

# CwVA News

Commonwealth Veterinary Association)

January 1986

Volume 1 Number 1

## The Commonwealth Veterinary Interchange Fund

The existence of this fund is perhaps largely unknown to members of the CwVA. Although it is not a part of the CwVA, its activities are largely complementary to the aims and objects of the Association.

The fund was established in 1972 and is supported by the Commonwealth Foundation and the Canadian International Development Agency. It is designed to assist veterinarians throughout the Commonwealth to pursue short periods of concentrated study at a veterinary institution in a country other than their own. The fund cannot be used to underwrite attendance at meetings, conferences, or tour visits.

It should be noted that grants are *not* limited to veterinarians employed by government or educational institutions. Those engaged in private practice are encouraged to apply. Applications from CwVA members in developing countries receive special consideration.

More complete information can be obtained by writing directly to Dr. T.L. Jones, Executive Director, Commonwealth Veterinary Interchange Fund, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1, Canada.

## Relationship of the Veterinary Profession with Animal Health Assistants/Technicians

The Executive Committee of the CwVA strongly endorsed the training of Animal Health Assistants/Technicians. Concerns of some regions regarding the legislative control of such training programs were raised. The CwVA, therefore, will continue to explore the ways in which a clear distinction can be made between professional veterinarians and those individuals who have been trained to act as assistants to professionals. Other items of interest included the kind and amount of contribution the veterinary profession could make to these training programs, what standards had been established for qualification and what provision was made for standards for faculty and physical facilities.

A substantial amount of material pertaining to curricula, accreditation and location of educational institutions devoted to the training of Animal Health Assistants/Technicians has been distributed by the Secretary-Treasurer of the CwVA to all Regional Representatives. This material should provide a basis for discussion of this subject at Regional Conferences. Discussion is presently underway with Mr. I. Faletau regarding the possibility of convening a seminar of veterinarians and others interested in this aspect of animal health.

## Papua — New Guinea Joins CwVA

Papua — New Guinea

The Veterinary Association of Papua-New Guinea is one of the new member associations of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. Its application for membership was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting in London, 1984.

## Grenada Benefits from Special Assistance

In December, 1983 the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Foundation instituted a Special Programme of Assistance to Grenada. It was stipulated that the Foundation should play a responsive role and await requests for such assistance to be forthcoming.

*continued on 3*

## President's Message



The Commonwealth Veterinary Association will soon enter the 18th year of its existence. In 1967, representatives of 15 national veterinary associations met in the United Kingdom with a view to discussing the advantages of close cooperation between the members of the veterinary profession in Commonwealth countries. Those attending the meeting agreed that this would be best achieved through a Pan-Commonwealth veterinary association, now known as the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CwVA), with a Constitution embodying its aims and objects, an administrative structure to administer the affairs of the Association and develop programmes.

Since 1968, when we came into being, the CwVA has evolved from the 12 member associations that had agreed to form the CwVA to 36 members, with the possible addition in the near future of 3 more members, among the 49 Commonwealth member countries. The CwVA now represents some 50,000 veterinarians thus making it a major international veterinary body second in number only to the World Veterinary Association.

I served as Secretary-Treasurer of the CwVA from 1968 until 1984 when I had the honour of being elected as President, succeeding His Excellency Sir Dawda Jawara, MRCVS, President of the Republic of The Gambia (West Africa), who served as President during the above period and who is now the distinguished Patron of the Association. Thus, I was and I am still in a good position to appreciate the dedication and the efforts of many colleagues throughout the Commonwealth.

Therefore, it is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to address our member associations and the colleagues they represent on the occasion of the first issue of this "Newsletter" of the CwVA. This is the culmination of efforts of a great many individuals. The cooperation of the Regional Representatives and Council members is gratefully acknowledged. The Association's Secretary-treasurer deserves special thanks for his con-

tinued interest in the production of the "CwVA News" column that has appeared regularly since mid-1984 in journals published by member associations and, now, his involvement in the Association's "Newsletter".

As a first effort, this "Newsletter" will have obvious failings. However, time and effort by all members of the CwVA will result in improvement to content. More importantly, it will improve communication among the regions and the many national associations members of the CwVA. It should become the vehicle by which the CwVA can promote one of its ultimate objectives — "Better Commonwealth Understanding".

The birth of this "Newsletter" is one of the ways and means intended to make the Commonwealth veterinary profession better aware of the activities of the CwVA and stimulate greater interest in its affairs. Thus, this year or in early 1986, Regional Conferences have been or will be held in Trinidad, Malawi, Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone and Seminars have been held or are scheduled for India, Botswana, the Caribbean and Malaysia. The possibility of convening a Commonwealth Veterinary Conference is being considered at the present time. The cooperation and assistance of all our member associations will be urgently required to maintain and improve the endeavour represented by the CwVA "Newsletter."

I would be neglectful if as President I did not bring to your attention the fact that the CwVA can only be of assistance to the members of the profession through their national associations. The CwVA cannot bear the entire burden for the financial support of activities such as Regional Conferences or Seminars. Unless an attitude or desire with a view to self-sufficiency is engendered among our member associations efforts may end in failure and the pursuing of such activities may have to be curtailed. The kind of combined efforts by Regional Representatives and Council members that have been demonstrated in the past year augurs well for the future. I congratulate them all for their good work and wish all of them as well as the members of the profession in their region and country the very best in the New Year.

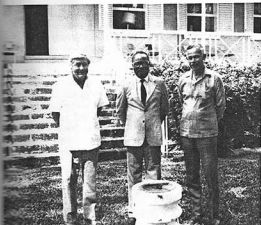
Laurent P.E. Choquette, D.M.V., MSc, Ph.D.

This newsletter was published by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. If you wish to submit articles for the next issue of this newsletter, or comment on this issue please write to Dr. Jim Archibald, Secretary-Treasurer, CwVA, 35 Lynwood Pl., Guelph, Ontario, CANADA N1G 2V9.

continued from 1

The CwVA received such a request for assistance in designing and maintaining a Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and relayed this to the Foundation. The Foundation named two members, Professor Holman E. Williams of Trinidad and J. Archibald of Guelph to visit Grenada and to evaluate the necessity and validity of the request. The evaluation visit was carried out January 19-26, 1985.

Dr. B. Nutor, Chief Veterinary Officer for Grenada arranged the itinerary for the visit and accompanied the team on all its visits as well as extending the gracious hospitality of himself and his wife.



Dr. H.E. Williams (left) and J. Archibald (right) in an informal conversation with The Honorable George Brizan (center), Minister of Agriculture, Grenada.

The team met with the Minister of Agriculture, and with various officers of the ministry including the Permanent Secretary, Parliamentary Secretary and several livestock officers. Governmental farms and establishments, private farms, parish agricultural offices and the Farm Training School at Mirabeau were visited.

Veterinary Medicine and its practitioners in Grenada are not protected or supported by a Veterinary Act. The team took the opportunity to discuss this matter informally with the Minister of Agriculture. Dr. Nutor will supply the Minister with further information on the desirability of introducing such legislation in Grenada for his consideration.

The team was invited to attend upon His Excellency, Sir Paul Scoon, Governor General of Grenada, who voiced the opinion that the manner of assistance for

veterinary medicine and livestock production to be proposed to the Foundation would be of great assistance. The final recommendations of the team have been submitted to the Foundation in the form of a report on the visit.

## Election of His Excellency, Sir Dawda Jawara, President of The Gambia as Patron of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association



Following the meeting of the Executive Committee of the CwVA held in London, February 27 - March 2, 1984 Sir Dawda graciously accepted the committee's invitation to become the Patron of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Sir Dawda was born in The Gambia in 1924 and attended primary and secondary school there. His post-secondary education was taken in Ghana and Scotland where he attended Glasgow University and qualified as MRCVS in 1953. In 1957 he was awarded the Diploma in Tropical Veterinary Medicine from the University of Edinburgh.

His administrative career in The Gambia was in that country's Veterinary Service from 1954 to 1960 when he resigned as Principal Veterinary Officer to become the leader of the People's Progressive Party. He became Prime Minister in 1963 and led The Gambia to Full Independence in 1965. Sir Dawda became the first President of the Republic of The Gambia in 1970. His continuing participation and guidance in the affairs of the association is welcomed by all members.

## New Executive Committee Member

**D**r. Holman Williams is the newest member of the Executive Committee of the CwVA. He succeeds I. Archibald as Caribbean/Canada Representative.

Dr. Williams received his D.V.M. degree in 1949, graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College. Subsequently he was awarded the M.S. from the University of Wisconsin and the Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh.

Following his university studies he was employed by the government of Trinidad and Tobago. He is presently Head of the Department of Livestock Science at the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies.

Dr. Williams has had an active role in the CwVA for many years as Council Member for the Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association and is familiar with the affairs of the CwVA. His presence on the Executive Committee will provide a fresh voice and ideas not only for the Caribbean but for all regions of the Commonwealth.

## Exchange of ideas between CwVA and Caribbean Officials

**D**r. E. Cazabon, Secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Branch of the Caribbean Veterinary Association visited the Secretary-treasurer in Guelph on January 2, 1985. The venue of the next Caribbean meeting (Barbados, 1986) was discussed regarding the possibility of another joint CVMA/Caribbean meeting and the cooperation of the CwVA.

The possibility of establishing a Regional Newsletter was also discussed. As the Guyana, Trinidad and Jamaica Associations are each publishing, at least intermittently, a Newsletter, perhaps the time has come to consolidate these efforts.

Dr. Cazabon took advantage of his visit to renew acquaintance with friends, faculty and former fellow students while in the Toronto-Guelph area.

## Guyana News

**T**he Guyana Veterinary Association is to be congratulated on the successful publication of its Quarterly Newsletter. Under the editorship of Dr. Pat McKenzie it has recently published Volume 3, #1. In addition to informing the membership of veterinary affairs in Guyana it is anticipated that through the aegis of Dr. Holman Williams, Caribbean/Canada regional representative, the Guyanese veterinarians will be kept fully informed of the activities of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. The information supplied by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association regarding the names and addresses of expatriate veterinarians from the Caribbean area should be of interest not only to members of the association but to governments and other institutions. The publication by the CwVA of a Caribbean/Canada directory of veterinarians for the region will also be of interest to members.

Dr. Herman Reid, President of the Guyana Veterinary Association recently visited the office of the CwVA Secretary-Treasurer. Aspects of the CwVA program as it affects the Caribbean area were discussed, including the possible publication of a Caribbean Newsletter.

Dr. Reid is a graduate of Tuskegee University (1979) and received his M.Sc. from the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1982. He has been in Canada for four months working and studying at Centralia College, Huron Park and the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. He has been closely associated with Drs. Sanford and Josephson. He will return to Guyana in the new year.

## New Building for the Indian Veterinary Journal

**T**he "Stone Laying" ceremony for the new building of the Indian Veterinary Journal took place on Sunday, May 26, 1985 at 186 Purasawalkam High Road, Madras. In attendance were The Honourable Dr. N.V.R. Nedunchezian, Thiru. T.V. Antony, I.A.S. and Thiru. A. Venkataraman, I.A.S.

Dr. I.M. Bujarbarua, CwVA Regional Representative (Asia) gave the welcoming address. This was followed by a report from Dr. R. Krishnamurti, editor, on the "Genesis and Growth of the Indian Veterinary Journal. The Presidential address was made by Thiru. T.V. Antony, I.A.S.

continued from 4

This event, following closely on the heels of the recent legislative changes giving increased stature to the profession in India, demonstrates the progressive nature of this CwVA member association. The administrative offices and members of the Indian Veterinary Association are to be congratulated!

## Passage of the Indian Veterinary Council Bill

An editorial in the August, 1984 issue of the Indian Veterinary Journal announces the passage by parliament of the amended (1984) Indian Council Bill of 1981. The most important sub-clause in the bill restricts membership on the Council by stating that "A person shall not be qualified for nomination or election to the Council unless he holds a recognized veterinary qualification".

The editorial further states that: "The most important feature of the Bill is the addition of new clauses to empower the Indian Veterinary Council to regulate Veterinary Education and provide for other matters connected therewith. Clauses pertaining to: power to require information as to courses of study and examinations; inspection of veterinary institutions and examinations; appointment of visitors; withdrawal of recognition and minimum standards of Veterinary Education are bound to receive approbation of the profession."

## CwVA Acts as Host to the Commonwealth Professional Associations

(CPA Awards for Innovation)

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association acted as host to a meeting of the Commonwealth Professional Associations at the offices of the British Veterinary Association in London, January 8, 1985.

The Vice-President of the CwVA, Mr. J.T. Blackburn who is also President of the BVA was instrumental in convening this meeting. The Commonwealth Professional Associations provide Awards for Innovations. Copies of the Rules, Conditions and Application forms for these awards have been sent to all Regional Representatives. Interested members of the CwVA can contact their Regional Representative for additional information.

## United Kingdom

Mr. J.T. Blackburn, Vice-President of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association has assumed the office of President of the British Veterinary Association.



Mr. J.T. Blackburn, Vice President of the CwVA, in his robes of office upon his assumption of the Presidency of the B.V.A. September, 1984.

The CwVA offers congratulations to our vice-president in his role of President of the B.V.A. He will bring the affairs of our organization most effectively to the B.V.A. in his new role.

Mr. Blackburn is a graduate of the Royal Veterinary College (1958). He has been a practitioner in England and has served as a district veterinary officer in various parts of Africa. He has also taken a hand in teaching, being responsible for the training of Veterinary Auxiliaries and for in-course training of senior assistants. Other African experience was gained in Kenya and Ethiopia.

He obtained the Diploma in Tropical Veterinary Medicine in 1966 and was awarded the F.R.C.V.S. in 1970.

## Barbados — 1986 Joint Caribbean/Canada Veterinary Conference

The next Joint Caribbean/Canada Veterinary Conference will take place in Barbados, West Indies from November 30 - December 5, 1986.

Barbados is a familiar holiday island resort for Canadians every year. It is unsurpassed for beauty and its lovely beaches, an ideal place for a family vacation.

The venue of the meeting will be the Dover Convention Centre which is surrounded by many hotels.

Steps are underway to obtain a convention rate at one of the hotels and for special group air fares for Canadians attending the meeting. For more details please contact the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, 339 Booth St., Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1R 7K1 (613) 236-1162.

## Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship Scheme to Promote Commonwealth Understanding

The Commonwealth Foundation invited nominations for participation in its Fellowship Scheme to promote Commonwealth understanding. The broad aim of the scheme is to promote better understanding of Commonwealth affairs and foster a greater commitment to Commonwealth ideals.

The specific aims for those selected will be to become informed on political, economic and social issues within the Commonwealth and to raise fundamental questions on the role of the Commonwealth, 2) to become familiar with the working of important Commonwealth organizations, 3) to share experiences with other fellows they will meet during their visit to the United Kingdom and 4) to utilize the knowledge they acquire during the visit in their own country and throughout the Commonwealth. It was disappointing that the nominees the CwVA were not among those selected. This, however, is a continuing program and we will have the opportunity of submitting other nominees in the future.

## Continuing Education — Audio Visual

There is a vast amount of Audio-Visual material available for study by individuals, groups, associations or schools. These items come in several forms: 16 mm films, slide-tape presentations and videotapes. Some universities make these materials available on request as do some veterinary associations.

Probably the most extensive and complete collections of this type of instructional material is available from the American Veterinary Medical Association. Another, but more limited source is located in the Royal Veterinary College, London.

The CwVA Secretariat has distributed the catalogues of both organizations to the Regional Representatives who may be contacted for further information. Alternatively, interested individuals can contact either source by writing to: American Veterinary Medical Association  
930 North Meacham Road  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196  
U.S.A.

or: The Unit Veterinary for Continuing Education  
The Royal Veterinary College  
Royal College St.  
London NW1 0TU  
England

## Caribbean/Canada Directory of CwVA Veterinarians

In 1985, the first Directory of Veterinarians for this region was published. It contains the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and occupation (private practice, government, university, etc.) The list is compiled according to country and provinces.

This was accomplished through the cooperation of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. Copies are being distributed to all CwVA members in the Caribbean.

Copies of this Regional Directory will be sent to all Regional Representatives with an enquiry as to whether a similar project could be instituted in their respective regions.

## Foundation's Faletau



**I**noke Faletau, from Tonga, now heads the Commonwealth Foundation. He succeeds Ric Throssell (Australia) who retired due to ill-health in January 1985. Sri Lanka's Sabanayagam Mahendra, then Deputy Director, ran the Foundation in the intervening year.

Mr. Faletau (47), High Commissioner for Tonga in London (1972-82), was, for the past two years, Director of the Secretariat's Management Development Programme. Earlier, he was Secretary to the Tongan Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service. He held special responsibilities on external relations, security, economic development and aid negotiations.

While High Commissioner in London, Mr. Faletau had close connections with the Secretariat as well as the Foundation. He has been Chairman of the CFTC's Board of Representatives and of the Secretariat's Finance Committee, a member of two Secretariat Review Groups and a Governor of the Foundation.

## Commonwealth Foundation

**T**he Chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation is Mr. Ulric Cross, a distinguished judge from Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Cross who has been judge of the Court of Appeal, Trinidad and Tobago since 1979, has had thirty years legal service in Commonwealth countries in Africa and the Caribbean. He was born and educated in Trinidad and spent six years in the Royal Air Force (1941-1947) where he was awarded both the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) before qualifying as a barrister at the Middle Temple, London in 1949. He then returned home to combine a Legal Adviser's post in the Government Service, with law lecturing at the University of the West Indies.

In 1953 he returned to London and spent four years as a Talks Producer with the British Broadcasting Corporation at Bush House, before joining the Ghanaian Legal Service as a Crown Counsel. This was followed by six years in West Cameroons where he was Attorney-General, Member of the Cabinet and the House of Assembly, and Advocate-General in the Federal Court of Justice of the Republic of the Cameroon. In 1967 he became a Judge of the High Court of Tanzania and Chairman of the Permanent Labour Tribunal of Tanzania. From 1970-1974 he was Professor of Law, University of Dar es Salaam; after which he returned to Trinidad & Tobago as a High Court judge.

Mr. Cross was appointed to the Chairmanship of the Foundation by the Governments of the Commonwealth for an initial term of two years at the Senior Officials Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania.



Mr. Justice Cross (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) is seen here with some members of the CwVA Executive Committee. Left to right are: I. Archibald (Sec./Treas.), L.P.E. Choquette (President), I.M. Bujarbarua (Regional Rep. Asia), I.T. Blackburn (Vice-Pres.), Mr. Justice Cross (Chairman, Commonwealth Foundation), and H.E. Williams (Regional Rep. Caribbean/Canada), attending the Joint Caribbean/Canada Veterinary Conference held in Trinidad, 1984.

## New CwVA Council Members

**T**he Commonwealth Veterinary Association is pleased to announce the appointment of new CwVA Council members.



**Dr. Turner** received his secondary education in Jamaica and was graduated as a D.V.M. from Tuskegee Institute. He is presently Consultant Veterinarian Agriculture Development Corp., in Jamaica. He has been the recipient of several fellowships in the U.S. and Canada.





**Dr. Aire** is a graduate of Bello University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Ibadan in 1976, where he is presently professor of Veterinary Anatomy. Dr. Aire has been active in several professional veterinary affairs, and is a past-President of the Nigerian Veterinary Association.



**Dr. Wanasinghe** obtained his D.V.M. degree in 1967 from Mymensingh Agricultural University in Bangladesh. He also obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Queensland, Australia for his work in mastitis. Dr. Wanasinghe has served in Sri Lanka as state veterinary officer and later as Veterinary Research Officer, Research Institute, Peradeniya.



**Dr. Bujarbarua** received his veterinary education in India and his Ph.D. from Cambridge University. Over the last years, he has visited various parts of India to strengthen state associations.



**Dr. Choo Hoo** was graduated from the University of Liverpool with the degree B.V.Sc.. He is a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Dr. Choo Hoo is presently Deputy Director of the Primary Production Division, Ministry of the Environment, Singapore. He is a past-President of the Association of Veterinary Surgeons, Malaysia and Singapore, and of the Singapore Veterinary Association.



**Dr. S.J. Ndaomba** Malawi

Following studies in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics at Chancellor College, University of Malawi, Dr. Ndaomba received a scholarship to study veterinary medicine at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He was awarded his B.V.M. degree in 1981. At the present time he is serving as Divisional Veterinary Officer in the Mzuzu Agricultural Development Division.



**Dr. Eric Shortridge** New Zealand

Dr. Shortridge was graduated from the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, in 1950. In 1952 he emigrated to New Zealand and spent seven of the next eight years working in veterinary club practice at various localities.

He became Superintendent of the Veterinary Investigation Services of the Ministry of Agriculture located in Wellington, for about two years and since 1971 he has been Regional Veterinary Officer for the Hastings region of the North Island of New Zealand.