

The Veterinary Journal.

R. P. Jones M. R. C. V S.

I feel sure that every veterinarian and student will greet with delight this first issue of a national journal devoted to veterinary matters for it marks a great development and stride forward of the profession.

The "Journal" represents the first attempt ever made to try to furnish veterinarians, particularly those stationed in the provinces, to whom foreign periodicals are not accessible, with news concerning developments at home and abroad. It serves as a medium for members to record their professional observations for the benefit of others, and it will offer through its correspondence column the opportunity of expressing opinions on various subjects, and permit of criticism of any policy advocated by the Committee of the Association, but such criticism should be polite and fair.

The "Journal" is the Journal of the recently constituted Siamese Veterinary Association, the formation of which

is another great advance, for the Association welds the profession together, and enables the profession to formulate suggestions for the betterment of the profession. The Committee of the Association is a body elected, amongst other things, to do all it can to advance the interests of the profession and the welfare of its members. It can assist in raising the prestige of the profession, but it is not wise to expect too much of them in that direction.

The matter of prestige seems to be exercising the minds of veterinarians, particularly students, a great deal at the present moment, and it is felt that now there is an Association all that is needed is for the Committee to do some simple thing and up goes the prestige of the profession. What that something is even most ardent supporters of prestige up-lift do not quite know.

To my mind one has to start from the ground and build upwards. It is

argued that members of our profession do not occupy in the mind of the public the same respect and esteem as members do of, for instance, the medical and legal professions. This is probably true but it must be remembered we are comparatively few in numbers, and of those numbers only a small proportion have been able to study abroad, or qualify locally, and have had the opportunity of studying the full curriculum of Veterinary Science. Even so an academic qualification of itself alone does not command an entranced prestige, such can only be obtained by the thorough application of the holder to the work in hand. It is efficient work that produces respect and exhorts prestige. We have in the profession today, in the work of control of rinderpest, both officials of practical experience and graduates of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, and some of these practical officials by keen attention to their duty, dependably to carry out a task thoroughly, stand high in prestige amongst

their professional brothers. The prestige of other professions is largely due to the discipline they impose upon their members.

It therefore depends on the qualities of honesty in work and in morals, professional aptitude and devotion to duty even under very difficult circumstance as to how high a veterinarian will rank in the estimation of the public. With these qualities the prestige of the individual automatically rises. If we all carry out those same principles then the prestige of the whole profession rises.

There is today a great scope for improvements, an improvement which each of us individually and collectively should strive to attain. Such improvement can be mainly attained through discipline and hard work. There is no easy road, and the Committee of the Association can only guide our footsteps along that road.

There is nothing in the profession which should cause anyone in it to have an inferiority complex regarding it. There is nothing derogatory about the

profession, rather is it one, properly applied, which relieves untold misery to dumb animals, promotes the welfare of animals, helps production of food, and benefits the national economy. We should and must be proud of our profession. That it is one that can secure high esteem is shown in the case of the South African Service, a service not so very much older in years than the one in this country. Prestige there was built up, not with the direct object of acquiring prestige, by a comparatively small band of veterinarians, overworked with many problems to solve. They were so attentive to their work, so courteous and helpful to farmers, and so studious and successful in solving the many problems that confronted them that in a comparative few years the veterinary profession had attained a higher status than the medical, so much so that that the Government conferred upon each veterinarian in its employment, after one year trustworthy service, the title of Justice of Peace, which provided him with powers equal in

many respects to those a Commissioner of a province enjoys in this country, even to calling out a regiment of soldiers to help him in the control of disease, if he considered such was necessary. That service provided a veterinarian to become the South African Ambassador to Canada and included such world famous names as Theiler (knighted by the King of Great Britain) and de Koch. Now there seems no reason why the profession of this country, with high integrity and a desire to do so, should not attain similar respect.

What of the future of the profession Veterinary work hitherto has been devoted largely to the suppression of the three prevalent infectious diseases of cattle and buffaloes, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, (barbone), foot and mouth disease, and rinderpest, and of those three rinderpest has taken up by far the major portion of the time of the staff of the Department of Animal Development, but I feel that a big change in the nature of the work is impending, for the staff is

now concentrating on the eradication of rinderpest from the whole country. That is they are working with the definite object of making Siam, probably for the first time in its long history, a rinderpest free country such as America, Australia and the numerous European countries. It is hoped to accomplish this work comparatively soon, in which event a big number of officials will be released for other duty.

But if Siam becomes free from rinderpest it will be necessary to guard against reinvasion, from adjoining countries where rinderpest is still active. There are two ways in which this might be attempted, the passive and active. The passive would be to establish quarantine stations at all parts where animals cross from other countries into this, that is all along the the Indo-China and Burmese borders. This would require the employment of a great number of officials and from the experience we have had in breakdown in cattle and buffaloes passing through the internal quarantine stations at the Chongs, and

the impossibility of preventing surreptitious movement in livestock I have no faith that a passive force engaged on quarantine duty would be one hundred per cent effective in preventing rinderpest from entering this country again. The much more sensible method in my opinion is to continue to be active in the suppression of rinderpest when this country is clean, by offering to neighbouring countries the loan of a large staff, say two hundred officials, to deal with outbreaks in those countries on a system whereby active rinderpest is brought under control near the borders of this country and is gradually pushed further and further away until the disease is sufficiently contained that the staff of the country concerned can deal with it themselves and our staff can be withdrawn.

This active policy was one submitted for consideration to the Food and Agriculture Organization, also a recommendation was made and approved by the F. A. O. conference held in the Philippines that this country should be-

come the veterinary research centre for the Far East. This recommendation has to be finally sanctioned by a further conference to be held at Washington before it becomes effective. Should this happen a great extension of laboratory facilities at Pak Chong will be required. The F. A. O. would send out, at the expense of that organization, a team of experts which would provide an excellent opportunity for Siamese veterinarians to make themselves more efficient in research procedure. The research centre here would provide other countries in the Far East with the biological products they require.

As rinderpest disappears more attention must be given to foot and mouth disease. To start with it will no doubt be necessary to import vaccine, later when veterinarians sent to study abroad and to specialize in this work return, vaccine production can be started here.

A great amount of work on other diseases of livestock has had to be de-

layed owing to concentration on rinderpest. Plans must now be made to take this work in hand.

During the war years and during the years which have followed there has been a great spread of Epizootic Lymphangitis amongst horses. This must be eradicated. It is also suspected there is Glanders in the country. Should this prove to be so it would mean every horse ought to undergo the mallein test, and those which react slaughtered.

We know that one of the most serious diseases affecting pigs here is swine fever or hog cholera. We are very ignorant concerning the other maladies from which pigs suffer. So far very little attention has been paid to pig diseases. Shortly swine fever vaccine will have to be made, and a research programme for pig diseases drawn up.

The poultry industry suffers extremely heavy losses from time to time due to infectious diseases. Most of these can be prevented by routine vaccination. Such vaccines should even-

tually be made here and widely used.

I believe the duty of an official in the near future will be mainly immunisation of healthy animals and birds to preserve them in a state of health. Thus if there was a veterinary official in each ⁱamphur his duties would probably be immunisation of cattle and buffaloes against epizootics, maintaining a correct census of animals in his area, and the castration of undesirable male animals, besides dealing with such outbreaks of Anthrax, Barbone and other diseases as may appear.

The time is approaching when epizootic diseases will be under good control and herds and flocks should multiply at a much greater rate. When rinderpest is eradicated there will be an annual saving of many thousands of lives, this with increased reproduction will result in a great surplus of animals. The most satisfactory way of dealing with the surplus would be to kill them in modern abattoirs set up in various centres in the country, maintain the meat under refri-

geration to await conveyance abroad in ships with refrigeration space. It will no doubt be found advantageous by the Government to acquire and operate such ships.

The meat so exported would have to be inspected very thoroughly by competent veterinarians, and there would need to be a uniform system of inspection throughout the country, for no country will accept meat which is found on reinspection to be unwelcome. To pass such carcasses here as fit for food would ruin this country's reputation in that trade.

Attempts will no doubt be made to make this country more self-supporting in milk and milk products. This will necessitate regular inspection of dairy cows and the control of tuberculosis amongst them. With a greater demand for milk, cow-keepers will develop the milking quality of their cows. Bulls of foreign breeds may be imported, and for their economical use artificial insemination will be practiced, particularly in

municipal areas. As the standard of milk production amongst cows increases problems connected with diseases of the reproductive tract will present themselves.

It will thus be seen that the veterinary work already done is very little in comparison with that which has to be attended in the future, so veterinary students should not think that with the disappearance of the major epizootic diseases there will be an easy time for all. The future holds plenty of hard work for many years. Duties will however tend to become more technical and for this will be needed well trained and very reliable veterinarians. I emphasise very reliable.

I conclude this brief survey of veterinary work by wishing the Journal

a successful and useful career.

Prescriptions For Epizootic Lymphangitis

1. Sterile Mixture for Injection :

Rx. Red Iodide of Mercury	0.2
Sodium Iodide	2.0
Distilled water q.s.	ad. 20

M. Ft. Sol.

Sig. Given as one dose intravenously.

Repeat if necessary on the following day.

2. KI Solution Per Os:

Rx. Red Iodide of Mercury	30.0
Potassium Iodide	42.0
Water q.s.	ad. 200

M. Ft. Sol

Sig. Divide in to 6 doses. Give one dose per os daily for six days.

T. Kuptabutra D. V. M.