the pleuropneumonia problem by D. E. Salmon, it was noted:

most of the members expressed their belief in the mediate [i.e., indirect] contagiousness of contagious pleuropneumonia, and all condemned inoculation so long as the *possibility*



Architect's drawing of original building housing the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 1884. University of Pennsylvania Bulletin

of extermination of this disease exists by means of slaughter of diseased and exposed animals.

Resolutions to this effect were passed, as was one commending the work of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

On the subject of bovine tuberculosis, it was resolved:

That the attention of all Boards of Health throughout the country be called to the necessity of a rigid and competent inspection of all milk dairies and slaughterhouses. . . . [and] That all Boards of Health should have attached to their staff qualified veterinarians to carry on such inspection.

Drs. Huidekoper, Winchester, and Salmon were deputized "to publish this action of the Association in circular form and send it to the different Boards of Health of each State and Territory."

At the annual meeting held at the American Veterinary College, the Committee on Diseases reported on the prevalence of chicken cholera, hog cholera, rabies, anthrax, glanders and farcy, tuberculosis, pleuropneumonia, and cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Elected as the new slate of officers were:

president, R. S. Huidekoper; vice president, J. C. Meyer, Jr.; secretary, C. B. Michener; and treasurer, J. L. Robertson. Among new members admitted were Tait Butler and D. E. Salmon.

In editorial comment upon the Philadelphia meeting, Dr. Liautard observed that it:

varied from the custom of former meetings in proving to be an interesting and highly profitable meeting. . . . The good that such gatherings might always accomplish . . . if the membership could but be brought to realize their duty to each other and to the community, are well illustrated by this meeting and its results.

Regarding the proposal to admit only graduates:

The time has fully come when the Association should make an effort to establish itself as the representative of the *regular* profession, and abolish the custom of begging for membership, which has already too long prevailed.

Contrariwise, Liautard realistically criticized the bill presented by the Committee on Army Legislation which urged the rank of Colonel for a veterinarian as "a project

which can hardly hope to command success."

At the annual meeting, however:

Nothing, absolutely nothing, was done. . . . The committees . . . failed to report anything of value . . . and after an unprofitable and insignificant discussion on the nature of cerebro-spinal meningitis the meeting adjourned.

Much of the time, apparently, had been taken up with what terminated in "an unconstitutional vote" to accept a prize essay which had been rejected by the Committee on Prizes. Earlier, Liautard had suggested that failure of the Association to discharge its obligations might be charged to the officers. As its president for the year just past, how much blame for the 1887 meeting he accepts for himself he does not intimate.

Choleric Controversy

The great hog cholera controversy between Salmon and Billings was raging at this time. In 1887, the *Review* purported to publish "communications on the subject . . . from the pens of Dr. Billings [70 pages] and Dr. Salmon [4 pages]." And while Liautard deplored "the feelings of hostility which have been generated," he perhaps was smarting a little over Salmon's reproving him for stating that *rouget* (hemorrhagic septicemia) and hog cholera were identical, and that the means existed for preventing both by inoculation.

On the basis of six months' work, Billings had declared hog cholera "was not contagious . . . [but] was a local disease," and asserted, "The time will surely come when either Salmon or I will have to take a back seat . . . and the world will know who is right, honest, and consistent." Liautard, whose espousal of Billings' cause was already tending to damage confidence of the profession in the work of Salmon and the BAI, avers: "Dr. B. does good work, and deserves well for his labors on behalf of the profession." But concerning Billings' "diffuse and bombastic writings," Salmon observes:

they are the product of a disordered brain. If the editorials of the *Review* are based upon such literature. . . . I must occasionally interpose with a mild objection.

Time has proved who was "right, honest, and consistent."

F. S. Billings

Frank S. Billings, long the gadfly of the American veterinary profession, was born in Massachusetts in 1844, and obtained his veterinary degree with honors at Berlin in 1878. He was well known here through his frequently caustic contributions to the *American Veterinary Review* before joining the USVMA in 1880. Associated with the American, Chicago, and McGill schools at various times, he achieved his greatest notice and notoriety while at the University of Nebraska, where he claimed to have found the infective agents of hog cholera and Texas fever. In announcing his untenable claims, he vehemently disputed the classic work of the BAI, and forced Dr. Salmon into an extended and needless defense of the Bureau.

In 1890 Billings was expelled from the USVMA for his ungentlemanly attacks upon the veterinary profession in general and Dr. Salmon in particular. He retired to practice in his native Massachusetts in 1892, but continued his warfare with the BAI and the USVMA, practically until his death in 1912. An outspoken advocate of veterinary participation in public health matters, his activities in this area are considered under this heading.

SILVER JUBILEE

Following on the heels of the highly successful meeting in Philadelphia, the semi-annual meeting for 1888 in Baltimore was adjudged "the best and most fruitful in useful results of all that have hitherto been held." Evidently this set the stage for making the Association more truly representative of the veterinary profession by moving the meetings from place to place. At least beginning with the Philadelphia meeting, no two consecutive conventions have been

held in the same city (except in 1945 when a business meeting only was held in Chicago following the regular meeting there in 1944).

The Baltimore meeting was highlighted by two papers from D. E. Salmon; one on "Hog Cholera" reviewed the work of the Bureau, which, despite the inadequate evidence adduced to that time, had produced several truths which still stand: "that hog cholera was a distinct and very different disease from *rouget*" (hemorrhagic septicemia); the lesions of hog cholera were faithfully described; and hog cholera "is a strictly contagious disease." And regarding Billings' contention on the latter to the contrary, Salmon states, "such as assertion is supremely ridiculous and shows a lamentable ignorance of the modern classification of disease."

In his paper on "Mediate Contagion in Pleuro-pneumonia," Salmon explodes the theory that the disease could be propagated only by direct contact of infected animals, and charges:

The propagation of these erratic views, which under no circumstances can make the measures adopted against pleuro-pneumonia more thorough or hasten the time when the disease will be eradicated, have done much to cause distrust of veterinary counsel and to impede the progress of the work.

A. W. Clement, later USVMA president and State Veterinarian of Maryland, also spoke on this disease.

At the annual meeting in New York, the subject of tuberculosis received considerable attention, with Dr. Zuill, chairman of the Committee on Diseases, referring "very forcibly to the dire need of legislative action relative to the checking of the progress of [this] disease." Drs. Liautard, McLean, and Clements were named:

to draft a series of resolutions, relative to the rapid increase, the dangers from ingestion of meat and milk from tuberculous animals; [and] the need of properly qualified veterinarians, as inspectors of dairies, markets and slaughter houses.

These resolutions were to be sent to the Medical Congress in session at Washing-

ton, D.C., and to all state and national boards of health. Also noted was "the dangerous extent of glanders and farcy in certain localities, particularly parts of Pennsylvania."

Concerning the meeting, Liautard states:

The meeting of 1888 was remarkable for its quietness, its somnolence — in fact, the torpid condition which seemed to prevail. . . . But three members were present of the number of those whose names had been signed on the roll of 1863. . . . The most important action of the meeting was, we believe, the disposition made of the suggestions of Drs. L. McLean and Liautard, to delegate a committee to the meeting of the American Medical Association in order to call the attention of that body to the prevalence of tuberculosis in the United States, and to suggest means of guarding against its dangers.

Dr. Huidekoper was re-elected president, and Dr. Robertson, treasurer; C. B. Michener retired as secretary and was succeeded by W. Horace Hoskins; D. J. Dixon was made vice president. The matter of ethics appears to have become a live issue; two members were expelled "for violations of the Code of Ethics," and two men were refused admission "on the grounds of unprofessional conduct."

R. S. Huidekoper

Rush Shippen Huidekoper, M.D., V.S., was born at Meadville, Pennsylvania, May 3, 1854. He graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1877, whereupon he engaged in medical practice. In 1881 he studied veterinary medicine at Alfort, France, and worked in the laboratories of Virchow, Koch, Chaveau, and Pasteur. A descendent of Benjamin Rush, who in 1806 had urged the establishment of a veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Huidekoper became the founder of this school in 1884 and served as its dean for five years. In 1889 he moved to New York and served on the faculties of the American Veterinary College and the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons.

During the War with Spain, he served as Chief Surgeon of the First Army Corps —

as a result of which he was abused by the press as a "horse doctor." Afterward he was active in promoting better recognition of the military veterinary service. Of especial significance is the report that he spent many thousands of dollars of his private fortune in promoting legislation for the improvement of the Army veterinary service. It is a matter of record that shortly before his death he not only personally enlisted the support of many army officers, but at his urging, some 6,000 veterinarians wrote their congressmen! The result of this was that a bill calling for commissioned rank passed the House despite disapproval of the administration and the Committee on Military Affairs. Except for an untimely insistence on a separate Veterinary Corps — vigorously opposed by the War Department — it is practically certain that the bill would have passed the Senate. This was a high point in a long struggle for recognition of the Army veterinarian; with the death of Dr. Huidekoper before the next session of Congress, sentiment in favor of improved status was reversed.

Twice elected and re-elected to the presidency of the USVMA (1887–1889, 1890–1892), Dr. Huidekoper was the only man to be so honored. A man of independent means, he taught and served the veterinary profession for the sheer love of it; he is credited with originating laboratory and practical instruction for veterinary students in the U.S. The author of two books and numerous articles, he also served as editor (and picked up the deficit) of the *Journal of Comparative Medicine and Surgery* from 1886 to 1901. He died in Philadelphia on December 17, 1901 following an attack of pneumonia.

W. H. Hoskins relates an incident characteristic of the rich sense of humor displayed by his friend Huidekoper, whose famous mare, Pandora, was not allowed to come to an ignominious end at the rendering plant:

Almost as famous in death as she had been in life, there will ever remain the oft-told story of how he entertained his friends at a sumptu-

ous feast at the famous Philadelphia Club. It was known as the Pandora dinner, and given in her honor to many of those who had rejoiced with him at her many triumphs. After the dinner had been served, and the cigars and coffee reached, he told his guests of the several courses in the feast, where the tenderloin and giblets of Pandora's flesh had been so skillfully and tastefully prepared. It was always a source of regret on his part that a flash light picture could not have been taken of the faces of his guests when they realized that they had dined on horse meat.

1889

At the semiannual meeting for 1889, the last to be held in that favorite mecca, Young's Hotel in Boston, it was recommended — and adopted at the annual meeting "that this Association shall hereafter hold only one meeting yearly." Tuberculosis was the major subject for discussion, with Dr. Liautard calling for:

some means of arousing public sentiment to the importance and grave dangers of this disease. . . . Veterinarians should in their States and respective localities use more freely the channels of the public press, to aid them in at least limiting its progress, and lessening its evils.

Lachlan McLean suggested:

If the milk cans from some of the herds infected with tuberculosis were labelled "consumption at eight cents a quart," it would not be putting it too strong, and would probably arouse the people from their state of lethargy.

Concerning a paper by Dr. Liautard on "Recording Clinical Observations," Secretary Hoskins observes:

The advice and suggestions it contained were fraught with great value to the coming generation of veterinarians, if followed by the present, in building up through the channels of records of clinical cases, a literature for the veterinary world that would broaden and increase its value to an inestimable extent.

At the annual meeting in Brooklyn, the forty new members admitted exceeded the attendance of current members. Undoubtedly the most significant matter acted upon was the adoption of a completely revised

constitution which had been in preparation for some time. A contemporary analysis indicates:

It has placed stronger safeguards around its future list of members, and laid a just responsibility on each of its members' introducing for consideration new candidates for membership. It has changed its meetings from two to one, this . . . to last two or more days, and no step in its history ever promised greater benefit. . . . It means better papers, better reports; for the members will be guaranteed a fuller hearing and more deliberate enforcement of plans suggested for the general good of the profession. It promises a wise stimulus for different sections of the United States to compete for its meetings, and this means a greater membership and a more diffuse interest in its work throughout our whole country.

The Board of Censors was made appointive rather than elective as it had been.

Not only would it seem that much of the impetus for a revised constitution had come from President Huidekoper, but, along with Drs. Lyman and Robertson, he was charged with:

the organization of a central legalized body, [which] may prove one of the means of making future meetings of our Association the source of all national movements and work of the profession.

And upon his relinquishing the presidency of the Association, it was said of Dr. Huidekoper: "He leaves its affairs better than he found them." Undoubtedly it was in recognition of this fact that he was later accorded this honor for a second — and unprecedented — two-year term.

Charles B. Michener was elected president, and A. W. Clement vice president, with Drs. Hoskins and Robertson being re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The Quarter Century

In his address as outgoing president, Dr. Huidekoper reviewed the first twenty-five years' work of the USVMA. Although he

notes, "it is to be regretted that we have not a record of many of the transactions," his paper is perhaps the sole remaining readily available source for certain facts pertaining to the early history of the Association. He notes:

Some meetings were replete with papers . . . other meetings . . . have been devoid of any public interest. . . . For the future . . . we should take more accurate notes of cases and prepare papers and present them here. . . . The improvement of the education of our successors is a serious duty we have to perform. . . . The improvement of the position of our colleagues in the army offers a subject of national importance in which we all must aid. . . . We have a great deal to accomplish, but it can be done if we work together and are industrious.

Dr. Hoskins' summary of Huidekoper's address is fairly pointed:

He did not believe that the work of representing the profession in the United States had been as fully performed as the responsibility demanded, neither did he think that the field had been properly covered or the national question of importance to the veterinary world so handled as to make the Association a force and power in the country. His resume bristled with just criticism, and its study and consideration by each member should be weighed, and better results will be brought forth in the next quarter of a century.

If we look at the reverse side of the coin for positive achievements of the USVMA, admittedly these are few up to this point. Perhaps of primary significance is the fact that the organization had survived to celebrate its silver anniversary. It had made its stand on a number of national issues, including the need for a national veterinary sanitary bureau, improved status for the army veterinarian, and higher standards for veterinary education. The *American Veterinary Review*, although it had since passed into private ownership, undoubtedly was its most substantial contribution to the veterinary profession in terms of concrete accomplishment.