**VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1957**

**House of Assembly, 29 August 1957, page 522**

Second reading

**The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Agriculture)—**I move—

*That this Bill b*e *now read a second time.*

Section 17 (1) of the Veterinary Surgeons Act provides that, for a person to obtain registration as a veterinary surgeon, he is to hold a degree or diploma in veterinary surgery of a university in the Commonwealth or New Zealand, of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain, or of any other university within the British Empire where the course is of a standard not lower than that of the University of Sydney for the Degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science. Clause 2 of the Bill amends this subsection to provide for the case of a person who has passed his examinations for admission to the degree or diploma of Veterinary Surgery at a university within the Commonwealth but has not yet been actually admitted to the degree or diploma. It sometimes occurs that a period of some months can take place between the time when a person qualifies for a degree and when the degree is actually bestowed on him. Clause 2 provides that in such circumstances the board may temporarily register the person concerned. A similar provision was, some years ago, inserted in the Medical Practitioners Act to provide for similar circumstances arising under that Act. Clauses 3 and 4 deal with the fees to be paid by persons registered under the Act.

Section 21 provides that a veterinary surgeon is to pay an annual registration fee of £2 2s., while section 28b provides that a person to whom a permit to treat animals for diseases and injury is issued under Part IIIa is to pay an annual fee of £1 Is. It is proposed by clauses 3 and 4 to increase these fees from £2 2s. to £3 3s. in the one case and from £1 Is. to £2 2s. in the other case. The revenue now received by the Veterinary Surgeons Board is insufficient to meet the costs of the board and the board has, following a suggestion by the Auditor-General for increased fees, recommended that the fees be increased to the amounts set out in clauses 3 and 4. The existing fees were fixed in 1935 in the case of veterinary surgeons and in 1938 in the case of permits.

Mr. DUNSTAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, 3 SEPTEMBER 1957, PAGE 533**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 29. Page 522.)

Mr. DUNSTAN (Norwood)—This Bill is unexceptionable. It makes two amendments to the Act, the first being to allow persons who have qualified but not yet received their degrees to practise as veterinary surgeons in the interim. This principle was previously agreed to by the House in the Medical Practitioners Act and could not be argued against. The other amendment is to alter the fees payable to the board. The Auditor-General has pointed out that the fees now payable do not suffice for the board’s purposes, and the increase proposed is not such as to raise any great objection. I therefore support the second reading.

Mr. BROOKMAN (Alexandra) — I, too, support the second reading. It is a practicable proposal to allow young veterinary surgeons to practise before they have received their degrees. The Minister pointed out that the Medical Practitioners Act had been amended for the same purpose, and as considerable care must have been taken before this was done, because it would affect human beings, I think we can safely apply it to the care of animals. The position regarding veterinary surgeons has been stabilized by the wise administration of the Government and the Veterinary Surgeons Board. The number of veterinary surgeons has increased considerably in the last few years. Instead of having to rely on people who were handy at treating animals but not fully qualified by university training, farmers now have little difficulty in engaging trained veterinary surgeons, who render fine service . I am pleased at the harmonious relationship between veterinary surgeons employed by the Department of Agriculture and those in private practice. They work well together and there has been a marked increase in their efficiency. Farmers and graziers are reaping the benefit of the wise administration of the Government board and the department.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.