

OBITUARY NOTICES.

Veterinary Lieutenant-Colonel James H. B. Hallen, C.I.E.,
F.R.C.S.E., F.R.C.V.S. By W. Owen Williams.

(Read July 7, 1902.)

To give in a very small space anything like an adequate memoir of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Hallen is almost impossible, his life of work was such a long and busy one, extending as it did for over seventy years.

Colonel Hallen was the son of an army veterinary surgeon; he qualified as a veterinary surgeon in Edinburgh under the late Professor Dick, and he also graduated in medicine.

His life was spent chiefly in India, and he did what few Englishmen managed in those days to do,—he gained the complete confidence of the natives; and of him is said by one of high rank in our army, “a most striking characteristic about him was the great influence he had over the natives of India, owing to his extraordinary charm of manner; they always seemed to feel that they could thoroughly trust him, and that though he was working for the Government, yet he would not require anything from them that was contrary to their own interests. His unflinching patience, good temper, and courtesy, together with his transparent honesty of character, gave him an influence in dealing with natives of every rank, from the highest to the lowest, such as is given to very few Englishmen.”

The appointment of Colonel Hallen in 1876 as Government Superintendent of Horse Breeding marked a new departure in the policy of the Government of India.

Up to that time the efforts of Government had been confined to breeding of remounts required for British cavalry and artillery only in the Bengal Presidency, in some half dozen very costly estab-

lishments; nothing had been done towards the breeding of horses for general use, or for teaching native breeders how to breed effectively and on correct principles; nothing had been done to encourage *mule* breeding, or to train native salootris in veterinary work.

The staff at first granted to Mr Hallen was very small, and his duties for the first few years were extremely laborious, entailing travelling at all seasons of the year over thousands of miles.

Under Colonel Hallen's auspices, a system of prizes for young stock was instituted at all the most important fairs in Northern and Western India.

Breeders and dealers were encouraged to keep their best mares for Government stallions and their inferior mares for mule breeding. Stallions were distributed according to the requirements and capabilities of districts; a system of periodical inspection of stallions and mares throughout Upper India was instituted; civil authorities were persuaded and encouraged to aid in the work; and donkey stallions from France, Italy, Cyprus, and Arabia were introduced into the country.

Not the least important of Mr Hallen's work was the institution of a veterinary school in the Punjab for training native salootris in the rudiments of veterinary science, in castration of colts, and in shoeing horses on proper principles.

In Native States, also, much was done by Mr Hallen for the improvement of local breeds. In Rajputana and in Kathiawar, chiefs were aided in procuring good stallions, and encouraged to breed horses of superior stamp.

In September 1889 the superintendence of horse breeding was transferred from the Military Department and placed under the Department for Agriculture, and the foundations laid of a Civil Veterinary Department, a scheme that had long been the desire of Mr Hallen's heart.

His Services.

Served with the 1st Bombay Lancers from 1850 to 1855 in Rajputana.

Employed on remount purchasing duties in Bombay, 1857-58.

Served with the Bombay Horse Artillery from 1858 to 1862.

Proposed and conducted a regimental veterinary school at the headquarters of the Bombay Artillery, during that time at Poona.

Appointed Principal Veterinary Surgeon of the Bombay Army, 14th July 1862; organised the Veterinary Department of the Army, and established the Army Veterinary School at Poona. Services acknowledged in Bombay Government Resolution No. 171, dated 9th May 1863.

Nominated Superintendent of the Stud Department of the Bombay Presidency by the Secretary of State for India in Despatch No. 148, dated 24th November 1863.

Served throughout the Abyssinian campaign in 1867–1868 as Principal Veterinary Surgeon of the Force, and, with ten veterinary surgeons, had veterinary charge of upwards of 50,000 animals of cavalry, artillery, and transport corps of the force. Mentioned in Despatch No. 6, dated 1st June 1868, of Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., to the Secretary of State for India; medal recommended in 1868 by the Right Honourable Lord Napier of Magdala, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., in recognition of his services in the Abyssinian campaign, for special consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Recommended in 1868 by Right Hon. Lord Napier of Magdala, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief of Bombay Army, for good service pension.

Appointed Officiating Inspecting Veterinary Surgeon of the Bombay Army in 1868.

Services urgently required by the Government of India in October 1869 for special service as President of the Indian Cattle Plague Commission, on which duty he continued until July 1872. Received the thanks of the Government of India.

Appointed Inspecting Veterinary Surgeon, Bombay Army, March 15, 1871.

Appointed Acting Inspecting Veterinary Surgeon, Bengal Army, July 1872, and at the same time requested by the Government of India to undertake, in addition to his military

inspecting veterinary duties, the organisation of a Veterinary College in Calcutta, under the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, and was appointed Principal of the proposed College.

When performing the latter duties, his services were called for by his Excellency the Viceroy in Council on the Special Stud Commission, convened 16th December 1872, and he continued on this special duty until 31st March 1876. Received the cordial thanks of the Government of India for his valuable services on the Commission.

Colonel Hallen died at his residence, near Stratford-on-Avon, on August 20, 1901, from heart-disease.