

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY RECORD



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The Australian Veterinary History Society is a Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association. All who are interested in any aspect of veterinary history may join. Annual subscription is \$15. Enquiries to the President, Dr. Trevor Faragher, 28 Parlington Street, Canterbury, Victoria 3126, Australia. Tel/Fax 61 3 9882 6412. email<faragher@netspace.net.au>

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CONTENTS

ISSN 1445-579X

From the President - An update on AVHS activities	1
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ARTICLES

<i>Early History of the Veterinary Profession in Australia</i> W T Kendall	2
<i>Max Henry DSO VD BVSc MR/CVS : A Great Australian</i>	11
<i>M & B 693 - A Historical Event in Therapeutics</i>	14
<i>Did You Know</i>	15

FROM THE PRESIDENT - An update on AVHS activities

At the AVA conference in Canberra, this society convened a day of interesting papers on veterinary history, followed by an annual general meeting and a convivial dinner. Members also traveled to the industrial suburb of Fyshwick where, neglected and deteriorating, three assets of the AVA have languished in cheap but unsuitable storage.

These are:

- o AVA Max Henry Memorial Library
- o AVA Veterinary Historical Collection
- o Archives of the AVA.

The members of the AVA Board have responsibilities as custodians to preserve and augment these valuable assets of the AVA. This society has prodded the Board to rectify the foolish decisions and actions of previous Boards, with prospects of a successful outcome. Proposals are afoot to move the Library to the veterinary school of the University of Melbourne, the Historical Collection to the new premises of the AVA in Sydney, and the Archives to an appropriate location in the University of Sydney or Melbourne. Much remains to be done but with the continuing help of the AVA CEO, Ms Margaret Conley, negotiations have advanced considerably to have the Library placed on extended loan at the Melbourne University Library. Ms Conley plans to house the Historical Collection in the new AVA premises in St Leonards and has set aside a room for that purpose. The destination of the archives is undecided. We look forward to an outcome where these irreplaceable parts of our heritage can be appreciated and will be safeguarded for all AVA members.

Members will be interested to know that historical and archival material held by the Victorian Division of the AVA has been disinterred and is on display in two glass cabinets in AVA House in Brunswick. Among the items uncovered are several handwritten minute books dating back to 1914 and several items of regalia.

The society will meet next at the AVA National Conference on the Gold Coast on Monday 16 May 2005. A full day's programme is being arranged, to be followed by the Annual General Meeting and a dinner. In contrast to previous years when we have had a programme of proffered papers, we intend for the 2005 meeting to invite different speakers to address aspects of a theme - Lessons from History. Aspects of this theme are the practice of veterinary science, veterinary research, the control of animal diseases, veterinary education, and animal welfare. Proffered papers will still be welcome. The next issue of the Record will contain full information.

Trevor Faragher
President AVHS



Dr. William Tyson Kendall DVSc, HARCVS, MRCVS, Lecturer Veterinary Medicine and Therapeutics, Melbourne University Veterinary School.

Dr. Kendall delivered this paper, "Notes on the early history of the Veterinary Profession in Victoria" nearly one hundred years ago to Section K of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, Melbourne Meeting, 1913, Vol., XIV.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION IN AUSTRALIA

In a paper delivered to Section K of a meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in Melbourne in 1913, Dr. William Tyson Kendall provided an outline of the early history of the Veterinary profession in Victoria.

Dr. Kendall noted that the establishment of a veterinary section in connection with

the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science marked a new era in the history of the profession.

Dr. Kendall confined his remarks to the time before 1908 and left the details of establishment of Government Veterinary Departments and Veterinary Schools to Professor D. Stewart who was also a speaker at the meeting.

Dr. Kendall detailed the early occupation by white people of a land in which the imported animals enjoyed a salubrious climate free from the epizootic diseases that caused devastation among flocks and herds of other countries. So long as the original natural conditions remained undisturbed, domestic animals remained immune to disease. Stock roamed freely over large areas and could choose their own food, water and shelter. At first there was no overcrowding or overstocking but as the stock continued to breed and multiply out of proportion to the limited markets, their value depreciated. Stockowners became careless about selection and mating of breeding animals allowing inferior animals of varying ages to mate leading to deterioration of the offspring.

As the human population increased there was an increase in domestication and large properties were fenced and divided into smaller areas, reducing the choices in feed and water. When drought or weather conditions changed adversely the stock population growth and its immunity to diseases was reduced and parasitic diseases became more prevalent. Scab (*Psoroptes ovis*) was introduced into Victoria in sheep from Tasmania, outbreaks of malignant catarrh occurred in New South Wales (NSW), anthrax became a problem in Campbelltown, NSW where it was known as Cumberland disease. Dr. Kendall described how an outbreak of anthrax in cattle was diagnosed as originating in bone meal imported from India as a remedy for "cripples" in cattle. Bone meal was also used as a fertilizer spread on pastures and may have been responsible for anthrax outbreaks near Warranbool, Victoria.

In 1858 contagious bovine pleuropneumonia was introduced in imported cattle to Victoria and despite being diagnosed by Henry Wragge, a veterinarian, who correctly advocated slaughter of all the cattle and their contacts, the disease was allowed to spread eventually infecting cattle throughout Australia.

In the 1870s foot-and-mouth disease was diagnosed in NSW and infected cattle were allowed to recover in quarantine in NSW and released to the owners' herds. Foot-and-mouth disease was eradicated by slaughter of animals in Victoria before spreading.

Dr. Kendall then lists a number of introduced diseases that were then considered endemic. Tuberculosis, tick fever, blackleg, white scours, epizootic abortion, ophthalmia in cattle. In sheep, footrot, braxy (braxy), caseous adenitis.

Swine fever in pigs, strangles and influenza in horses. There were indigenous diseases such as plant poisons and soils and pastures deficient in trace elements.

Kendall stated that in 1880 when he arrived in Victoria, there were no more than a dozen qualified veterinary surgeons practicing in the whole of Australia. Also there was not one veterinarian employed in Government service in any State. He noted that, "empiricism was rampant from a very early period," every shoeing forge was styled a "Veterinary Shoeing forge." Animals were cheap and easily replaced and the amount of cruelty inflicted both from commission and omission, he noted, as "lamentable".

The most familiar names among the early pioneer veterinarians were, the Stewarts and Potties in Sydney; Marson, Miscamble, Mitchell, Shaw and Vincent in Melbourne; Snowball in Ballarat; Park at Warrnambool, Rogerson at Stawell; Aked at Bendigo; Chalwin, Bickford and Horton, in Adelaide; and Irvine, in Brisbane. He mentioned there were others who practiced in different places for shorter periods and could not be considered pioneers.

As a result of the outbreaks of sheep scab that threatened the wool industry, State Governments enacted Scab Acts and appointed lay stock inspectors who carried out their duties under local authorities. Eventually sheep scab was eradicated nationally by the efforts of the stockowners and the State Governments working together.

Diseases such as contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, anthrax, bovine tuberculosis and many other endemic diseases were beyond the scientific knowledge of the stock inspectors. Kendall pointed out that not only were there heavy losses as a result of the unmanageable diseases, but there was a total absence of supervision over meat and dairy produce. He estimated twenty-five percent of cattle slaughtered for food were affected with tuberculosis while other diseases were common and there was no restriction on diseased meat going into consumption. There was no inspection of dairy herds or of milk and dairy products. Infant mortality was appalling and outbreaks of typhoid fever and other diseases were traceable to unsanitary dairies.

The development of government veterinary departments started with the appointment of Anthony Willows, MRCVS, in Sydney in 1883 who was appointed Veterinary Surgeon to the NSW Agricultural Department. Willows went to the Sudan War with the NSW contingent and died at sea on the return voyage. Edward Stanley, FRCVS was appointed in 1885 to replace Willows.

Archibald Park, MRCVS was retained by the Tasmanian Government to inspect imported stock; Thomas Chalwin, MRCVS in Adelaide; James Irving, MRCVS in Brisbane and Messrs John Vincent, MRCVS; Graham Mitchell, FRCVS, Charles Marson MRCVS and William Kendall MRCVS were approved by the Governor in

Council to inspect imported stock for Victoria. However, it was not until 1897 that a regular public appointment was made in Victoria when Samuel S. Cameron MRCVS was appointed veterinary surgeon to the Board of Public Health. In 1905 Cameron was transferred to the Agricultural Department. Veterinarians were later established in Government veterinary departments.

Kendall saw the good work that the pioneer veterinary surgeons had done as individuals, but as a body the profession was numerically weak and ineffective and did not act in unison. In order for the profession to be based on a permanent footing, Kendall envisioned two necessary conditions –

1. To overcome the ignorance and prejudice of stockowners and the general public to the aims and scope of veterinary science, and
2. To educate men for the veterinary profession who had been reared in the country and were already acquainted with the special conditions in rural areas.

The frequency and losses caused by outbreaks of diseases such as pleuropneumonia and anthrax created great alarm, as shown by the appointment of Royal Commissions to inquire into these diseases but instead of invoking the aid of the veterinary profession or even listening to the warnings and advice of veterinarians, the most irrational and absurd measures were adopted.

Kendall saw that individual efforts were producing very few results in informing the public on veterinary matters so he suggested the formation of a professional association. The first meeting was held in Menzies Hotel, Melbourne, in 1880 with Graham Mitchell FRCVS presiding and the meeting decided to form an association. Graham Mitchell was elected President, Vincent was Treasurer and Kendall was Secretary. Nearly every qualified veterinarian in Australia joined either as an ordinary or as a corresponding member and included Sir Charles McMahon MRCVS, R. Gibton LL.D., MRCVS and the Hon. John Stewart MLC, MRCVS. Monthly meetings were held and published in the daily press.

In 1882 The Australasian Veterinary Journal was started and published monthly; Mitchell, Chalwin and Kendall were co-editors. After eighteen months the Journal had to be discontinued for financial reasons. In 1891 a quarterly journal was commenced, The Veterinary and Livestock Journal, edited by W.T. Kendall, S.S. Cameron and Forbes Burn, FRHAS. After six or so copies, this journal too was discontinued although it had sold well. In 1901 a third veterinary journal, The Australasian Veterinary Journal, a quarterly edited by W.A.N. Robertson GMVC, unfortunately it too failed for lack of finances.

After these failures, the publication Farm and Home undertook to publish articles on veterinary matters under the heading of "The Veterinary Record". Eventually the

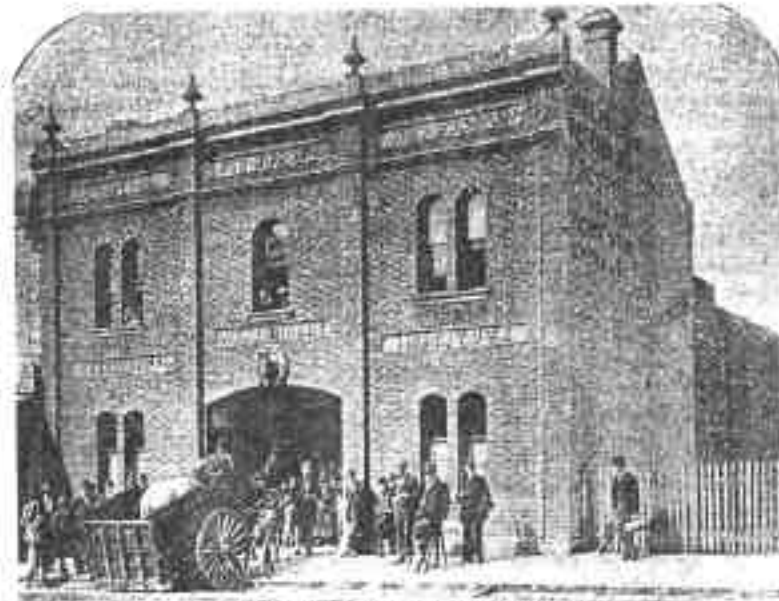
Government Agricultural Departments began to publish veterinary information.

For several years members of the profession in Victoria had been urging the Government to consider commencing a veterinary college. Graham Mitchell had advanced the cause through the Agricultural Society and interested farmer and citizen groups. W.T. Kendall joined Mitchell and together they made such a convincing case for a college that the Minister for Lands, the Hon. Walter Madden, obtained a piece of land in the Police Paddock at Richmond as a site for the Veterinary School. The site was too small and the Association hoped to exchange it for a better location. Unfortunately the residents of Richmond objected to the proposed Veterinary College in their midst, and because the land was not being used, the Government cancelled the grant. Graham Mitchell, on his own initiative, had an architect draw up plans for the proposed college. The Veterinary Association was expected to pay the account for the plans, but denied liability. Graham Mitchell was sued for the fee and costs that he paid, but this affair broke up the Association and it was many years before another association was formed.



The coat of arms designed by Bennett for the British Veterinary Association.

Hon. James Buchanan of Berwick raised the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis in slaughter cattle and dairy herds in the Victorian Parliament and a Royal Commission was appointed to enquire into the situation. A 'voluminous report' of the evidence taken was published in the press along with photographs of diseased tissues. As an outcome of this, meat inspection staff were appointed to inspect cattle at the markets and abattoirs. It was also decided to appoint a veterinary surgeon to the staff, however, there were no applicants and the appointment was not made. During the next few



The Melbourne Veterinary College 1897



Interior

years more veterinary surgeons came to Victoria and the Veterinary Association was reformed and immediately took up the need to produce and enact a Veterinary Surgeons Bill to enable a distinction between qualified and unqualified men to be made. This distinction would enable stockowners to select professional people and to

protect the interests of the profession. The Bill was based on the English Veterinary Surgeons Act and was brought before Parliament by Mr. Bosisto, MP, and was passed after some additions from the Pharmacy Act and an added clause in the Upper House by Hon. Dr. Beaney that provided for a four year course for veterinary students.

Dr. Kendall made a promise to Mr. Bosisto that following the passing of the Veterinary Surgeons Act an early attempt would be made to establish a Veterinary College. Signatures were obtained from all the leading horse owners, stock and station agents, medical men, senior citizens and others in Melbourne to a requisition to the City Council for a site for the College. Although it was received favourably, the Council held the land in trust and without special legislation it could not be used for other purposes. Leading citizens and members of the Government assured Kendall that if it could be shown that an institution was a necessity and students were available, assistance would be given. With this backing, Kendall set out to establish a private college. In 1886 the College buildings were erected, but the institution was not opened for teaching purposes until January 1888. A curriculum was arranged in accordance with the regulations of the Act. Lecturers were engaged E. Rivett MRCVS and Dr. Joyce and teaching classes were opened and six students entered the College. As necessity arose, additional teaching staff was added, C. Vyner MRCVS, S.S. Cameron MRCVS, Professor McBride, PhD., MRCVS and A. Goule MRCVS. During the first year, students attended the College of Pharmacy for chemistry and materia medica, but when Professor Jackson left the College of Pharmacy and joined the Veterinary College, it was no longer necessary for students to go to the Pharmacy College for lectures. A libelous article appeared in the Pharmaceutical Journal deprecating the Veterinary College. This led to an action at law and the Pharmaceutical Society had to pay damages and costs. Meanwhile, the Veterinary Board refused to appoint examiners to examine students in consequence of the article and had withdrawn its recognition of the teaching in the College. As a result of the positive outcome of the lawsuit, the Veterinary Board at its next meeting accepted the teaching standards and appointed an examining board. After this incident the Veterinary Board always obtained the best available examiners for the College and established high standards of efficiency in the examining body.

Australian graduate veterinary surgeons became available for important Government and other public positions in every State. During the South African War some fifteen Australian graduate veterinarians served on active service in Australian Army Contingents.

The establishment of a University Veterinary School and Veterinary Research Institute occurred after 1900 and these were to be the subjects of another article by William Kendall.

THE MELBOURNE
VETERINARY COLLEGE,
 BRUNSWICK STREET, FITZROY.

(Established in Accordance with the Provisions of the "Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1887.")

Principal.

PROF. W. T. KENDALL, M.R.C.V.S., F.G.S.A., Veterinary Surgeon to the Central Board of Health, the Stock Department, the Zoological and Acclimatization Society, and the Society for the Protection of Animals.

Teaching Staff and Subjects.

THE PRINCIPAL—

Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, including Veterinary Obstetrics, Operative Surgery, and the Principles and Practice of Shoeing.
 Diseases of the Horse and Ox.
 Comparative Pathology.

PROF. GOULE, M.R.C.V.S., late Veterinary Surgeon to His Majesty the King of Siam—

Diseases of the Sheep, Dog, and Pig.
 Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Therapeutics, and Toxicology.
 Helminthology (parasites and parasitic diseases).

PROF. JACKSON, B.Sc., F.C.S., M.P.S., &c., Associate of Owen's College, Manchester—

Chemistry (practical and theoretical).
 Botany (including forage poison and medicinal plants).

DR. J. F. JOYCE, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c.—

Physiology and Histology.

MR. S. S. CAMERON, M.R.C.V.S.—

Anatomy of the Horse and other domesticated animals (descriptive and practical).
 Morbid Anatomy and General Pathology.
 Bacteriology.

Clinical Instruction.

THE PRINCIPAL: MR. CAMERON.

Special Chemical Department.

PROF. A. HENRICK JACOBSEN, B.Sc., F.C.S., etc., undertake the analysis of all samples sent to the College for examination. Soils analysed; manures tested for phosphorus, etc.; water analysed and reported upon; substances examined for poisons; ores assayed; all classes of analytical work done by him at moderate fees.

Amateur Classes for Stock-owners' Sons.

Amateur Students may join at any time for one or more terms, and have the benefit of attending all lectures, demonstrations, clinics, etc., held during the term. For Amateur Students a special course of lectures will be given on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases met with amongst estate stock. Amateur Class Certificates are given to those Students who pass an examination by the teaching staff on practical veterinary subjects.

Hospital and Practice Record.

	1900.	1901.
Hospital Patients	1200	854
Visits	351	581
Consultations	1150	820
Operations	249	872
Horses examined for lameness	77	51

All the records comprising all the students permitted passed: the marks including four "very good's" and three "good's."

HYGIENICALLY PREPARED AND CULTIVATED PLEURO-LYMPH SUPPLIED.

PROSECUTE ON APPLICATION.

MAX HENRY DSO, VD, BVSc, MRCVS; A GREAT AUSTRALIAN

Max Henry was born in Sydney on June 30, 1883. His early education was at the King's School, Parramatta. He went to London for his veterinary training and qualified for membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in July 1906. On his return to Australia he was appointed Veterinary Inspector to the Board of Health, and took up duty in the Bega district of New South Wales. This early work as a field officer, involving visits to dairy farms and inspection of cattle, had a lasting influence on him.

In 1908 Henry transferred to the New South Wales Agricultural Department as Government Veterinary Surgeon. In 1910 he received his commission as Lieutenant in the Australian Army Veterinary Corps (AAVC) and attended annual camps for training of the Light Horse Regiments. In 1912 he submitted a thesis to the newly formed veterinary faculty at the Sydney University and obtained the degree of BVSc.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 he volunteered for service in the A.I.F. and with the rank of Captain, took charge of the veterinary hospital at Liverpool Camp. He went to Egypt as Officer Commanding the 1st Veterinary Section and established a field hospital near Heliopolis. With the expansion of the AIF to five infantry divisions for service in France in 1916, Henry was appointed Deputy Assistant Director Veterinary Services (DADVS) to the 5th Division, with the rank of Major. His service in France was marked with distinction. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and was mentioned in dispatches four times. After the armistice he was appointed Senior Veterinary Officer of the troops in Belgium.

He returned to Sydney in 1919 as Senior Veterinary Officer of the Stock Branch of the NSW Department of Agriculture. Henry realized that the main task of the veterinary graduate was to safeguard the great flocks and herds that were Australia's main asset. Throughout his professional life he emphasized the importance of management in relation to health and insisted that every veterinarian should receive adequate training in animal husbandry. In 1923 on the retirement of the STD Symonds, Henry was promoted to the position of Chief Inspector of Stock and Chief Veterinary Surgeon. For the next 24 years he remained Chief of the veterinary services of the Department and was appointed Chief of the Division of Animal Industry when the Department was reorganized.

In 1923 the Glenfield Veterinary Research Station was opened as a research and diagnostic centre. The officer appointed to take charge, HR Seddon, DVSc like Max Henry, saw the importance of disease control and prevention and a close liaison between the field and laboratory was developed. On Henry's insistence Stock Inspectors were graduates of the Sydney University Veterinary School. Henry arranged

for NSW to be divided into districts, each under the control of a District Veterinary Officer to whom Stock Inspectors became responsible for disease control activities.

A Board of Tick Control, consisting of local graziers with a departmental veterinarian as Chairman, took over the control measures for the cattle tick.

Henry was a great administrator with the ability to inspire his staff with his own ideals. He took a leading part in interstate conferences held to review border regulations between States, to make action uniform in all Australian states. As Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) for NSW he gave strong support to the Federal Director of Veterinary Hygiene in protecting Australia from the introduction of exotic infections and took a leading part in the consideration of new regulations to meet alterations in the overseas animal-disease position.


In the swine fever outbreak of 1942-43 in NSW Henry marshaled his forces and before the diagnosis was confirmed, had set up a 'Swine Fever Command' in Sydney, and alerted every officer. With the help of police and local government inspectors, response was rapid and the disease quickly eradicated.

In the professional sphere, apart from his departmental and military duties, Henry was indefatigable. He was most anxious to see the profession unified and strengthened throughout Australia. He initiated the move when he attended the meeting in Melbourne of Section L of ANZAAS in January 1913. It was agreed there that professional associations should be formed in each State with a view to their amalgamation to form an Australian Veterinary Association.

Henry believed that the next step in forging the chain of unity was the establishment of a journal devoted to professional interests and to the dissemination of knowledge. He worked toward this end, and in spite of the small numbers in the profession and the financial obligations involved, the first issue of the Journal of the Australian Veterinary Association appeared in 1925. Henry was the first editor. He served the profession for many years as a councilor of the Australian Veterinary Association, was twice elected to the presidency and was elected a 'Fellow'. He was also a President of the NSW Division of the AVA and of Section 'L' of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. With Professor JD Stewart, Henry was the recipient of the first award of the Gilruth Prize in 1953. For many years he was a member of the Royal Society of NSW

In his official capacity he was at different times President of the Veterinary Surgeons Board, Chairmen of the Stock Medicines Board, Member of the Federal Cattle Tick Commission, and Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry which recommended the establishment of country killing works. He was a member of several joint committees of the Department and of such bodies as the University of Sydney and the CSIRO. Before his retirement from the public service in New South Wales, Henry became afflicted with a chronic illness, but in spite of this medical problem, on leaving the Department, he undertook the task of first paid secretary of the AVA.

Max Henry was a man with great ideals of service to the community and to the profession he had adopted. From the time he took up duty in 1906 as a veterinary inspector with the Health Department until his retirement from the position of secretary of the Australian Veterinary Association in 1949, he was a driving force and an inspiration in movements to advance the veterinary profession wherever possible. Max Henry died on 9 June 1959 after a long illness. He played an outstanding part in the advancement of Veterinary Science and of the Veterinary Profession in Australia

MAY & BAKER'S 

SULPHONAMIDES

IN VETERINARY PRACTICE

In animals, Sulphonamides have been reported of value in the treatment of the following conditions:

<p>IN HORSES: Pneumonia Strangles Lymphangitis</p> <p>IN CATTLE: Metritis and Puerperal Septicæ *Calf Pneumonia Joint-ill in Calves Mastitis</p>	<p>IN PIGS: *Piglet Influenza *Acute Arthritis in Piglets *Feline Diseases in Sows</p> <p>IN SHEEP: Joint-ill in Lambs</p> <p>IN DOGS: *Respiratory complications of Distemper</p>
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*M. & B. 593 particularly indicated.

*
SUPPLIES

M. & B. 693.
Containers of 90 x 0.50 gm. tablets.
Containers of 250 x 0.50 gm. tablets.

SOLUSEPTASINE.
Bottles of 30 c.c. of 20% solution.
Boxes of 10 x 5 c.c. ampoules 10% solution.

Distributors in Australia:
MAY & BAKER (Australia)
PTY. LTD.
5 PHILLIP STREET ————— SYDNEY

What it was like in the 1940s to come face to face with a miracle?

This article from the second issue of the AVH newsletter November 1991 by Dr Len Pockley reminds us of how reliant the veterinary profession has become on modern drugs.

M&B 693 – First Use.

Looking back from our present familiarity with modern drugs, particularly antibiotics, it is hard to realize the terrific impact the advent of M&B 693 had on veterinary medicine. No doubt each of the old hands has his or her recollections of how it affected them. Mine concerned the apparent resurrection of a heavy draught mare, a watercart horse. She was evacuated to hospital with obvious respiratory distress and running a high temperature. The stethoscope revealed she had a large quantity of pleural fluid that was aspirated daily, yielding on the first occasion over one gallon and subsequent amounts only slightly less.

A limited supply of M&B 693 was received for trial use at that time. It was decided to make one major trial that would require the whole of the stock supplied. Medication was started on the second morning. By the next morning the mare was obviously less distressed and temperature lowered somewhat. Medication was continued for four days until supplies were exhausted. Fluid aspiration decreased dramatically by the fourth day (day three of treatment) and was nil on the next day, temperature was near normal on that day also. The mare made a full rapid recovery. I can still recall the feeling of wonder – almost disbelief at the magical change from a moribund, deeply distressed mare with an expected life of at best a few days, to vigorous good health. I don't recall any antibiotic medication since that has caused me such wonder at its magical powers. Only those who were involved with treatment of animals before the advent of M&B 693 can fully appreciate the drastic change it made to veterinary medicine.

M&B 693 was sulphapyridine marketed by May and Baker (see advertisement). This account is from Len's Australian Army Veterinary Corps service days early in World War II.

DID YOU KNOW?

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet 8 1/2 inches.

That's an exceedingly odd number!

Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England and English expatriates built the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay then! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe, including England, for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

The US standard railroad gauge of 4 feet 8 1/2 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever!

So the next time you are handed a specification and are told 'we have always done it that way' and you wonder what horse's backside came up with that, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses!

But that's not quite the end of the story....

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to have made them a bit fatter but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains and so the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel which is slightly wider than the railroad track, which as you now know is about as wide as two horse's backsides.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what are arguably the worlds most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse 's backside.

Who said being a horse 's backside wasn 't important? – Surely not a vet!

REGISTER OF VETERINARY SURGEONS.

NAME AND ADDRESS.	QUALIFICATION	GRADUATED.	
		DATE.	COLLEGE.
NEW SOUTH WALES.			
Day, Sydney	M.R.C.V.S.	—	—
Durham, Samuel, Stock Inspector, N.S.W.	M.B.C.V.S.	Dec. 16, 1873	London
Green, T., Sydney	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 26, 1881	Edin. (New)
Hayden, Paul W.	M.B.C.V.S.	Apr. 8, 1846	London
Scott, Wm., Castlereagh-st. Sydney	M.R.C.V.S.	July 27, 1883	Edin. (New)
Stanley, Edward, Government Veterinarian, Sydney	M.R.C.V.S.	May 2, 1862	London
Stewart, John, M.L.C., Sydney ..	M.R.C.V.S.	Aug. 8, 1832	Glasgow
Tattersall, Percy R., Sydney ..	M.B.C.V.S.	Dec. 1, 1865	London
QUEENSLAND.			
Barnes, A. W., Hospital Hill, Gympie	M.R.C.V.S.	Jan. 22, 1886	Edin. (Dick's)
Calvert, C. A., Rockhampton ..	M.R.C.V.S.	May 4, 1861	London
Hay, Adam	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 18, 1870	Glasgow
Irving, James, Government Veterinarian, Brisbane ..	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 19, 1870	Edin. (Dick's)
McGuire, W. W.	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 16, 1875	Edin. (Dick's)
Standen, James, Brisbane ..	M.R.C.V.S.	Dec. 17, 1873	London
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.			
Bickford, Alfred, Adelaide ..	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 29, 1859	London
Horton, J. W., Adelaide ..	M.R.C.V.S.	May 1, 1862	Edin. (Dick's)
TASMANIA.			
Meek, Ben. O., Launceston ..	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 24, 1885	Edin. (Dick's)
Park, Archibald, Hobart ..	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 16, 1872	Glasgow
NEW ZEALAND.			
Hill, Thomas, Christchurch ..	M.R.C.V.S.	May 1, 1856	London
Marquis, Neil, Dunedin ..	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 22, 1876	Glasgow
Michie, T., Wellington ..	M.R.C.V.S.	—	—
McClean, John P.	M.R.C.V.S.	Dec. 22, 1887	London

[There may possibly be a few inaccuracies and omissions in the Register. Our readers would greatly oblige by acquainting us of any such, in order that they may be rectified.—*Eng. A. F. & L.S.J.*]

Register of Veterinary Surgeons in Australasia.

VICTORIA.

L. Members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain, and Graduates of other Colleges recognized by the Veterinary Board of Victoria:

Name and Address.	Qualification.	Graded by.		Date of Registration in V.S. Act 1887 (Victoria).
		Date.	College.	
Alford, John, Harrgrave-street, Sandhurst	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 21, 1844	Edin. (Dipk's)	Nov. 21, 1888
Clouston, Samuel B., Melbourne Veterinary College, Fitzroy	M.R.C.V.S.	May 28, 1888	Edin. (New)	May 28, 1888
Colum, Joseph, Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne	M.B.C.V.S. (Danzonist)	—	Copenhagen	Dec. 7, 1888
Euseusson, Warner, Key	M.V.C. (Parry)	—	Uenus	Dec. 1, 1888
Gibson, Robert, LL.D., Warrambool	M.R.C.V.S.	May 18, 1861	London	—
Gonlé, Arthur, Melbourne Veterinary College, Fitzroy; and St. Kilda	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 18, 1871	London	July 17, 1889
Lindsay, Alex. J., High street, Preston	M.R.C.V.S.	July 21, 1857	London	July 17, 1889
Kewell, William T., Principal Melbourne Veterinary College, Fitzroy	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 2, 1878	London	Nov. 14, 1888
Marsden, Charles, Twickenham's Bazaar, Melbourne	M.R.C.V.S.	May 24, 1855	London	Nov. 14, 1888
MacMahon, Sir Charles, Melbourne	M.R.C.V.S.	May 19, 1852	London	—
Birrell, Ernest, Ascut Vale	M.R.C.V.S.	Dec. 16, 1875	London	Jan. 21, 1889
Robinson, Alfred E. G., North Melbourne	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 27, 1858	Edin.	Sept. 17, 1890
Regeon, William D., Kynston	M.R.C.V.S.	Dec. 18, 1867	London	Jan. 8, 1889
Sharp, Alfred, High-street, Preston	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 21, 1868	London	Nov. 14, 1888
Stonehall, George, Ballarat	M.R.C.V.S.	May 7, 1851	Edin. (Peeble)	Nov. 14, 1888
Stonehall, William D., Ballarat	M.R.C.V.S.	Jan. 8, 1884	London	Nov. 22, 1888
Thomson, J. C., 141c Melbourne	M.R.C.V.S.	—	—	Mar. 20, 1889
Vynor, Charles J., 141c Melbourne Veterinary College, Fitzroy	M.R.C.V.S.	July 4, 1891	London	Apr. 17, 1890
Wair, Robert E., Ballarat	M.R.C.V.S.	Apr. 28, 1884	Glasgow	Dec. 1, 1888
Wrayne, Henry, Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne	M.R.C.V.S.	May 20, 1851	London	Nov. 17, 1888

