



DOBBIN HAULS AN ANCESTOR?

Here's a novel role for twentieth century Dobbin—hauling the bones of a two-million-year-old horse, maybe one of his own ancestors. Inset shows head and other bones of one of the horses.

PHYSIOLOGY

Sex Gland Operations Prove Ineffectual On Cattle

SEX GLAND transplantations, one of the most-discussed of recent medical developments, had relatively little effect when tried on cattle in a series of experiments performed by Dr. Fred W. Miller, R. R. Graves and Dr. G. T. Creech of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Their results are not in accord with the claims made for the famous Vornoff operation on livestock, which has been widely used as a means for rejuvenating aged but once valuable breeding animals, especially in France and the U. S. S. R.

The three Department of Agriculture scientists implanted normal ovarian tissue into the bodies of several dairy cows which had various types of abnormalities in their reproductive organs, and also into two normally pregnant cows. In no case was there any apparent benefit to the sick cows, or harm to the pregnant animals.

The experimenters also implanted

sex gland tissue into several bulls that had become old and useless for breeding purposes, as well as one young animal in a subnormal physical condition. After the operation, the old bulls were noticeably "pepped up" and aggressive, but their usefulness as breeding stock was not improved. There was some improvement in the condition of the young animal, but not enough to be biologically significant.

In the experiments, sex gland tissues from pigs were used on some of the animals, tissues from cattle on the others. Healing of the operational incisions was more rapid after the implantation of the pig tissue; otherwise no differences were noted.

The results of the experiments are described in detail in the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, (Aug. 1) published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Science News Letter, November 10, 1934

PALEONTOLOGY

Find Fossil Horse Of Pliocene Period

SAND hills of Idaho, where a National Museum expedition has completed a summer of digging, have yielded 65 ancient horses and fossil bones of other wild animals of the Pliocene period. (See SNL, August 25, p. 120)

The ancestral line of modern horses is still not clearly traced, explained Dr. Lewis Gazin who directed excavation of the Idaho fossil bed. America's own ancient horses seem to have died out near the time the last Ice Age ended. That was probably no less than 10,000 years ago. After that there were no horses in America for Indians to see or ride until the Spanish explorers brought horses on their ships.

Modern Dobbin, therefore, is an "American" horse of foreign stock like other American immigrants. But the frisky ancient horses wandered considerably, and may have crossed the Bering Strait from the Old World to the New and back again more than once in the course of millions of years. So, the American horse today may have blood of ancient American horses in his veins.

Horses unearthed in Idaho by Dr. Gazin have large heads and small feet in proportion to their bodies, so that they resemble zebras in this respect.

Science News Letter, November 10, 1934


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