

**WATKINS-PITCHFORD, HERBERT** (3 June 1865, Tattenhall, Cheshire, England – 25 June 1951, Illovo, Natal South Africa.) *Veterinarian*. Son of John Watkins-Pitchford (mother's name could not be traced). Married Emily May Wilson, 1892.

**EDUCATION** : Royal Veterinary College, London, 1889 : M.R.C.V.S.; Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (F.R.C.V.S.), 1894.

**CAREER** : 1889-1895, practised as veterinary surgeon at Camberley near Sandhurst in England; 1896-1898, Principal Veterinary Surgeon, Natal Colony; 1898-1901, Director of Department of Disease Research, Natal Colony; 1901-1912, Government Bacteriologist and Director of the Veterinary Department of Natal; 1914 -1922, Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Army Veterinary Remount Commission, England; 1922-1935, Commander, Army Veterinary School, Aldershot, England.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** : Developed first scientifically sound vaccine, a serum-virus type, against rinderpest with A. Theiler in 1896 in Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (later Transvaal province of South Africa); took initiative to have Glanders Act 27 of 1898 for Natal Colony enacted, thus legalising use of the mallein test; promoted promulgation of the Natal Act 21 of 1899 which provided for registration of veterinarians and the establishment of a Veterinary Board for the Colony; with a local farmer, Joseph Baynes, built the first dipping tank for the control of ticks in South Africa in 1906 on the farm Nels Rust in Natal; developed short interval (3-day) dipping for the control of *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*, the vector of East Coast fever, in Natal which was later also used with great success elsewhere in South Africa as a 5:5:4-day interval dipping system.

**HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS** : First president of Natal Veterinary Board (1899-1914); ca 1902 awarded Queen's South African Badge with Bars for services during Anglo-Boer War; elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, Edinburgh (FRSE) in 1906; initiated establishment of the Natal Veterinary Medical Association in 1909 and served as its first president; awarded Companionship of the Order of St Michael and St George (C.M.G) in 1918 for services rendered during World War II.

**WRITINGS** : No published reference of publications available. A short treatise on epilepsy in the dog (dissertation), London, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (1894); Report on rinderpest investigation in the Transvaal. *Veterinarian* (1897) 70: 530-535; Horse-sickness investigation. Introductory (1903). *Times Printing and Publishing Company Pietermaritzburg*; Dipping and tick destroying agents. *Department of Agriculture and Water Supply* (1909), Bulletin XVIII; In God's good time: a South African saga (1950). *Shuter & Shooter, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa*; Besieged in Ladysmith (published posthumously in 1964). *Shuter and Shooter, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa*.

**PATENTS**: GB322254 Improvements relating to the preservation or conservation of meat (12/05/1929); CA311460 ; Meat preservation/Conservation de la Viande

(19/05/1931).

REFERENCES/OBITUARIES: SC Rolando (1990). Natal Veterinary Services, 1874-1912. With special reference to the contribution of Samuel Wiltshire and Herbert Watkins-Pitchford. M.BA. thesis, University of Natal; Anon (1921). Biography. A sketch of the past works of Lt.-Col. Watkins-Pitchford, C.M.G., F.R.C.V.S. By one who knows the worker. *The Veterinary Journal* 77: 126-132; RG Mares (1990). A faraway look. Herbert Watkins-Pitchford, CMG, FRCVS, FRSE. Paradoxical Veterinary Surgeon: a reappraisal of his works in Natal on Rinderpest. *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* 6: 89-102; RG Mares (1995). A closer look. Herbert Watkins-Pitchford, CMG, FRCVS, FRSE. Paradoxical Veterinary Surgeon: A reappraisal of his work in Natal on Rinderpest. *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* 20: 81-112; JW Rainey (1945). The late Lieut.-Colonel Watkins-Pitchford. Tribute to a great veterinarian. *The Veterinary Record* 57: 56.

H HEYNE