

The Importance of Veterinary Science in Our College Course.

In our College course of study we have laid down for us what is considered the very best for the purpose to be attained. Development and practical knowledge are the watch-words and go hand in hand.

The knowledge we obtain is of that broad general character that can be applied to the arts and sciences, relating especially to Agriculture. It is upon this basis that we have an institution like the Kansas State Agricultural College, fostered by the State and the United States.

The course of study is so planned that the student receives a gradual development. One study preceding and paving the way for its successor—each receiving its due proportion of time, which will depend largely upon the nature and importance of the subject.

But we live in a progressive age, and we are a progressive people. Time changes

our wants - that which was primary is now secondary. What might have been pronounced good a year ago, to day is found wanting.

So we find it in our college course of study. We have been laying great stress on the history of the different kinds of farm animals and what is the most suitable for certain purposes, without giving a corresponding importance to the science which pertains to their preservation.

We raise large herds of valuable cattle, sheep, or swine - perhaps we invest our last dollar in some valuable horse; an epidemic breaks out in our herd, or flock, or some minor ailment carries away horse. This loss in the one case might have been prevented by sanitary precaution, and in the other by knowing what to do for a sick dumb brute at the right moment.

We have all stood helplessly by and watched some poor animal's life pass away. We were unable to answer the mute appeal from the up turned eye, for some simple relief.

It is for these reasons that we

should receive more instruction in Veterinary Science. We do not mean by this that our college should turn out veterinarians. But we should receive such instruction in this particular line as the times demand.

At present we receive about forty five lectures in Veterinary science in our college course. It requires only a moments reflection to see this is not near the time that should be given in our course of study to a subject of so much importance.

Veterinary science should constitute one of our studies during one whole college year. We should have a laboratory in which we could do dissecting in connection with the lectures we receive.

Dissecting rooms are almost indispensable. We ought to be able to locate and see for ourselves just where the different internal organs are located. We could never hope to treat internal ailments successfully without this.

What we are suffering from now is the lack of a general information through out the country, of the common ailments and a

remedy for them among our dumb animals

Good Veterinarians are not always to be had. The country is flooded with men that call themselves "horse doctors", that fire blister, bleed, cut, druck, and dose, regardless of pain, torture, deformity and death that may follow. It is these "horse doctors" that have to be patronized by the farmers. Or else he must do still worse take the in hand and do his own doctoring from which nine times out of ten the animal dies. This may seem like an exaggeration, but I venture good veterinarians will testify to the fact that in their practice the cases they have found where the animal has died, on close enquiry will reveal the fact that the treatment administered for the ailment would kill the healthiest animal that ever lived. As an illustration I will cite a case or two of which we are all more or less familiar, viz; the so called "hooks in the eyes". Quack "horse doctors" say cut out the "hooks" for treatment. These so called "hooks" are the ~~membrane~~ membrane covering of the eye and are one of the sure symptoms of lock jaw. Another equally fallacious treatment

is the drenching of a horse through the nose in order to make him swallow. The nostrils being a direct passage to the lungs, unless the medicine is very mild, death is sure to follow.

Now, if the Agricultural colleges would turn out graduates possessing the knowledge they should have Veterinary science, "quack" "horse doctors" would soon be a thing of the past. Thousands of dollars would be saved annually that would otherwise be losses.

The graduates would not be Veterinarians by any means, but they would have a good general knowledge of the subject. This would naturally be disseminated through out the country. Farmers would see the practical results derived there from, and it would lead them to seek new light on a subject that has been neglected so long.

By reading on the subject they would find many new facts. They would not only learn how to treat common diseases among farm animals, but would also

learn the value of taking sanitary precautions against disease. With our live stock largely increasing the latter will soon be a necessity. And with a better knowledge of the ills and ails of our dumb animals they will be subject to less cruelty.

This is only what the future will demand. The sooner we are alive to the fact the better it will be for us from a pecuniary stand point. The better it will be for the humane treatment of our domestic animals.