

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

The majority of veterinarians in Canada and the United States are only vaguely aware of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Yet this body has played a leading role in giving the profession its present standing. It should be understood that the "Royal College" is not a teaching institution



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as it's name might suggest; rather it is a corporate body of veterinarians having the broad objective of binding veterinarians of the United Kingdom into an organization to improve their efficiency and thereby increase their ability to serve the interests of the country.

Soon after the establishment of the first veterinary school in England—the first in the English speaking world—the profession fell upon evil days. Standards were lowered and the whole general tenor of training became undesirable. Many were added to the ranks of graduates who should not have gained entrance. As a result neither in training nor in standing did veterinary medicine command the respect of the public. The agency that was to give the greatest help to elevate veterinary medicine out of this morass was the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

This body was formed in 1844 and by Act of Parliament empowered with certain powers and responsibilities among them being the raising of standards. This desirable objective was not approved by all. However, progress was gradually made. Looking backwards it is now clear that the great value of the "Royal College" and its contribution to an elevated standard was not confined to the United Kingdom but served as an example to other parts of the English speaking world.

For a time many veterinarians have felt that a closer liaison between the "Royal College" and veterinary organizations in English speaking countries is desirable. A commencement was made this year when Dr. S. F. Schiedy, President-Elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association,

(continued overleaf)

and two representatives of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association were present at the annual meeting of the "Royal College".

They found much of interest in this old institution. The event commenced with a church service in historic Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. This served to emphasize that the profession is not founded on materialism alone but recognizes its cultural and spiritual aspects. The luncheon which followed was attended by members of the College and others including the President Elect of the A.V.M.A. who brought greetings from that organization. The Duke of Gloucester, himself an Honorary Associate of the College, was principal speaker.

During the International Congress in Madrid five internationally distinguished veterinarians* were honored by the Royal College. At the general meeting several additional marks of honor were given, one in particular which met most enthusiastic applause. This was conferring "Honorary Associate" on Dr. John Hammond, C.B.E., F.R.S., whose research has done so much for the veterinary profession.

Visitors were very impressed by the manner of conducting the general meeting which proved to be a model of dignity and efficiency. The result was that a great amount of work was covered in a short period of time.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons possesses a headquarters, — a property at 9 — 10 Red Lion Square in the heart of London. Made up of Committee rooms, offices and other appropriate sections it also possesses two rooms of especial interest. The library room located on the top floor houses a mass of well catalogued veterinary literature much of it of great historic value and some of it touching the very birth of the profession in England. On the second floor is the Council Chamber, a room bearing a likeness to one of our small

Legislative Assembly Chambers. The College possesses a mace and the deliberations are carried on with the decorum of parliamentary procedure.

In these uncertain times it is surely helpful for those countries based upon British foundations to cleave together not only for their own but for the interests of mankind. The field of veterinary medicine is no exception. A closer association and liaison between organizations would add strength to the profession. Each has much to contribute, each has much to receive. That the President Elect of the A.V.M.A. was a guest of the Royal College and that J. N. Ritchie, C.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.V.S., the President of the Royal College is to be a guest of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association is surely a step in the right direction. Let us hope that this is just a harbinger of things to come.

SULGRAVE MANOR

In the years to come many veterinarians from the United States will visit Great Britain. One place of great interest to them is generally overlooked.



Sulgrave Manor

For this reason the attention of our American readers is directed to Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of the Washingtons. The manor-house is located near

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