1963

Alumni News

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The practice of veterinary medicine has become a complex and diversified professional field since the early days of its origin. Yet two of its early divisions, that of private practice and federal regulatory medicine still compose the greatest number of practicing Veterinarians in the United States.

Changes in the field of private practice and Federal regulatory medicine can be well told through the experiences of Iowa's oldest practicing veterinarian, Dr. W. H. Hurst of Sheldon, Iowa. Dr. Hurst has been in the field of Veterinary Medicine for sixty-two years. Dr. Hurst made this claim: "I claim no superiority only that I have tried to follow the game longer than many others doing such work." His comments and his experiences are in the following résumé.

Dr. W. H. Hurst was raised on a farm known as the Rockwood Farm (later owned by Prof. Curtiss, former Dean of Agriculture and Livestock division of Iowa State College). This farm is located one-half mile west and three-quarters of a mile south of the college dairy farm. He milked eight cows morning and evening for his board and walked to school.

Dr. Hurst registered in the veterinary division of the now Iowa State University in the Spring of 1899. His class was the first to go through in the four year course. There were only two qualified veterinarians in the department, Dr. Stalker and Dr. Repp. Both doctors were very efficient and knew their subjects perfectly. Dr. Stalker was in great demand as a lecturer; there was never a dull moment in his classroom.

There were eighteen members in Dr. Hurst's class, the largest they had ever had in the Veterinary department. They completed their work on June 2, 1902. After graduation Dr. Hurst and his classmates scattered to the four winds, some in general practice, some to the army, and others to Federal B. A. I. meat inspection. He took the latter.

Dr. Hurst took the civil service exam in October in Des Moines and was assigned to Kansas City, January 1, 1903. The high water put all the packing plants out of business in June (water thirty feet deep in the Union Stock Yards) and he was transferred to Salt Lake City. Col. Hickock was in charge of field and quarantine work there. He was a Civil War veteran, knew nothing about animal diseases, but was a good executive. Col. Hickock had eight men on his force and they
have all passed the dead line some years ago excepting Dr. Hurst.

In the Fall of 1903 Dr. Hurst was transferred to Chadron, Nebraska, where he remained until September, 1917. While at Chadron, Dr. Hurst had various assignments, the first being sheep scab eradication in Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Fifty percent of the sheep in Wyoming had scab and Dr. Hurst can remember the time when you could buy them for fifty cents per head. It took just three years to clean it up. Rigid enforcement of quarantine and careful and efficient dipping did the job. They always dipped the sheep three times, ten to twelve days apart. In Dr. Hurst's opinion the eradication of sheep scab is no layman's job.

During the sheep scab clean up he did some dourine inspection of the horses on the Indian reservations. Following this work he was assigned to two outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, one in Pennsylvania in 1908 and one in Michigan in 1914. From here he went back to Chadron, Nebraska to work on cattle scab eradication. This was really a rough job due to the problems of rounding up all the cattle. At one ranch he dipped the cattle (1000 head) nine times before he got the majority of them.

Dr. Hurst's next assignment at Lusk, Wyoming involved cleaning up an outbreak of anthrax. About seven hundred head of range cattle had died during July, August, and September in an open range territory twenty-five miles wide and fifty miles long. He had the cowboys locate the dead animals and would then send a gang out to burn the green carcasses with sage brush and kerosene. Dr. Hurst feels that they got the job done fairly well as there has not been an outbreak reported since.

In September, 1917 Dr. Hurst was transferred to Federal Meat Inspection in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This job lasted one year and he feels it was one of the nicest jobs he had while in the Federal Service. From this experience in meat inspection, Dr. Hurst feels that a young veterinarian would be making no mistake in taking up meat inspection for a year or two as it is wonderful experience that you can get nowhere else.

In September, 1918 he was transferred to Dr. J. S. Koen's force at Des Moines and from there assigned to Sheldon, Iowa. Here it was Dr. Hurst's duty to inspect, post, quarantine, and see about the disposal of hogs dead from cholera.

In March, 1920 Dr. Hurst resigned from the Bureau of Animal Industry and joined in the general practice of veterinary medicine with Dr. L. U. Shipley at Sheldon, Iowa. Dr. Shipley was a graduate of the Chicago Veterinary College of the year 1892. Dr. Shipley was a prominent veterinarian in northwest Iowa, well known for his "original" castration work. He passed away in 1938.

Since then Dr. Hurst has had some very good years and some not so good. In the last several years the (his) large animal practice has fallen by the wayside, the equine practice is practically over with, the dairy herds are few, and the hog cholera vaccination is very limited and will soon be over with. At this time Dr. Hurst feels he is nearing the end of the trail, but we are sure he can look back on a life full of accomplishments that have aided in the eradication of disease and contributed greatly to the profession.

**HOMECOMING 1964**

The Iowa State University Veterinary Medicine Alumni Homecoming Luncheon will be held in the courtyard of the Veterinary Quadrangle, Saturday, October 17, 1964. The luncheon will begin at 11:00 a.m. Tickets for the I.S.U. vs. Colorado football game and the homecoming luncheon are available from the homecoming committee. I.S.U. mums will be available at the door.

Picnic lunches, each $1.50 (Send check to Jr. A.V.M.A.)
Football seats, each $4.00 (Send check to Jr. A.V.M.A.)
Football seats, each $1.00 (Varsity I Men)

Please send requests for tickets Dennis Elsberry, Homecoming Committee Ticket Chairman, College of Veterinary Medicine, I.S.U., Ames, Iowa.
Hog Cholera Vaccine

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High antigenicity
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Used and tested by veterinarians in all sections of the United States.
Conference

The Annual Conference of Veterinarians will be held June 3 and 4 at the Memorial Union on the Iowa State University campus. The Conference papers will be presented by members of the staff of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Topics to be presented are:

The Contribution of Biomedical Engineering to Veterinary Medicine—Neil F. Cholvin
Recent Developments in Rumen Physiology that are Related to Bloat, Acute Indigestion, and Milk Flavor—Robert W. Dougherty
Governors Study Committee on Rabies—John B. Herrick
Progress Report on the Hog Cholera Eradication Program—Maynard L. Spear
Intra-state Meat Inspection—Ralph W. Mohri
Swine Lungworms in Iowa—John H. Greve
Bovine Encephalidies—J. Robert Duncan
Mycobacteria Isolated from Cattle—Wayne D. Yoder
Fungal Diseases—Allen C. Pier
Current Ideas on Enterotoxemia in Swine—John R. Anderson
Equine General Anesthesia—Victor S. Myers, Jr.
Practical Procedures in Veterinary Ophthalmology—Samuel J. Vainisi
A New Look at Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis—John B. Gratzek

Conference

The 27th annual Midwest Small Animal Association meeting will be held at the Hotel Burlington, Burlington, Iowa, November 11–12, 1964.

THE GENTLE DOCTOR

"The Gentle Doctor", a statue in the courtyard of the Veterinary Quadrangle at Iowa State, is a sculptural work honoring the veterinary profession. The distinctive statue, created by Christian Petersen, depicts an injured puppy in the arms of a veterinarian. The mother dog sits at the feet of the doctor.

A fifteen inch replica, suitable for office or home, is available through the ISU Veterinary College. The statue is available at the Veterinary Clinic at a cost of ten dollars. When ordered by mail, the cost is twelve dollars and fifty cents. Inquiries may be addressed to:

Carroll Gustafson
ISU Veterinary Clinic
Ames, Iowa

Iowa State University Veterinarian