



Africa and Abyssinia and to assess the disease situation of the livestock. He believed that this would foster a good relationship to the benefit of both countries.

Before embarking on the trip he played a round of golf and ate trout for dinner. When informed that their

passports would not qualify them to enter Abyssinia, they made their own, successfully!

Sturdy had previously, single-handedly, conducted a veterinary survey of the country and opened a small veterinary laboratory at Kabete which developed into a significant regional centre; rinderpest antiserum was produced, East Coast fever was studied and cattle dipping schemes were introduced.

The book also contains a short biography of Sturdy, chronicling his work during both World Wars and the inter-war years. It has the adventure of exploration and opens the curtain to a previously little known part of the world. It would make an ideal gift for veterinary historians, colonial scholars, students of Africa and cultural anthropologists.

— John Clewlow

• An order form can be downloaded from the Veterinary History Society website, www.veterinaryhistorysociety.org.uk.

IN SHORT

Veterinary surgeons have been busy in recent months putting together books on both clinical and more general matters. Among them...

HOW TO CONTROL SOMATIC CELL COUNTS

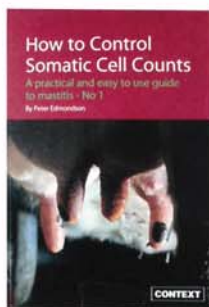
A practical and easy to use guide to mastitis – No 1

By Peter Edmondson

162pp; £30.00; Context Products

Peter Edmondson, an RCVS specialist in cattle health and production who graduated from Dublin in 1980, is one of the country's best known speakers and writers on mastitis, with an international reputation as well.

This colourful, well-produced guide is intended to give the reader a thorough understanding of the cause and importance of somatic cells to



the farmer, milk buyer and the cow and will be a valuable source of information for both vets and farmers.

Topics covered are: cause and importance of somatic cells to the farmer; milk buyer and the cow; factors affecting cell counts; economic impact of high cell counts; importance of bacteriology and individual cell count testing; comparison of the different testing methods; how to achieve a low cell count; how to stop the spread of infection; and advice on decision making for problem cows.

Every dairy farmer should have a copy and it certainly won't be out of place on practice bookshelves.

THE HOLISTIC CAT

A complete guide to natural health care

By Holly Mash

160pp; £14.99; The Crowood Press

Holly Mash, who graduated from Bristol in 2001, runs referral practices in Bristol and London specialising in complementary medicine (such as Western herbal medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture), and is also founder and director of The Holistic Pet Company.

This is her second book, the first being *The Holistic Dog*, and it begins with a quotation from 220BC in *The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Medicine*:

"When the minds of the people are closed and wisdom is locked out, they remain tied to disease."

After a lengthy introduction to "complementary therapies", there are chapters on: the feline mind, multiple-cat households, the kitten, the elderly cat, the indoor cat, diet and nutrition, routine health care and commonly used supplements, and holistic treatment for common ailments.

It is neatly laid out with plenty of colour photos and panels and a good read for those with an interest in the subject.

FOUR LEGS AND A TALE

By Alan Walker

246pp; £12.50; Live Wire Books

This is the autobiography of Dr Alan Walker, who graduated from Cambridge in 1981 (he was a late starter in the profession) and joined his father at what is now the Hook Norton Veterinary Group in Oxfordshire. He retired from the partnership in 2006 (although he continues as a consultant), bringing to an end a line of nine generations of the family serving animals in the area, firstly as farriers and then as vets.



It begins with an account of him being struck off the register on 30th January 2007 and towards the end, after an appeal to the Privy Council, being reinstated on 12th June 2008. Between these reports, and after, there are 14 chapters detailing many of the fascinating, lively and colourful characters – human and equine – he encountered in his career in which he mainly specialised in the treatment of racehorses.

He also traces the development of the family practice, moving from a tin-roofed shed to a modern veterinary hospital. There are enthralling insights into country life in England in the days when his grandfather and then his father did their rounds in a pony and trap and mixed all their own potions.

This is a thoroughly good read and one that vets, and not just those of the equine fraternity, will find equally as interesting as members of the public certainly will.

• Copies can be purchased from the Hook Norton practice (telephone 01608 730085) or from the author on jawalker8@gmail.com for £12.50 plus £1.75 post and packing.

BORDER COLLIE

A celebration of man's best friend

By Neville Turner

96pp; £9.99; Dalesman (Country Publications)

Neville Turner, who qualified at Edinburgh in 1968, has put together this compilation of excellent photos of this popular breed, accompanied by succinct captions.

He records how he always had his camera handy when he visited farms (mostly in the Pennine Dales) and enjoyed taking photos of the Border Collies which greeted him at many of them.

He built up a huge collection and this well-laid out book features a selection of his favourites, which "capture the distinctive appearance, athleticism and heart-warming appeal"

New leaflets from

THE Pet Charity has produced a new series of pet care advice leaflets, in collaboration with the Kennel Club, International Cat Care, OATA, the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, REPTA and the BVZS.

"The leaflets will help all owners of companion animals, poultry," says the charity, which is also providing advice on neutering, vaccinations and more.

For more information, e-mail sara.bailey@petcharity.org.uk

