

COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



TO
STRENGTHEN THE LINKS
OF
FRIENDSHIP & CO-OPERATION
BY
KNOWING EACH OTHER
BETTER

Commonwealth Day Message

In Her 1986 Commonwealth Day Message Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, made special mention of the young people of the Commonwealth. To these young people Her Majesty stressed the importance of getting to know more about the people of other Commonwealth countries, and of meeting and helping them whenever possible. It is no less important that we all do likewise.

The CwVA respectfully reproduces that message.

COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE

from Her Majesty The Queen,
Head of the Commonwealth

With the approach of my 60th birthday this year, I have been reflecting on the changes which have taken place in

the Commonwealth during the thirty-four years in which I have been its Head.

I have now visited all the independent countries of the Commonwealth and I have watched and welcomed its growth into a group of forty-nine nations spread over every continent and ocean and containing a quarter of the world's population. Each country chooses to belong because it believes that the Commonwealth has a valuable part to play in the world. The importance of its role was clearly shown at the successful Heads of Government Meeting last year at Nassau.

My thoughts are often with the millions of young people who make up more than half the Commonwealth, especially on this Commonwealth Day. They deserve all the help and all the opportunities we can give them.

I have a message for them, and it is this. I have seen everywhere the eagerness and sense of adventure you all share. I have been touched by your courage and your sympathy for those in need, and by your capacity for friendship. I ask you now to take every chance to get to know more about the people of other Commonwealth countries, and to meet them and help them whenever you can. Together you can not only strengthen the spirit of the Commonwealth itself, but also contribute, by showing goodwill, tolerance and understanding, to the easing of world tensions which threaten all peoples. Between us we can help to ensure that we may overcome hardship and poverty and live together in peace and freedom.

10th March 1986

ELIZABETH R.

Commonwealth Heads of State meet

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of The Gambia, Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara led the Gambian delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which took place in Nassau, The Bahamas, from 16th - 27th October, 1985. Of the 46 countries which attended the meeting, including The Gambia, 41 were represented by their Heads of State or Prime Ministers and the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Sir Linden O. Pindling was in the chair.

During both the opening ceremony and the executive sessions as well as the weekend retreat at Lyford Cay, Commonwealth Leaders made reference to the collective achievements of the Commonwealth in the past and discussed current world issues which needed to be addressed, especially the situation in Southern Africa. They also reviewed international development and expressed concern for the declining commitment to co-operative approaches to the ordering of global affairs. In doing so, they seized the opportunity to express their concern and hopes for the future in the Nassau Declaration on World Order. This was of particular significance, in view of the fact that the Summit coincided with the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations.

With regard to the special needs of small states, the meeting welcomed the Report of the Consultative Group entitled "Vulnerability: Small States in the Global Society", and drew special attention to the analysis and recommendations concerning the economies of small states in the Communiqué. This

agenda item was of special interest to The Gambia and, as in Lusaka in 1979, the delegation circulated a paper at the Nassau Meeting.

As is traditional, Commonwealth Leaders also focused on the world's major problem areas including the situation in Cyprus, Belize, Guyana, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, Central America, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Afghanistan, disarmament, terrorism, Law of the Sea, Sub-Saharan African problems, Population and Development, Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Human Rights, International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, Universal Child Immunisation and the Twentieth Anniversary of the Commonwealth Secretariat and various aspects of Commonwealth

functional co-operation which represents a crucial aspect of giving collective efforts and practical expression to the spirit of partnership which exist within the Commonwealth.

Whilst in The Bahamas, His Excellency the President also called on Her Majesty the Queen and discussed issues of common bilateral interest with some of his colleagues including President Kaunda of Zambia. The traditional message of felicitations to Her Majesty the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth was of course sent to Her Majesty right at the beginning of the meeting on behalf of Commonwealth Leaders attending the meeting.

Finally, Commonwealth Heads of Government including the Gambian

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Swaziland benefits from Dr. Benn's participation

By passing her Canadian Veterinary Journal and her Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research on to the CwVA's "Journal and Book Distribution" program, Dr. Denna Benn of Animal Care Services, University of Guelph, Canada, is now an active participant in that program. Her journals are now going to Swaziland. There they are circulated among 17 members of the Swaziland Veterinary Association. A SVA program, managed by its

secretary, Dr. M.P. Maher, allows all its members to have access to available veterinary textbooks and journals.

Denna Benn may never have the opportunity of visiting Swaziland, however, her generosity, complemented by the work of the veterinarians there, allows her to play a personal and active role in helping livestock producers, including the small farmers and landless stockmen, of Swaziland.

A privilege

Address from Commonwealth Secretary

The CwVA News is privileged to reproduce the following address of Mr. P.L.U. Cross. Mr. Justice Cross is Chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation. He is also Chairman of Trinidad's Law Commission, having earlier served in five Commonwealth countries. Mr. Cross was speaking at the inaugural annual lecture of the Commonwealth Professional Associations given in London. For anyone, involved and or interested in Third World Development, there is much in this talk that should be not only marked, but well marked.

WHEN THE PROFESSIONAL SHOULD SAY 'NO, MINISTER'

Professional bodies are in the main self-regulatory. They usually have disciplinary committees whose function is to sit in judgement on and, where it is warranted, punish those members who are found to be guilty of infringements of the professional code.

Is it unreasonable to suggest that the public interest would better be served by the inclusion of a representative of the wider community on disciplinary committees?

This would at the very least disarm those critics who complain that the present system is designed to shield the good name of the profession rather than protect the public interest.

There is another reason for this suggestion which I admit is relevant perhaps only to small countries. Often the relationship between members of a profession are close and ties of kinship or friendship frequently exist.

One barrister of my acquaintance in such a country has gone so far as to propose that the barristers' disciplinary committee in his country should completely exclude members of the bar.

The problem is not so much the absence or the adequacy of a code of ethics as the difficulties in applying or enforcing it in societies whose peculiar circumstances and differing cultures are often far removed from those of the countries where the code may have been established in the first place.

I hope I won't be misunderstood. I do not for one moment suggest that standards should be lowered or compromised, but I would urge that they should be looked at carefully to see whether an adaptation to suit the conditions in which a profession is practised would not be worthwhile without diluting the objects which the code seeks to attain.

Let me try to give one example by



Mr. Justice P.L.U. Cross, Chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation.

asking a question. Should the schedule of fees laid down by the Royal Institute of British Architects be applied or even used as a guideline in all Commonwealth countries in which its members practise their profession?

Many professionals from developed countries practise their professions in developing countries. Aid programmes, both bilateral and multilateral, private organisations giving technical assistance, government to government contracts and even direct contracts between individuals and overseas Commonwealth countries have multiplied the number of professional expatriates in developing Commonwealth countries.

The storage of local expertise both in quantity and in experience is responsible for this phenomenon and these "experts", as they have come to be called, have an important and very necessary role to play in Commonwealth development.

I recognise that some hard things are said about experts. The more cynical professionals in developing countries define an expert as anyone more than 50 miles from his own country, and we all know the comparison which is cleverly made - I think it was recently referred to in the British House of Commons by Conservative Member of Parliament - between the Titanic which

was built by experts and Noah's Ark which was built by amateurs.

Nevertheless, the expert professionals come making their contribution to the development of the countries which need their services.

But although the labourer is worthy of his hire one must be frank and admit that some of them are handsomely rewarded for those services.

Most developing countries in the Commonwealth have mixed economies with state enterprises playing an ever increasing role in their economic lives. More and more professionals are being called upon to advise on the suitability of proposed projects or their viability or even the choice of one project rather than another.

It is true that the professional is not required to take a decision. But his advice will sometimes determine whether the project is embarked upon or not. On other occasions he is merely asked to comment on the problems which might arise if a particular project is carried out.

Herein lies his dilemma. Should he point out the purely technical disadvantages or should he include other peripheral disadvantages such as high maintenance costs which are clear to him of a prestigious project which the Minister obviously desires?

Should he draw attention to the fact that a number of cottage hospitals would probably be of greater benefit to the population than a splendid hospital in the capital with highly sophisticated modern equipment? These are very real and very practical problems with which those who advise and those who decide have long been faced.

Two centuries ago Adam Smith commented in these words: "The proud minister of an ostentatious court may frequently take pleasure in executing a work of splendour and magnificence such as a great highway, which is fre-

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Heads of State

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Head of State accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of Canada to hold our next meeting in Canada.

The above news release was an official News Release from the Office of His Excellency Sir Dawda Jawara, President of The Republic of The Gambia and Patron of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. His Excellency's office is located in the State House in Banjul, The Gambia.

When the professional should say "No"

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quently seen by the great nobility, whose applause not only flatter his vanity, but even contribute to support his interest at court.

"But to execute a great number of little works, in which nothing that can be done can make any great appearance, or excite the smallest degree of admiration in any traveller, and which, in short, have nothing to recommend them but their extreme utility, is a business which appears in every respect too mean and paltry to merit the attention of so great a magistrate."

I would suggest that it is the duty of the professional not merely to confine his advice to those matters falling clearly and strictly within the narrow limits of his own profession but also to draw attention tactfully to tangential matters which have a direct bearing on the suitability or validity of the proposed project.

He may have seen, through his greater experience, possibly in other countries, consequences of which his political masters may never have conceived.

Not all professionals from developed countries are employed by governments or state enterprises in the newer Commonwealth countries.

The wind of change which brought independence to these countries also brought expanded economic activities which in their turn required the advent of multinational organisations with professional staffs to meet the demands for expertise and experience which were lacking locally.

The main reason for the existence of these organisations is, not unnaturally, profit. In the search for more and more profits they are often tempted to cut corners, run risks and fall below the minimum standards which are insisted upon, sometimes by legislation, in the metropolitan countries.

In addition, many contracts with these companies include clauses providing for the transfer of technology. These clauses are not easy to enforce and frequently are more honoured in the breach than the observance.

The professional who is aware of his responsibility to the developing community and also from his own self-respect and his duty to maintain his professional integrity must feel obliged to try to persuade his employers that their responsibility is no less than his and their reputation is equally at stake.

Apart from satisfying his own self-esteem he would earn the respect of his fellow professionals in the country in which he is working, justify in a more tangible way his presence among them and set an example which, one hopes,

they would be eager to follow.

A common language, our inheritance of the common law, and the fact that so many professionals in the newer Commonwealth were trained in Britain or in other Commonwealth countries, have helped to overcome the problems attendant on pursuing a profession in a country other than one's own.

The value of personal contacts cannot be too highly stressed. I am sure that the real strength of this unique partnership of Commonwealth peoples lies in the ties of friendship which bind us all together.

The role of the professional in Commonwealth development must not be restricted to contributing his competence in his particular field or even exemplifying his professional integrity, important though these qualities undoubtedly are.

But establishing a rapport with his fellow professionals and playing some part in his life of the society in which he finds himself, are, I submit of equal value both in the development of the host country and of the professional himself. It enables him to place his pro-

fessional activities in their proper social context.

For those whose professional duties require their presence for some years in another Commonwealth country it is no less a contribution to Commonwealth development to enter into some aspect of the life of the country. The opportunities are there.

In my own country, Trinidad and Tobago, I am acquainted with professionals from overseas who continue to pursue their hobbies or amateur interests by joining local societies. They appear on stage in local plays, they perform with the music society, they write articles and deliver lectures for the field naturalists and enter their pictures for art society exhibitions.

For too long, development has been measured by increases in per capita income, balance of payments surpluses and the expansion in the use of consumer durables.

The intelligent and sensitive professional views his role through a much wider angled lens. He sees his contribution to Commonwealth development as enhancing not only the standard of living but also the quality of life.

Sadcc has nine members

"Sadcc" (the Southern African Development Coordination Conference) is an economic grouping with a political vision. In Sadcc there are nine (9) member countries, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Ever since Sadcc was formed in 1979, the Commonwealth has been among its staunchest supporters. This support has been given bilaterally by individual Commonwealth countries and multilaterally through the Commonwealth Secretariat, particularly its developmental arm the CFTC.

Sadcc has structured its work in six (6) sectors: transport and communications, food and agriculture, industry, energy, mining, and manpower. As well as being involved in other sectors CFTC has supported Sadcc's work in the important area of regional food security.

This is especially relevant to the CFTC following the establishment last year of the Commonwealth Action Group (CAG) to assist international efforts with the sub-Saharan food crisis. The CFTC's Managing Director commended CAG's report, "African Agriculture: Building for the Future". The Secretariat's Food Production and Rural Development Division and General Technical Assistance Division have identified several gap-filling projects in the region for potential support. Also Sadcc countries have benefitted from CFTC-sponsored seminars on agricultural issues organized as a follow-up to CAG's work, as well as from the Secretariat's regular programme relating to food and agriculture.

Source: Commonwealth Currents April 1986

Secretariat Publications

A complete list of Secretariat publications is available from:
Information Division
Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
London, England
SW1Y 5HX

Focus of Science Council expands

The Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) is a catalytic organ servicing the needs of government and scientists, including technologists. Its aim is, by collaboration between member countries of the Commonwealth, to increase the capabilities of individual nations to generate and use science and technology for economic, social and environmental development. During the past three (3) years the CSC has expanded its programme to focus on the strategic use of "Science for Technology for Development". CSC programmes now embrace the following areas: Energy Resources, Biological Resources, Water and Mineral Resources, Agriculture, Environmental Planning, Industrial Sup-

port, Science Management and Operations.

We should not only be aware of the CSC but we should know something about it. Among its various publications is a most fascinating one, the Earth Sciences Newsletter. This publication comes out every two (2) months and contains reports and summaries on a

myriad of scientific events, developments, suspensions, discoveries, meetings and so on.

Professor J.I. Furtado is Secretary of the CSC and its address is Commonwealth Science Council, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HX, England.

ACU promotes contact

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) was founded in 1913. Incorporated by royal charter, the ACU is the oldest international inter-university association in the world. It has two hundred and ninety-five (295)

member universities in twenty-nine (29) Commonwealth countries.

The aim of the Association is to promote contact and co-operation between its member institutions and it works in a number of practical ways to serve them.

It does all it can to promote the movement of academic and administrative staff and students from one country of the Commonwealth to another.

It provides information about universities.

It organizes meetings of various kinds.

For those who wish for more information about the ACU's services and activities the address is John Foster House, 36 Gordon Square, London, England, WC1H 0PF.

di•e•tar•y man•age•ment (di•ə•ter•i man•ij•ment), *n.* 1. *a)* a medical discipline encompassing the lifelong control of daily nutrient intake to meet the changing, unique requirements of diseased and healthy pets, in order to maximize quality and length of life. *b)* one of various medical disciplines which interact to form a quality veterinary practice. 2. The practice of using nutrition as an aid in the prevention and/or management of disease.

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Malnourishment on decline

The proportion of malnourished people in the world shows signs of a decline, the first time in 40 years, but the number of hungry people is still increasing, says the FAO.

It reports better nutrition in 75 developing countries, with three billion people, but points out that improvements are not global. In 26 countries, per capita food consumption has fallen sharply, and for the least Developed Countries as a group the proportion of malnourished people has risen. Small children are a high proportion of the malnourished.

The FAO makes two estimates for malnourished people. According to its low estimate, the proportion dropped from 19 to 15 percent of the total world population in the decade between 1969-71 and 1979-81. The high estimate suggests a fall from 28 to 23 percent. FAO says a 12 per cent increase in world food supplies per head in the 1960s and 70s was responsible for this fall.

The low estimate puts the number of hungry (malnourished) people in the world at 335 million, up 10 million. The high estimate puts the figure at 494 million, up 22 million.



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When you have read this copy, please pass it on to a school, library or a new reader.

Quarantines protect all

The following editorial is from Vet-News (Vol.2 No.2-1986). The article by Dr. Cazabon, which is referred to, can be found in the ZOOSES section of this CwVA News.

In this issue of Vet-News the very important topic of "Quarantine" is discussed by Dr. E.P.I. Cazabon. To the layman, quarantining of his healthy imported dog for the period of six months, may appear unreasonable. To the veterinarian or quarantine officer, this period strikes a happy medium. I hope that the explanation given by Dr. Cazabon will help to erase some of the doubts in the minds of members of the public.

The public, and in particular the traveller should be assured that whatever action is taken by the quarantine officer, is for the protection of himself, his family and his country. For if there are no laws governing the movement of animals and their by-products between countries, epidemics in both man and animals would reign supreme.

Finally, I believe that the government of Trinidad and Tobago have made these laws and regulations to help the public to carry-out their legitimate business and in an orderly manner, and not to hinder, obstruct or "pressurize". It will augur well for the Animal Health Division if veterinarians and other personnel attached to our ports of entry will also remember this.

Further to this, and closely related to quarantine requirements of the country, there is the whole question of restrictions and limitations on the importation of birds and animal products such as processed meats (e.g. hams, sausages, pickled meats etc.) into Trinidad and Tobago. Many officers in

the Animal Health Division attached to the Airport from time to time, would attest to the problems encountered during the Christmas and Carnival seasons particularly when incoming passengers return with hams etc. without the necessary documents, or from countries in which foot-and-mouth disease is endemic. The traveller feels cheated if his property is lawfully confiscated and destroyed and very often they may attempt to prevent confiscation on the basis of "who they know". This could be a very difficult situation at times.

Comments by CwVA editor:- The problems described in this editorial can be made even more miserable for the government veterinarian of a small country where the veterinary department is limited to that veterinarian and one or two assistants. When such problems, as described in the editorial, arise in the in-coming section of the airport the Chief Veterinary Officer will be called. Prominent politicians and government ministers may also be summoned to the scene. The customs and immigration officers, and often the politicians and government ministers, tend to maintain their caring stance by sympathetically advising the upset traveller (quite often someone coming back home for a visit) that it is "all up to the Chief Veterinary Officer". The traveller then refuses to acknowledge that there are laws and regulations governing imports and apparently becomes convinced that all rests upon the whim of the by-now harassed veterinarian. Airport personnel gradually gather around to observe, with interest, the progression of the traveller's state of mind from UPSET to HOSTILE.

Nuclear winter — what do you think?

More than sixty (60) million years ago a natural cataclysm may have provided a preview of the effects of a nuclear winter. Evidence is now coming to light that the impact of a giant meteorite set off forest and prairie fires on a continental scale, shrouding the earth in smoke in the same way as would the fires following an all-out nuclear exchange. Traces of the ancient fires have been discovered by scientists from the University of Chicago in places as far apart as Denmark, Spain and New Zealand. In clays laid down about sixty-five (65) million years ago they found similar layers of soot showing all the signs of having originated in a big fire. If such a layer were deposited uniformly over the whole earth the conflagration must have been gigantic. Either deposits of coal and oil were ignited or a substantial portion of the world's vegetation was consumed.

The dinosaurs could have been among the casualties of the climatic changes caused by that primeval holocaust. (Will it be that MAN will be among the casualties of a manmade nuclear holocaust?)

Source: Earth Sciences Newsletter (Jan-Feb 86) - Commonwealth Science Council.

Wisdom wisens not with age

It is therefore in order to reproduce the following editorial from the December 1982 Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal:-

EDITORIAL - One of our correspondents, Dr. B.H. Fivaz, writing in our last issue on the pros and cons of embryo transfers in Zimbabwe, made a plea against the wholesale introduction of exotic dairy cattle into the communal areas. He ended (his plea) with 'The idea of a Holstein dairy herd enduring a drought or a deluge in the Babers communal land is quite frightening'.

In September, 1982, Professor G. Uilenberg of the Institute of Tropical Veterinary Medicine and Protozoology at Utrecht, The Netherlands, spoke very strongly at the Twelfth World Congress on Diseases of Cattle against the indiscriminate introduction of European (and North American-editor CwVA) cattle into developing countries. In the present (1982) situation in Zimbabwe his comments bear repeating.

After their independence many developing countries, trying to solve their problem of low milk and meat production in a seemingly quick and simple way, have renewed attempts (made by early European colonists) at establishing those marvellous European (and North American-editor

World health requires more than wells, pumps and hardware

Wells, pumps and hardware alone are not enough to improve World Health. The great worldwide effort of the UN's Water Decade to provide clean water, wells, pumps, pipes and latrines is not having the dramatic health impact that was initially expected, according to Samsi Krishna, freelance writer for the Times of India. Writing in the publication *Waterlines*, the author notes that the multimillion dollar program to provide hard ware has not been matched by a comparable health and hygiene education effort.

Krishna claims that many of the studies that do show an improvement in one or more health indicators are unreliable or incomplete. The author emphasizes that no one really knows how villagers can be helped to use their hardware more effectively. Behavior changes slowly and in the health educa-

CwVA) cattle, either as such, more usually to upgrade local stock. Cattle are also donated as part of the aid programmes of several developed countries in the belief that this may alleviate malnutrition problems in the tropics. Results have been rather mixed, most projects have failed dismally, certainly among those intended to improve the livestock of the small owner.

While in a few cases the importing countries have learned through mistakes of the past, it is astonishing that still far too often cattle are ordered and shipped without a thought for the conditions awaiting them. The decisions are often made by politicians and officials responsible for aid, ignorant in this particular field; spectacular failures are commonly passed over in silence. The advice of experts with real tropical experience...is not always asked for or heeded'.

Uilenberg continues by enumerating the factors which influence the outcome of such projects; climatic stress, not such a serious problem in Zimbabwe; nutrition; management, "it is a waste of time and funds to try and introduce proper dairying to livestock owners as long as they have no notion of making hay and ensilage"; political and financial stability; and disease factors which present problems that even good management cannot always overcome."

tion field there is a great need to find new ways of communicating information. The author suggests that the problem is rooted in personal and household hygiene and that despite the hardware, unhygienic individual and community behavior is not changing - mothers clean diseased children, but do not wash their hands, and then go on to infect another child; adults wash hands (and feet) before a meal, but the children do not. Krishna adds that ritual handwashing emphasized by many religions may have helped control the spread of disease. In fact, one UNICEF official calls handwashing "the most important scientific and medical development of all time".

Source: Earth Sciences Newsletter (Jan-Feb 86) - Commonwealth Science Council

About pain

The first plenary session of the 62nd New Zealand Veterinary Conference was entitled Pain in Perspective and was chaired by Professor Blackmore. The report of that session contains considerable of interest, including the following.

"Pain, contrary to popular belief, is not a physical phenomenon. The perception of pain requires a functional cerebral cortex. In the absence of this criterion, pain stimuli, receptors fibres, reflexes and pathways can all be involved without the animal actually perceiving pain at all. Neither is it an all or none phenomenon. Similarly, emotional reactions to pain such as anxiety, depression, vocalization and suffering are shown in differing ways in different animals. As in humans, tolerance of pain is not the same in all animals." - it was noted that "In any situation where acupuncture is used for pain relief, traditional forms of relief should be immediately at hand in the event of failure of correct stimulation of the relevant acupuncture points, and the animal consequently reacting to pain perceived."

Source: New Zealand Veterinary Journal Aug. '86.

Public education

The June '86 Canadian Veterinary Journal reports that the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association have a series of public service announcements for radio. The announcements are 30 seconds long and discuss topics such as parasites, rabies, dental care, footwork and what is a veterinarian.

In the Underdeveloped Countries where radio is the most powerful and successful means of widespread public communication the idea of short radio announcements holds a great potential for increasing public awareness and interest in areas of concern. There may well be veterinary associations of developing Commonwealth countries already experienced in this activity. If so, it would be of considerable interest to hear about their efforts and the results obtained.

Drug Adverse Reactions

The June '86 Canadian Veterinary Journal contains a "Summary of Suspected Drug Adverse Reactions". These incidents occurred during the period of July 1 to December 31, 1985 and were reported to the Canadian Bureau of Veterinary Drugs.

Veterinarians of the Third World, who have access to the CVJ, will find this "Summary" to be of interest and value.

President's message

The first issue, in January 1986, of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association's Newsletter marked a milestone in the history of the Association. The present issue is not only a sign of the vitality of the CwVA but also of the determination of its Executive Committee to pursue actively one of its objectives, namely: "to effect the closest possible links between member associations".

The existence, initially or subsequently developed, of solid links between national veterinary associations in Commonwealth member countries has been and still is the cornerstone upon which rest the establishment and further growth of the Commonwealth-wide body that the CwVA has become.

From 1968 when the CwVA came into its own, the association has evolved from 12 national association members that had agreed in 1967 to establish it to 37 members representing nearly 60,000 veterinarians, making the CwVA a major international veterinary group second only to the World Veterinary Association. The continued voluntary growth of the CwVA reflects the esteem in which it is held in veterinary communities in Commonwealth member countries. While great progress has been made in terms of adhesion since 1968, there is need for improvement in the quality of links between member associations.

In the absence of solid links and good communication between member associations, particularly at the Regional level, it is more difficult for the CwVA to pursue successfully its goals and the implementation of its concomitant

programmes. However, in all fairness, the development and maintenance of links between member associations have shown tangible results best exemplified by joint conferences and seminars held in all six CwVA regions in 1985 and in 1986. Great progress was made in recent years thanks to links between associations however tenuous these links may have been between certain of them, in regions plagued by political strife, economic woes and other calamities. It is to the credit of the members of the

profession in some countries that afflicted that, during difficult and troubled times, representatives of their national associations managed to meet and participate in CwVA activities of common interest. This can only be beneficial to the members of the profession and ultimately to the communities they serve. It is clear that it behoves the Regional Representatives, in collaboration with their respective CwVA Council members and, through the latter, with the administrative bodies of the as-

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CwVA President Dr. L. P. E. Choquette honoured by the British Veterinary Association.

Dr. Choquette is honoured

The Secretariat has been informed that President Choquette was honoured at the Annual General Meeting of the British Veterinary Association in September 1986, by being inducted as an Honorary Member.

The honour was bestowed in recognition of Dr. Choquette's contribution to International Veterinary Medicine, particularly in regard to the Commonwealth.

Dr. Choquette is known internationally as a parasitologist as well as for his contributions to the professional aspects of veterinary medicine. Among other honours that have been bestowed upon him are Life Membership in the CVMA, Honorary Membership in the

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Accepts appointment to CwVA Executive

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman of the Bangalore Veterinary College in India is now the Regional Representative of the CwVA Asian Region. Early last year (1986) Dr. Rahman accepted this appointment along with the duties and responsibilities of Council Member for India on the CwVA (Asia) Council.

During the XXIII Indian Veterinary Conference, in April of 1986, Dr. Rahman was elected General Secretary of the Indian Veterinary Association. He has been active in State Veterinary affairs for over fifteen (15) years and at present is the vice-president of the Karnataka Veterinary Association.

Dr. Rahman is Professor and head of the Department of Parasitology at the Bangalore Veterinary College, where he began his academic career as an instructor in parasitology in 1976. His

primary research interests are chemotherapy of parasitic infections and immunity to parasites.

In 1965 Dr. Rahman graduated from the Mysore Veterinary College (India). He then attended the University of Madras (India) where he received a Masters Degree in Veterinary Parasitology. In 1973 he was awarded a Commonwealth Fellowship for higher studies at the University of Queensland (Australia). In 1976 he was awarded a PhD. in Parasitology from the University of Queensland at Brisbane, Australia.

Dr. Rahman's interests cover a wide scope of activities. He is the associate editor of The Indian Veterinary Journal and editor of a popular newsmagazine, The Veterinarian. The Veterinarian is dedicated to the practicing

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Dr. S. Abdul Rahman

Maritime Association supports CwVA

Dr. Bert Stevenson, CwVA Council Member for Canada, has informed the CwVA Secretariat that the Maritime Veterinary Association (Canada) is actively supporting the work of the CwVA. Member associations of that group have made a substantial financial contribution to the CwVA. These funds are to be used to defray expenses involved in mailing veterinary journals and books to various schools, institutions and individuals through out the Commonwealth.



Dr. Bert Stevenson of Sackville, New Brunswick, is seen here presenting a cheque to Dr. L.P.E. Choquette, President of CwVA, on behalf of the Maritime Veterinary Association.

Sri Lanka veterinarians benefit

The veterinarians of Sri Lanka are now receiving The Canadian Veterinary Journal and The Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine through the joint efforts of Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe, Council Member (Sri Lanka), and R.G. Stevenson, Council Member (Canada). One copy of each of the journals for the past five years (1981-1985) and three copies of the 1986 issues of each have been sent to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka will now be on the regular mailing list for three copies of each of these journals. In Sri Lanka the Veterinary College, the Veterinary Research Library and the Veterinary Association will each receive copies. This project has been made possible

because of the financial support of the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association, The Prince Edward Island Veterinary Medical Association and The New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association.

In Ontario one copy of each of these journals is being sent regularly to Tanzania. However here the cost is borne by the CwVA. Any provincial veterinary association or regional veterinary group wishing to support the CwVA or to obtain more information about the CwVA should contact either: Dr. R.G. Stevenson (CwVA Council Member - Canada) P.O. Box 1410 Sackville, New Brunswick E0A 3C0 or

Dr. J. Archibald
(CwVA Secretary-Treasurer)
35 Lynwood Pl.
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2V9

Choquette honoured

from page 8
Caribbean Veterinary Association and the St. Eloi medal of the La corporation professionnelle medecins veterinaires du Quebec.

Within the CwVA Dr. Choquette is perhaps best known in his capacity as Secretary-Treasurer, an office that he held for 17 years before becoming President in 1984.

The members of the CwVA join the members of the British Veterinary Association in congratulating Dr. Choquette on being the first foreign dignitary to be so honoured.

President's message

from page 8

tional associations in their regions, to direct their efforts towards maintaining and furthering links between all member associations.

If solid links between member associations are essential to the good functioning of the CwVA, it is also essential that efforts be also made to make the CwVA better known to the general veterinary public in the Commonwealth. Steps taken in that direction are the launching of the association's newsletter and the production of publication in the Commonwealth

veterinary press. Communication, both internal and external, is an area the Executive Committee intends to probe further with a view to publicizing the activities of the Association among the members of the profession as well as informing the public at large in Commonwealth countries, including commercial firms and government agencies.

With best wishes to all

Laurent P.E. Choquette,
DMV, MSc, PhD.,
President.

Accepts appointment

from page 8

veterinarian and has recently marked its 10th birthday, its circulation has expanded to include Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The Veterinarian is a personal venture which Dr. Rahman has managed with no financial aid from any agency. The Doctor is also editor of the CwVA (Asia) Newsletter.

Soccer, of which he is a very knowledgeable fan, is another interest dear to his heart. He is a National Soccer Referee and has represented the State in many national events.

Your attention please

The CwVA News wishes to acknowledge an error in the July '86 News and to pass along the correct information. The Veterinarian, a monthly newsmagazine, is not a publication of the Indian Veterinary Association. It is printed and published by Dr. S. Abdul Rahman and it receives no financial aid from any agency or persons other than the advertisers and subscribers. It is a personal and creditable effort on the part of Dr. Rahman to play a further part in endeavours to build a stronger veterinary profession in India.

Notice

For those (individuals, organizations, institutions) who search for a direction in which to extend a **HELPING HAND** - turn to the West Africa section and read about the **PONG-TAMALE VETERINARY COLLEGE**.



Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe lights the traditional oil lamp at the inaugural ceremonies at the 39th Annual Sri Lanka Veterinary Convention. The lighting of the lamp marks the official opening.

The Veterinarian, a monthly magazine dedicated to the veterinary profession, carries much of value and interest to its readers. For the CwVA News it is an excellent source of news from the Indian Scene and we are fortunate and very pleased to be on its mailing list.

Dr. Rahman is Professor of Parasitology at the Veterinary College, University of Agricultural Sciences, Hebbal, Bangalore. He is the CwVA (India) Council Member and the CwVA Regional (Asia) Representative.

Dr. Shomer presided over IVADM meeting

The IV International Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine was held in Brighton, England June 4 - 7, 1985. At that congress a meeting of the International Veterinary Academy on Disaster Medicine (IVADM) was held. Co-chairman Dr. R.R. Shomer (USA) presided over the meeting.

Dr. Shomer recounted the development of the Academy and its purposes. He explained the necessity for broadening the focus from the threat on nuclear war to all disasters affecting animals in order for the Academy to work effectively with veterinarians in all countries.

Drs. Belov and Uspenky (USSR) reported that the Russian veterinarians work with the Academy in the struggle to avert nuclear war.

Dr. Bublöt (Belgium) described the work of the "Veterinarians Without Frontiers" (VWF) in serving rural people of the poorest nations.

Dr. Forshell (Sweden) described the long tradition of peaceful arbitration of disputes in Sweden and the start in 1980 of efforts, by physicians, to prevent

Continuing education aids available

Two 16 mm. movies are available on a loan basis from the office of the CwVA Secretary-Treasurer. They are:-

1. The Management of Calves
2. Calf Killer

Any Commonwealth Veterinary Association interested in either one or both of these should contact their CwVA Council Member. They are loaned free-of-charge. In cases of requests for the two of them, the second one will be sent out after the return of the first one.

nuclear wars. The veterinarians in Sweden, organized in 1983.

Dr. Augustyn (The Netherlands) discussed his country's long and elaborate program to counteract disasters among its animals.

Drs. Hagstad and Meyerholz (USA) noted that some veterinary schools have lectures on disaster medicine but that there are serious deficiencies in the education of veterinarians in planning, preparations, and relief measures for animals in disaster situations.

Reports were made of new veterinary organizations, concerned and worried about the probability of large scale disasters.

Organizations mentioned were: Veterinarians for Survival (Canada), Veterinarians for Social Responsibility (Canada), The Veterinary Nuclear War Information Group (England), Vets Against Nuclear War (Finland) and Veterinarians Against Nuclear Weapons (Sweden).

The secretary of the IVADM is Dr. O.H. Stalheim (USA). His address is 1918 George Allen Drive, Ames, Iowa, USA 50010.

Advertising Space Available Commonwealth Circulation

Contact: Dr. J. Archibald
Sec./Treas. CwVA,
35 Lynwood Place,
Guelph, Ontario,
Canada, — N1G 2V9
Phone 519-824-1304

**Asia, comprising
Bangladesh, India
and Sri Lanka**

Regional Representative - Dr. S. Abdul Rahman (India)
Council Members:-
Bangladesh, Dr. M.U. Ahmed

Choudhury; India, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman; Sri Lanka, Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe.

Dr. Wanasinghe lauds CwVA

The February '86 'Sri Lanka Veterinary Association News' carries comments of Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe regarding the 39th Annual SLVA Convention and the joint SLVA-CwVA Seminar of December 1985. Dr. Wanasinghe states:-

"It is with a great sense of satisfaction that I would like to record the grand success of the events. This afforded an opportunity for the veterinarians of the Asian Region (Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka) to interact with each other more closely and to better understand the problems and achievements of each of the member countries. All members felt that without the sponsorship and the assistance of the CwVA such a high

standard could not have been reached. Members of the SLVA, the IVA and the BVA were unanimous in proposing a special vote of thanks to the CwVA and its Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Jim Archibald."

Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe, the CwVA Council Member (Sri Lanka) states that during 1985 CwVA efforts to assist the SLVA included:-

-sponsorship of a four (4) week study tour to India for two (2) veterinarians (Feb.-Mar.1985).

-per diem allowance for twelve (12) regional delegates (from India and Bangladesh) to attend the Joint SLVA-CwVA Seminar and the 39th SLVA Convention (Dec.'85).

-airfare and partial allowance for four

(4) Sri Lankan veterinarians to attend and participate in the December '85 Joint IVA-CwVA Livestock Seminar in Calcutta, India.

It is interesting to note that the Indian Veterinary Association assisted the four Sri Lankan veterinarians by providing their meals and accommodation. The Sri Lankan veterinarians had the additional benefits of a two day visit to the Bangalore Veterinary College and other veterinary institutions at Karnataka and Hissar in Bangalore State. This valuable sidetrip was made possible through the generosity of the Karnataka Branch of the Indian Veterinary Association, who paid the airfare and all expenses for the four delegates during these two days.

SLVA hosts tea party for undergraduate

With financial support from Messrs. Bayliss Ltd. (Veterinary Division), the SLVA hosted the Veterinary Undergraduates to a tea party. About 30 undergraduates and members of the teaching staff of the Veterinary Faculty attended. The purpose of this was to give the budding veterinarians an opportunity to meet with their future professional colleagues.

Mr. Peter D. Lewis of Tetramalco USA delivered an informal talk on "Serum Monitoring of Poultry Chlamydia". This talk was sponsored by Mr. Suresh Jeevanjee of NELF Farm and Banbury.

At the request of SLVA, the Minister in charge of Animal Husbandry

Development presented to Parliament the Animal Feeds Act, which was passed unanimously. This Act would help to control the quality of animal feeds.

The Dairy Development Foundation of Sri Lanka held a four day workshop on the Future Plans for Dairy Development in Sri Lanka. A large number of veterinarians were invited to participate.

Obituary

Hector C. Perera

Dr. Hector C. Perera, a founding member of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association and well known small animal practitioner, passed away in Colombo on January 27, 1985, following a brief illness. He was born on August 3,

1911 and graduated in Veterinary Science from Calcutta in 1938.

Dr. Perera took the initiative and leadership to form the Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) Veterinary Association and held the post of Secretary for 10 consecutive years from its inception on July 28, 1940. He became the Editor of the Ceylon Veterinary Journal in 1955. He played a significant role in the deliberations leading to the enactment of the Veterinary Surgeons and Practitioners Act of 1956. Up to the time of his death he was actively involved in all activities of the Association.

Dr. Perera is survived by his wife and daughter.

**Sri Lanka
boasts
membership
of 250**

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) has a membership of two hundred and fifty (250). Sri Lanka has one (1) veterinary school, the Faculty of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry of the University of Peradeniya. About thirty-five (35) veterinary students graduate each year. Sri Lanka's one (1) Veterinary Research Institute is also located at Peradeniya. It is of interest to note that the Veterinary Research Institute is the workplace of CwVA Council Member Dr. Wanasinghe.

The 1986 Executive of the SLVA, elected in December 1985 at the 39th SLVA Annual Convention, are:-

Dr. G.A.P. Ganegoda, President; Dr. M.C.L. de Alwis, President Elect; Dr. D.J. Weilgama, Vice President; Dr. M. Kopalasunderam, Vice President; Dr. K.M.T. Kendaragama, Secretary; Dr. (Ms.) Thula Wijewardena, Treasurer.

Six (6) other members complete the Executive.

At the request of the Executive, Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe remained CwVA Council Member.

The Honorable S.K. Piyadasa addresses SLVA Conference

From an interesting inaugural address at the 39th Annual SLVA Conference we quote:-

"I am aware of the important role that the Sri Lanka veterinarian has played in the development of animal husbandry and the control of livestock diseases in Sri Lanka" - "I wish to state that the veterinarian must play an even greater role in the future".

"I take this opportunity to appeal, through your association, to all veterinarians to work together to meet

the mammoth challenge of providing the milk, meat and eggs needed by the people of Sri Lanka and also the draft power needed for the agricultural projects which have been initiated by the present government".

"I am glad that you veterinarians have taken the initiative of holding joint regional scientific seminars and meetings. I understand that such regional cooperation has been made possible by assistance from the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. I

wish to thank the Commonwealth Veterinary Association for that magnanimous act. I also wish to welcome the distinguished veterinary professionals from Bangladesh and India. I hope that your stay in Sri Lanka will be pleasant and your scientific deliberations fruitful".

Source: The Honorable S.K. Piyadasa of Sri Lanka, Deputy Minister of Rural Industrial Development and Deputy Minister in charge of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.



Participants at the joint Sri Lanka-CwVA Seminar held in December 1985.

Cooperative scheme is a success

Under a cooperative scheme the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and the University of Ghent, Belgium, with the assistance of the Government of Belgium, have reorganized and strengthened the large animal ambulatory clinic at the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies of the University of Peradeniya. The clinic is now providing practical, field-oriented training for final year veterinary students, as well as rendering veterinary and advisory services to farmers around Peradeniya.

The problems, of increasing the awareness of farmers regarding the availability of the service and the timely communication of cases to the clinic, were partly overcome by working through a Dairy Producers' Association.

The local secretaries of milk collecting centres currently serve as communicators between the farmer and the veterinarian, and the mobile clinic does a weekly tour covering all centres on a pre-planned time schedule which is made known to the farmers.

In order to place more emphasis on training in preventative medicine and herd fertility improvement, seven large farms (both private and state owned) are included in a farm surveillance programme, with routine visits once a month. In addition to these programmed activities the service is available seven days a week for ad-hoc cases and emergencies.

Source: Abstract of paper presented at the 39th Sri Lanka Veterinary Association Annual Convention (1985).

Home remedies

Every land has areas in which unique treatments for both human and animal ailments can be found. Often these home treatments have survived for many years and are truly an integral part of a local culture and are therefore always of interest. In Sri Lanka, in parts of its dry zone indigenous treatments for some conditions of cattle are:-

Foot and Mouth - A mixture of tamarind leaves and gingelly oil is given as a drench. Lesions are treated with a mixture of copper sulphate and margosa oil; highly infected wounds are treated with a mixture of pig dung, copper sulphate and margosa oil which is boiled beforehand.

Haemorrhagic septicaemia - A mixture of copper sulphate, sodium sulphate and alum is ground up, placed inside an orange which is then roasted under hot ash and fed to the animals. As a preventative measure a similar mixture is placed in a cloth and tied around the neck of the animals.

Bloat - Feed or drench the juice of ground up gingelly seed, garlic, coconut and rasakinda.

Worms - The juice of ground margosa leaves mixed with margosa oil is used for the treatment of worm infestation in calves, the treatment is given at about 14 days. For buffalo calves a mixture of coconut and woodapple juice is given at 21 days.

Source: Abstract of paper presented at the 39th Sri Lanka Veterinary Association Annual Convention (1985).

Elections held at XXIII Indian Veterinary Conference

The Indian Veterinary Association has 25,000 members. Its official publication, "The Indian Veterinary Journal", comes out monthly. Dr. Rahman's monthly publication "The Veterinarian" is a newsmagazine dedicated to the practicing veterinarian.

The office bearers of the Indian Association, elected on April 6, 1986 at the XXIII Indian Veterinary Conference are:-

President - Dr. C. Krishna Roa of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh State Veterinary Association.

Vice-President - Dr. P.A. Balu of Madras, Tamil Nadu State Veterinary Association.

General Secretary - Dr. S. Abdul Rahman of Bangalore, Karnataka State Veterinary Association.

Joint Secretary - Dr. R.N. Patnaik of Orissa, Orissa State Veterinary Association.

Treasurer - Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna of Bangalore, Karnataka State Veterinary Association.

Source: Proceedings of the XXIII Indian Veterinary Conference - Communication from Dr. Rahman.

Traditional ceremony opens conference

The lighting of THE LAMP, a traditional ceremony, opened the Conference at the Kala Academy in the city of Panaji, Goa, on the banks of the river Zuari. The Lamp was lit by Shri Francisco Sardinha, the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu. The Goa, Daman and Diu Veterinary Association hosted the conference, which was held on the 5th and 6th of April 1986.

Goa, an area that for nearly 400 years was under Portuguese control, is on the shores of the Arabian Sea on the west coast of India. The area has an international flavor and a distinctive culture and tradition. It is also famous for its beaches and the scenic charm of its countryside. Panaji is a historic city of

much beauty and is renowned for the grandeur of its churches.

In his inaugural address the Honorable Minister, Shri Francisco Sardinha, paid tribute to the work of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Professionals. He touched upon the following subjects:-

-the rapid progress in Veterinary Science and Animal Production.

-India's caloric and protein deficiency.

-India's efforts to produce more cereals, vegetables, meat, milk and eggs.

The following is a direct quote from his speech:-

"The research areas to be identified should be the specific locations and appropriate technology which need to be

evolved in the area of animal production. This is not all. Animal husbandry programmes need to be directly associated with the alleviation of the poverty of the 'HAVE NOTS' as only through such animal husbandry programmes can we improve the economic condition of Landless Labourers, Small Farmers, Agricultural Labourers and of those who have even less. The Government of India has taken up certain beneficiary-oriented programmes, under the Special Livestock Development Schemes, for helping poor farmers all over India. But they are difficult programmes and I am constrained to say that not much headway has been achieved to alleviate the economic

Turn to page 14

Dr. Singh traces evolution of profession

The presidential address, one of the highlights of the inaugural ceremonies, was delivered by Retiring President Dr. O.N. Singh. Dr. Singh had served as president of the Indian Veterinary Association since his election in December 1982.

Dr. Singh traced the evolution of the present-day veterinary profession in India from the establishment of the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute in the latter half of the 19th century. Since Independence the Imperial Institute has been renamed the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI).

Dr. Singh then spoke on livestock production and agricultural practices. The following are direct quotes from his talk:-

"The role of veterinarians in livestock production in the diversified agricultural practices, especially increasing the gainful employment for rural poor, needs no emphasis. Livestock production has made signifi-

cant progress in the last two decades. This has been made possible due to increasing emphasis being given by State and Central Governments for livestock development."

"We are producing over forty (40) million tonnes of milk with an annual growth rate around five (5) percent. Yet per capita availability of milk is only one hundred and forty-five (145) grams per day. Egg production has reached a new level of around 13½ billion in a year. Higher levels of national production of various livestock products can be considered due to the availability of better animal health services. Diseases like rinderpest, hemorrhagic septicemia, blackquarter, anthrax, surra, et cetera, that have received concerted attention from our Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Departments have been reduced. We have launched countrywide a time-bound plan of action for the eradication of rinderpest and the enhancement of prophylactic measures against foot and

mouth disease as well. Our efforts at developing a 'Disease Free Zone', however small in area, are gaining credence as can be seen from our southernmost districts. Control of the dreaded canine rabies is another field into which we have taken a plunge in the recent past."

"Our efforts have, no doubt, borne good fruits. But we shall not rest content with the successes we have achieved so far. We must realize that 'eternal vigilance is the price of freedom', and therefore we have to resolve that we, as a common fraternity, shall endeavour our utmost in keeping the country free from many of the existing major livestock diseases."

"Happily for us, the veterinarians employed in various diverse fields are generally knit together into a common but sprawling web by the State and Union Territory Veterinary Associations, with this august body called the Indian Veterinary Association as their

Turn to page 14

Veterinary profession had a difficult climb

The progress of the veterinary profession in India during the last century is noteworthy particularly when one considers that it took place in a developing environment, beset with more than a fair share of problems. The present day veterinary profession in India goes back to the second half of the 19th Century, when the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute was established. This was followed by Civil Veterinary Departments which were set up in the provinces. After independence the Imperial Institute was renamed the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI).

India now has twenty-three (23) Veterinary Colleges, offering graduate and postgraduate studies. There are over twenty-five thousand (25000) qualified veterinarians in the country.

As well as the Indian Veterinary Association, which is the national association, there are twenty (20) State Veterinary Associations. Many of these state associations have their own newsletters.

India now has an independent Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in each state and union territory, and there exists over fourteen thousand, five hundred (14,500) veterinary hospitals and dispensaries assisted by over nineteen thousand (19,000) aid centres. On the average each of these establishments serves about eighteen (18) villages.

More than two hundred and fifty (250) diagnostic laboratories are scattered throughout the country. There are plans to establish five (5) Regional

Disease Diagnostic Laboratories as central apex institutions. There are seventeen (17) other public sector biological production units spread over sixteen (16) states. Being established in the Delhi area, is a National Veterinary Biological Products Quality Control Centre, which will ensure the production of quality biologics.

The coming into law of the Indian Veterinary Council Act has been followed by the formation of the Indian Veterinary Council and several State Veterinary Councils. It is anticipated that eventually every state will have its own Veterinary Council.

Source: Proceedings of the XXIII Indian Veterinary Conference - Presidential address-correspondence from Dr. Rahman.

Presidential address from Dr. Singh

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pivotal axis. As you all know, during the past two decades or so, statutory professional bodies like State Veterinary Councils have come into being in some of the States, under special enactments made for this purpose. These bodies, *inter alia*, control professional ethics of the veterinarians. In this context I am indeed happy to inform you that with your efforts and foresight, we have recently been able to give unto ourselves the national statute called the Indian Veterinary Council Act. We are now looking forward to the establishment of State Veterinary Councils under this act as also under the Indian Veterinary Council soon. Our efforts at

having a suitable accommodation for the latter are likely to fructify shortly. We shall then be able to undertake the onerous task of finalizing a common code of conduct and ethics for the veterinarians of this country, which shall be comparable to those prevalent in the advance countries of the world. Similarly, the Indian Veterinary Council and its counterparts in the States and Union Territories besides tending the aspects of veterinary practice shall also endeavour to improve the standards of veterinary education in the country so that our veterinary qualifications are second to none."

"I feel elated that as a mouthpiece of our profession, the Indian Veterinary

Association has been undertaking the important activity of disseminating the various research contributions through the effective organ of the Indian Veterinary Journal. This important activity the Association has been undertaking for over fifty (50) years now."

Among the many accomplishments that mark Dr. Singh's presidency are the building of the new 'Indian Veterinary Journal Building' in Madras and the establishment, in New Delhi, of a 'National Office' for the Indian Veterinary Association.

Source: Proceedings of the XXIII Indian Veterinary Conference Presidential Address)

Lighting of Lamp opens conference

from page 13

condition of the poor Livestock producer and emphasis needs to be given in this area".

The Honorable Minister noted that:-

- milk production, during the 6th Five Year Plan, had risen six (6) percent.
- the target for milk production for the 7th Five Year Plan is fifty (50) million tonnes.
- poultry production, during the 6th Five Year Plan, had risen 3.6 percent.
- poultry population in 1977 was 160.8

million, in 1982 it had risen to 192.5 million.

Increased meat production is vital for India's national economy and that emphasis must be directed to this area. The Goa Meat Complex was a modest but appropriate step forward.

The following is a direct quote from his talk:-

"Before I conclude I must say that a full package of inputs should be given for the control of diseases of national importance, namely rinderpest, foot

and mouth, anthrax, black quarter, poultry diseases, et cetera. We shall not be able to achieve targets pertaining to the production of meat, milk and eggs until such diseases are controlled. So veterinarians should give a hard look regarding the control of contagious diseases. Rinderpest should be eliminated by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan and Foot and Mouth Disease should be controlled by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan."

Source: Proceedings of the XXIII Indian Veterinary Conference - Inaugural Address.

India - In step with the times

Two-thirds of the people of India live in rural areas. Agriculture is their major occupation and very often their only livelihood. Farm animals are mainly for draft, milk and manure purposes. With a growing dairy industry and new crossbreeding programs, there are now in the villages many crossbred cows and graded buffaloes, with the potential of higher milk production. An expanding milk market and the establishment of dairy cooperatives in almost all of the states has given rise in the countryside to what some call the "White Revolution".

Animal Health Camps

The Extension Wing of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, saw a need. Collaborating with the State Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, they moved to fill that need. In November of 1984 they initiated Animal Health Camps in the rural areas of Karnataka. The aim of these camps was to assist the farmers in developing the technical know how necessary for successful dairy farming. Emphasis was placed on disease and parasite control and improved management practices. Support for the Animal Health Camps came from the Karnataka Co-operative Milk Producers Federation Limited, financial institutions, voluntary organizations such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club, the Civil Service International and from other interested parties.

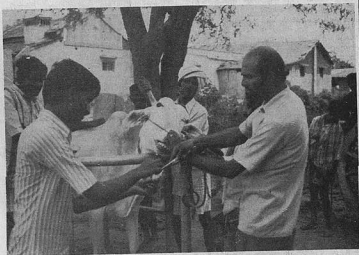
75 camps held

By June 1986 seventy-five (75) Animal Health Camps had been held in various rural parts of Bangalore, Kilar and Tumkur districts of Karnataka. More than twenty-five thousand (25,000) animals were vaccinated against various diseases, thirteen thousand (13,000) treated for parasitism, four thousand (4,000) examined and treated for reproductive disorders and another four thousand (4,000) animals treated for other clinical problems. Necessary further treatment and after-care is the responsibility of the nearest technical and extension staff.

The camps close with an open discussion on healthcare and management of livestock and recent trends in dairy husbandry are pointed out. The camps are a success and are well attended by livestock owners who take an active part in the discussions. The camps are



**Treatment of patients
at Animal Health Camps**



well staffed with veterinarians. It is noted that at a June 1986 camp held at Gunjur-Doddaballapura, four (4) veterinarians participated, while at another camp at Madappanahalli-Bangalore North six (6) veterinarians were present.

Source: The Veterinarian August 1986 - "Role of Animal Health Camps in Rural Economy" by Dr. P. Margob Hussain, Directorate of Extension of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Hebbal Bangalore 24.

Bangladesh Veterinary Association

Head Office - 48 Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The 1985-86 Executive of BVA are:

Professor M.U. Ahmed Choudhury, President; Dr. Abdul Jalil Sarker, Vice President; Dr. Md. Fazlul Huq, Vice President; Dr. Afzal Hossain Mia, Vice President; Dr. Manzurul Huq Bhuiya,

Secretary General; Dr. Abu Jafar Md. Shamsuddin, Joint Secretary; Dr. Sabir Ahmed, Joint Secretary; Dr. Md. Sultan Mohiuddin, Treasurer.

There are nine (9) other members on the Executive Committee. Professor M.U. Ahmed Choudhury is CwVA Council Member.

Meet Professor Choudhury

Professor M.U. Ahmed Choudhury - President of the Bangladesh Veterinary Association, Chairman of the Bangladesh Veterinary Council, Editor of the Bangladesh Veterinary Journal and CwVA Council Member for Bangladesh.

We quote from the BVJ Vol. 17 No. 1-4 (Jan.-Dec. 1983):-

"Professor Choudhury is the founder President of the Bangladesh Veterinary Association since 1972. The veterinarians of Bangladesh feel

gratified to continue their respect to Professor Choudhury and lodged their unanimous support to elect him the President of the Bangladesh Veterinary Association for another two years."

"Professor M.U. Ahmed Choudhury served in various capacities in the Directorate of Livestock Services, as teacher in the then East Pakistan College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry of the East Pakistan Agricultural University at Mymensingh. At the Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, he held the offices of the Dean of The Faculty of

Veterinary Science, Coordinator of Advanced Studies and Research and also Student Affairs Advisor. From 1974 to 1980 Professor Choudhury was Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Mymensingh."

"As an eminent scientist Professor Choudhury has a large number of scientific publications to his credit. Retiring from Government service in 1980, Professor Choudhury is actively associated, as a resource person, with Planning, Extension and Research activities in the fields of Animal Health and Production."

Practice notes from Bangladesh

An article by Drs. A. Islam, A. Rahaman and M. Hoque is not only interesting but it carries an always timely warning.

In Bangladesh urea is a commonly used fertilizer. It is a white crystalline substance and looks like common salt. The article describes what happened after a livestock owner instructed an attendant to give a cow some salt.

The attendant went into a storeroom found a white crystalline substance and thought it was common salt. He then took about three to four ounces of it, mixed it with some feed and gave it to the cow. The white crystalline substance was urea and not salt. After about 15 minutes, the animal was found shivering, salivating, bloated and frequently lying down and getting up.

The following clinical findings and treatments are a direct quote from the article:-

"Some salivation, restlessness, distension of the abdomen, dyspnea and muscular tremor were observed. The body temperature was normal. On palpation at the left paralumbar fossa the presence of a fluidy mass was felt. Soon the animal became recumbent.

Based on the history and symptoms a tentative diagnosis of urea poisoning was made and accordingly 2 lbs. of locally available vinegar was drenched into the animal. After about an hour some improvement was noticed and another 2 lbs. of vinegar was given. The next morning (about 8 hours after the accident) the animal was found to have improved by 90 percent. The animal voided large amounts of urine and defecated 2 or 3 times but its appetite was still depressed. Treatment was not repeated and the animal was kept under observation. Within the next 3 or 4 days the animal recovered completely."

Editor's note:- This is not an 'Accidental Poisoning' the proper term is 'Careless Poisoning'. When the victim is someone's only animal and represents a significant portion of their worldly possessions, then the situation is no small tragedy. It is the duty of those 'who know' to make those 'who do not know' aware of the importance of labelling chemicals and drugs and of keeping them out of harm's way. When one considers the number of individuals, in the poorer countries, who own only one cow or one or two goats or sheep the significance of this duty becomes evident.

The article discussed here is in the 'clinical section' of the Bangladesh Veterinary Journal (Vol. 16 No. 14, January-December 1982).

Bangladesh Journal

The Bangladesh Veterinary Journal, published by the BVA, is an excellent publication. It was established in 1967. Its contents are a very appropriate mixture of information, veterinary science, research and professionalism. Its editor is Professor M.U. Choudhury. Parties interested in a subscription can write to Dr. Choudhury at 14 Asad Gate, Mohammadpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Bullocks at work

In Bangladesh most farmers use animal power for land preparation. Tractors and power tillers are well beyond the reach of the great majority of farmers. It is reported that the health condition of many of these draft animals is poor.

A study of the work performance of

four pairs of bullocks of different weights was undertaken. The average individual body weight of the four pairs was 1526 lbs., 1059 lbs., 712 lbs., 688 lbs. Each pair of bullocks worked a plot of land, of similar size and soil condition. Each plot was ploughed five times and

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More than a fair share of problems

The working environment of the rural veterinarian in Bangladesh can be visualized when reading the report of a study done in the Pabna milk shed area of Bangladesh. The study dealt with 'the effect of gastrointestinal nematodes in young cattle'.

Forty (40) calves, one and a half to three months of age, reared by traditional village husbandry were studied. We quote from the report:-

"These forty calves belonged to 32 families scattered throughout the village". - "Poor growth and some mortalities occurred". - "In Bangladesh, where many calves are reared on in-

adequate diets even a relatively small number of parasites may be important".

"The calves were allowed to suck their mothers and also grazed in fields and on the roadsides. During the late monsoon they were confined to the cattle house, where they were offered straw, water hyacinth and a very limited and irregular amount of concentrate".

"During the months of June and October it was impossible to sample the calves because of difficult communication due to rising and falling of the monsoon waters". - "The experiment could

not be continued after the calves were one year old because some of them had exceeded 100 kg. body weight and the scales used could not weigh beyond that".

It takes little imagination to visualize the difficulties that burden the veterinarian working with the rural poor of much of the Third World. For many their every day will be tainted with ubiquitous shortages and frustrating problems. One cannot view this scene without a feeling of admiration and concern for these same veterinarians.

Source: Bangladesh Veterinary Journal Vol. 17 - pgs. 5-9.

Items of general interest

Rabbit farming

Rabbit farming may become a viable unit for earning income and enhancing the livelihood of those people who are living below the poverty line, especially in rural areas. In coming years backyard rabbit raising may be practised extensively by both rural and urban people. Now is the time to educate the people to accept rabbit meat as freely as they accept the flesh of sheep and goats.

In the management of rabbits HEALTH is wealth and DISEASE is distress. Clean water and clean nutritious food must be provided throughout the day and night. Sanitation is vital and dampness must be avoided, this is a most important step in coccidiosis control. The problem of dermatitis can be overcome by providing

clean, dry bedding and minimizing the contact of the rabbits with urine and fecal matter.

Source: The Veterinarian Aug. 86, Drs. Govindaiah, Doss, Jayashankar and Rai, Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bangalore 24.

Bangladesh rabbits

In June, 1981, a colony of 668 New Zealand White Rabbits were examined for dental malocclusion. Eight, all aged seven to nine weeks, were found to be affected. It was noted that when the projected teeth were cut back to normal length the rabbits then started to eat and within a week health was regained. Source: Bangladesh Veterinary Journal (Vol. 16, 1981) A.S.M. Hamidur Rahman, K.A. Al-Hahmud and K.M. Nashirul Islam.

Dairy industry advice

From veterinarians working in the Animal Health Camps of the Karnataka region of India comes the following advice to a burgeoning dairy industry:

1. educate the dairy farmers about feeds and fodder, management and husbandry, prevention and control of diseases, hygienic measures and first aid care of animals.
 2. intensify fodder cultivation and develop and/or introduce high yielding, better quality varieties of fodder plants.
 3. vigorous and systematic culling of surplus and uneconomical animals.
- One of the main factors responsible for India's overall deficiency of feed for livestock is the enormous population of livestock.

Source: The Veterinarian Aug. 86 - Dr. P.M. Hussain.

Indigenous medicines

Medicines of indigenous origin are a necessity in much of the Third World due to the economic plight of so many of the small farmers. In Bangladesh a variety of medicinal preparations, from indigenous herbs and plants, are being marketed.

An important study of two such preparations, (1) a pulverised mixture of Malkila bark, Haritaki fruit and Chiritha fruit and (2) a water extract of pulverised pineapple (*Ananas sativus*) leaves and Bet leaves, is reported. The study was concerned with the anthelmintic activities of these preparations in gastro-intestinal Nematodiasis in cattle.

There were definite indications of

potential value in both these preparations, when given in adequate dosage. The water extract preparation was superior to the powdered preparation. However to quote the authors - "It is premature at this stage to comment on the anthelmintic activities of these indigenous preparations without conducting further studies".

This is an interesting field of great potential. Anyone wishing to pursue it should contact the authors, Drs. M. Mostafa, Q. Hasan and M.A. Sobhan of the Department of Pharmacology, Bangladesh Agricultural University at Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

Source: Bangladesh Veterinary Journal Vol. 17 (1983).

Bullocks at work

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laddered twice. Five tillings were done because most crops require five tilling operations.

It was noted that the heavier bullocks could not walk as fast as the smaller ones and they could not work continuously without becoming tired. The smaller bullocks could work for longer periods and they generated more energy. A pair of bullocks, each weighing 600 to 700 lbs., will give better results in land preparation and will till more land than the larger animals. It was recorded that the total time required for complete preparation of an acre of land was 60 to 63 hours.

Source: Bangladesh Veterinary Journal Vol. 12, Drs. Hussain and Tareque.

East, Central, Southern Africa representatives

Regional Representative - Dr. S. J. Ndaomba (Malawi)

Council Members: -
Botswana -Dr. R. S. Windsor
Kenya -Dr. G. G. Kamau
Lesotha -Dr. M. Moteane

Malawi
Marutius
Swaziland
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Dr. S.J. Ndaomba
-Dr. V.B. Groodoyal
-Dr. J.G. Dube
-Prof. P. Msolla
-Dr. I.D. Odar
-Dr. C. Oparaochia
-Dr. D. Batchelor

Report from the Tanzania Association

The following item of March 27, 1986 is from Professor P. Msolla, Chairman of the Tanzania Veterinary Association.

The TVA has a total membership of 250 veterinarians under the Patronship of His Excellency, Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere, Chairman of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) (ruling party).

The executive committee is as follows:-
Chairman, Professor P. Msolla; Vice Chairman, Dr. S. R. Magembe; Secretary, Dr. M.E. Shayo; Executive Members, Dr. W. D. Semuguruka, Dr. G.L. Koma and Dr. J.F.C. Nyange.

The country is divided into seven (7) zones, each has a zonal representative who calls zonal meetings and chairs. He

is assisted by a zonal secretary-treasurer. The zonal representatives are coopted into the executive committee which meets a minimum of four times a year. The association calls for one scientific and general meeting once a year. At this scientific conference a number of countries in the region and outside Africa are invited to attend and present papers. This annual event is now becoming increasingly popular.

The last scientific conference was held at Arusha from the 3rd to 5th December 1985 and the theme was Enhancing Livestock Productivity. A total of 12 countries attended. The next scientific conference shall be held at The Arusha International Conference Centre, from the 2nd to 4th December 1986 and the theme shall be Factors

Limiting Livestock Production. It is hoped that a total of 20 countries will attend. Proceedings are normally produced following the conference.

The association also publishes quarterly journal known as the Tanzania Veterinary Bulletin, which is widely circulated within and outside the region. Fund raising for the association is done at zonal and national levels and includes activities such as poultry keeping, running veterinary clinics, etc. Occasionally assistance is received from drug companies and charitable organizations. The Tanzania Veterinary Bulletin receives financial assistance from the Sokoine University of Agriculture and the Danish International Development Agency.

An urgent message

At the opening of the 2nd Tanzania Veterinary Association Scientific Conference, held at the Arusha International Conference Centre in December 1984, Tanzania's Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, the Honourable J.B. Machunda, was one of the speakers. The CwVA News is privileged to quote from this important message:-

"Today, more than ever, we are required to make optimum use of our resources, including livestock, to improve our economy and to reduce the chronic problem of hunger and malnutrition. Veterinarians and other animal scientists should work closely together to increase the productivity of our herds and flocks."

"We also need suitably bred and well cared for animals to provide us with energy for pulling our ploughs and carts and for cooking and lighting. This aspect has been neglected in pastoral areas with the attendant problems of deforestation which now cloud the whole future of Africa. A pair of healthy well fed oxen or its equivalent can produce adequate amounts of manure for replenishing the fertility of one hectare of land a year, move a load of one ton for thirty kilometers within ten hours

and carry out all farm operations on a holding of six hectares a year."

"Tanzania is blessed with a cattle population of thirteen (13) million and almost ten (10) million goats and sheep. Yet it still imports substantial amounts of milk and milk products and it suffers

from sporadic shortages of meats. It has 10 to 30 percent of its children, under five years of age, suffering from protein-deficiency diseases."

"In the longer term increasing efforts and resources will need to be directed

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The Tanzanian Veterinary Bulletin

Tanzania's veterinary journal is entitled the Tanzanian Veterinary Bulletin (The Tropical Veterinarian). It is an excellent journal, publishing original papers of Veterinary and Allied Sciences. It comes out four times a year and any institution which is interested in the practices of veterinary medicine and livestock raising in the tropics would, if they do not already receive it, do well to consider a subscription to it. The address is:-
The Editor
Tanzanian Veterinary Bulletin
P.O. Box 3050
Morogoro, Tanzania

The CwVA news bureau received several copies of the Tanzanian bulletin. As well as containing information of interest, its cover carries the fascinating logo of the Tanzanian

Veterinary Association. Viewed from this distance, the logo depicts the involvement of veterinary practice in livestock production under the shadow of rugged snowcapped peaks.

Many of the articles, dealing with rural livestock production and disease problems, should be of interest to practitioners in developed countries of the Commonwealth particularly if they can visualize themselves working with shortages of drugs, communications, transport, money and the absence of conveniently located laboratories and experts. To think of these problems in an environment of poverty where clients, plagued with personal and family worries, must often carry the intolerable burden of illiteracy and misinformation cannot help but create a feeling of empathy and admiration for many of the Third World veterinarians.

Background information on Tanzania

Tanzania has an area of approximately nine hundred and thirty thousand (930,000) sq. km. with an estimated human population of twenty (20) million. The livestock count done in 1978 gave the following figures (with annual growth rate in brackets): cattle 12.2 million (2.3 percent), goats 5.5 million (2.2 percent), and sheep 3.6 million (1.9 percent). There is an estimated twenty (20) million poultry and one hundred thousand (100,000) pigs.

The majority of cattle are the small 250 to 300 kg. Tanganyika Shorthorn Zebu (*Bos indicus*). Ninety-nine per-

cent of these are owned by traditional pastoralists and mixed farmers practicing the communal grazing system. The larger framed zebu types, mainly the boron, are to be found on bona fide parastatal and private ranches and on Government farms. These constitute about one percent of the total national herd.

The dairy industry is still in its infancy with only about 100,000 dairy cattle, mostly in the designated dairy produc-

tion areas comprising the highlands. Goats, sheep and most poultry are indigenous types though some attempts have been made to upgrade these with exotic breeds. Commercial hybrid poultry keeping has been developing around urban centres since the 1970's.

Source: Proceedings of the 2nd Tanzania Veterinary Association Scientific Conference (1984) pgs. 1-11, Dr. I.S. Mpelumbe.

First Scientific Conference was held in '83

In 1979 the Tanzania Veterinary Association launched a journal, the Tanzania Veterinary Bulletin (The Tropical Veterinarian). It is a quarterly journal which publishes scientific papers on veterinary disciplines. The Bulletin is widely distributed both inside and outside of Tanzania.

December 1983 saw the first Scientific Conference of the Tanzania Veterinary Association. It was held at the then Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Science of the University of Dar es Salam in Morogoro.

The 2nd Tanzania Veterinary

Associations scientific Conference was held in December 1984 at the Arusha International Conference Centre. The last Scientific Conference, the theme of which was Enhancing Livestock Productivity, was held at Arusha in December 1985.

It is anticipated that this conference will become an annual event as it provides a vital platform for the interchange of knowledge between extension and research workers with an ultimate goal of increasing livestock productivity in an effort to increase food production and overcome hunger, disease and malnutrition which are serious threats to mankind on the African continent.

A history lesson

The Tanzania Veterinary Association (TVA) owes its origin to the Tanganyika Territory Division of the National Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA) of Great Britain and Ireland. The Tanganyika Territory Division of NVMA was formed in the very early 1940's by the Colonial Veterinary Officers working in the Colony. The NVMA gave birth to the British Veterinary Association and the Association in the then Tanganyika Territory became the Tanganyika Division

of the British Veterinary Association in the midfifties.

With the advent of independence in December 1961, the Tanganyika Division of the British Veterinary Association ceased to exist and instead the Tanganyika Veterinary Association, an affiliate of the BVA was formed in 1962. Following the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar on April 26, 1964, the word Tanganyika was replaced by the word Tanzania and the Tanzania Veterinary

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Urgent message

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at the traditional livestock sector, which comprises more than 99 percent of the national herd of all cattle, goats and sheep, and which are produced by the smallholder in the villages. But, as already pointed out, unfortunately the traditional herd is characterized by very low productivity levels."

"We must come up with sound solutions to constraints which limit livestock pro-

duction and productivity in order to overcome the problems of hunger and malnutrition and raise the welfare of livestock owners. However, our efforts could be limited if we fail to understand and interpret correctly the pastoralist's traditional survival strategy."

Source: Proceedings of the 2nd Tanzania Veterinary Association Scientific Conference.

Animal diseases limit production

In Tanzania animal diseases are still regarded as one of the main limiting factors in livestock production. Tanzania is one of the 28 countries participating in the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign Programme with the assistance of EEC. East coast fever, anaplasmosis and other tick-borne diseases constitute the most important killer diseases. Trypanosomiasis is virtually enzootic in the greater part of the country as over 60 percent of the country is tsetse infested, exposing over 75 percent of the cattle to the tsetse fly.

Foot and mouth disease is enzootic with sporadic incidences in all parts of the country. A modern FMD laboratory is (1984) now under construction at Dar es Salaam. Rabies is enzootic in most parts of the country.

Surveys indicate that brucellosis is widespread. Where feasible the slaughter of reactors is advised however, it is not possible to pay compensation. Anthrax is basically enzootic with sporadic outbreaks. Epidemics are rare but do occur occasionally and can involve game animals. Lumpy skin disease occurs sporadically and can be widespread in some years and absent in other years.

Newcastle disease is the most important disease for both traditional and hybrid poultry. Marek's disease is important in the egg industry. Salmonellosis is a problem throughout the country where hygiene is questionable.

In the past the damaging effects of internal parasitism were generally unappreciated but now there is a general awareness of the importance of parasitism in all classes of livestock, including poultry.

Source: Proc. of 2nd TVA Scien. Conf. (1984) pgs. 1-11, Dr. I.S. Mpelumbe.



Dr. S. Ndaomba, regional representative for East-Central-Southern Africa is seen standing on the campus of the new Natural Resources College, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Natural Resources College opens

In 1986 the new Natural Resources College at Lilongwe, Malawi, opened its doors. Among the courses being given is a training course for Animal Health Assistants. Dr. S.J. Ndaomba has joined the faculty of the new college.

Dr. Ndaomba is the CwVA (East-Central/Southern Africa) Regional Representative and the CwVA (Malawi) Council Member.

Kenya Association has 350 members

The Kenya Veterinary Association now has a membership of three hundred and fifty (350). Its Annual Scientific Conference will be held in Nairobi on April 22, 23 and 24, 1987.

The conference will be held in conjunction with the Regional (East, Central, Southern Africa) Commonwealth Veterinary Association meeting. The conference theme will be Veterinary Research Priorities for Increased Productivity, however, it is planned to have side sessions, discussing other topics, running simultaneously for part of the proceedings.

The publishing of a KVA newsletter is being added to the other activities of the association.

The 1986-87 office bearers of the KVA are:

Chairman	Dr. D.E. Mbogo
Senior V. Chairman	Dr. P.D. Sayer
Junior V. Chairman	Dr. C.G. Ndiritu
Hon. Secretary	Dr. C.F. D'Souza
Asst. Secretary	Dr. R.H.K. Davis
Hon. Treasurer	Dr. R.E.N. Runyenje
Committee Members	

Dr. J.P.O. Wamukoya
Dr. S. Gacugia
Dr. H.S.N. Kinyiwa
Dr. S. Varma
Dr. G.J.O. Agumbah
Dr. P.H.W. Maina

News from Swaziland

The Swaziland Veterinary Association has 17 members. Dr. R. Nxumalo of Mbabane is president, Dr. M. Maher of Manzini is secretary and Dr. J.G. Dube of Mbabane (Box 162) is the CwVA Council Member.

We are most pleased to welcome the Swaziland Veterinary Association as a contributor to the CwVA News. The following is a report on the activities of the SVA:-

We hold ordinary meetings about four times a year and an annual general meeting usually in October. At our ordinary meetings we discuss matters relating to the Veterinary Department and the SVA. Ideas are put forward by members regarding projects to be undertaken, visits that can be arranged e.g. to some drug companies, research farms, dairy projects, feed lot experiments etc.

We try to have a small news letter available for each meeting with articles from members who are nominated (four for each issue). These articles may be of general interest, reports of individual cases, or matters of specific interest which a member has read or heard about.

If some members go on trips to our neighbouring countries or overseas they give the members an account of the pertinent happenings of their visits on their return. Laws and rules and regulations affecting the profession are examined and amended.

The Annual General Meeting is held in October. A guest speaker is invited from one of the neighbouring countries and, if the speaker's topic lends itself,

part of the morning is spent on a field trip. Lunch is usually at the Veterinary Training Centre after which the business part of the meeting is conducted. It is customary to elect a new president each year. The secretary-treasurer may be elected for more than a year. Two committee members are also elected to deal with certain problems that may crop up during the year.

The association discusses disease control and dangers, especially F.M.D. and rabies. Also it keeps up to date with exporting rules and regulations since Swaziland exports to the E.E.C. Recommendations and advice are passed on to the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

History lesson

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Association (TVA) was formed and ceased to be an affiliate of the BVA.

The TVA is a member of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the World Veterinary Association. Many of its members are also founders and present members of The Tanzania Society of Animal Production, a society which attracts animal scientists and farmers as well as veterinarians.

On November 10, 1984, His Excellency, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, accepted the Tanzania Veterinary Association's request to become its first Patron.

News items from Zimbabwe

Recommended to all

The Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal, successor to the Rhodesian Veterinary Journal, is owned and published by the Zimbabwe Veterinary Association. It is printed by the Aloe Press, Harare, and appears quarterly.

It publishes original papers of veterinary interest. The articles and items carried by the Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal are of value and interest. The CwVA News recommends that any institution or individual, interested in the tropical veterinary scene, not receiving this publication should seriously consider a subscription.

The address is: The Editor, Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal, c/o Faculty of Veterinary Science, P.O. Box MP 167, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

It is interesting to note that the Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal acknowledges with gratitude the assistance of the following sponsors: Bayer Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd., Cattle Producers Association, Cold Storage Commission, National Foods Ltd., Pig Industry Board, Shell Chemical Co. of Central Africa Ltd.

Little bits of history

In 1901 East Coast Fever (ECF) was introduced into the subcontinent of Southern Africa with cattle imported from East Africa. At that time the ox-wagon was one of the most important forms of transport and because of that the disease spread rapidly, devastating the cattle population.

Zimbabwe achieved legal independence in 1980. The war leading to independence resulted in serious breakdowns in disease control measures. Foot and mouth disease, anthrax, rabies, tick-borne diseases and trypanosomiasis were rampant in many parts of the country. As soon as peace was restored the Department of Veterinary Services buckled down to the work of reclamation and reconstruction and the result was little short of miraculous. Vigorous vaccination campaigns, reconstruction of dip tanks and tsetse spraying operations began to bring the country back to the happy situation it had been in before the war, when its beef was welcome anywhere in Europe because its

veterinary services were efficient and reliable. It was on the basis of an apparent return to the previous high standards that the EEC was again prepared to award Zimbabwe its quota.

Source: Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal, Vol 14, Dec. '83-pg.1 & 9

A unique problem

During the colonial period African countries generally accepted only those qualifications (for veterinarians) that were acceptable in the mother country. Veterinarians were recruited for service in the colonies from the mother country and citizens of the colonies were sent to the mother country for training.

In the decolonization process a deliberate attempt was made to loosen the bonds with the mother country. Veterinary assistance was often sought from other developed countries and students were sent far and wide to friendly states for training as a way of improving international relationships.

It soon became clear that the type of veterinary training provided in such countries was often inappropriate. Veterinarians were often trained in a very alien environment in a foreign language to perform different tasks from those expected of them on their return and it was difficult to differentiate between those whose training was suitable and those whose was not. Those countries that had the capacity to do so often introduced a system of examination of veterinarians for registration, modelled on that of many developed countries, but this brought with it the problem of what to do with those nationals who were unable to pass the examination.

Source: Zimbabwe Vet. Jour. Vol 15 (Dec. '84) - Editorial on pg. 1.

Clock watching ticks

The drop-off rhythm of the tick, *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*, was observed on stalled cattle. Peak drop-off of larvae occurred 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., of nymphs between noon and 6 p.m., and of adults between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. If cattle were to be penned overnight in summer and not moved on to pasture until 8 a.m. the majority of engorged female ticks would detach in the pen

and infestation of the pasture with larvae of the succeeding generation would be reduced. This practice is followed in many communal areas.

Experimental observations on rabbits suggested that the drop-off rhythm is controlled by three mechanisms: two light sensitive mechanisms operating in the tick pre-attachment and post-attachment and a mechanism controlled by diurnal rhythm of the host.

Source: Zimbabwe Vet. Journal Vol. 15 (Dec. '84) - Abstract on pg. 17

Secretary represents ZVA

Dr. Alec Wilson, secretary of the Zimbabwe Veterinary Association, represented the association at the Kenya Veterinary Association Annual Congress in April 1986. Alec, in Nairobi on other business at that time, took time out to attend the KVA meeting. He was impressed with the attendance and the obvious interest in the subject matter.

The theme of this KVA Congress was Clinical and Extension Services in Kenya. The discussions centered around 'How veterinarians could bring their clinical services to the peasant farmers in Kenya on a payment basis'.

This subject, of very real importance, has long been neglected. A report from Alec and, or the KVA on the discussions, that took place, would be welcomed by the CwVA News. We would give such a report (reports) a deservedly prominent place our next issue.

Source: News item in ZVA News.

Remember when

In 1984, the Annual Congress of the Zimbabwe Veterinary Association was held in September at the Montclair Casino Hotel in Juliusdale. The Congress was officially opened by Professor Walter Kamba, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe. During his address Professor Kamba stressed the important role that veterinarians play in the Zimbabwean economy.

Source: Zimbabwe Vet. Jour. Vol. 15, No. 1-4 (1984).

A closer look at communal lands

Drs. Beverly A. Bryant and R.A.I. Norval of the Veterinary Research Laboratory at Causeway, Zimbabwe, conducted a study on 'The size and age structure of cattle herds in Communal Lands in the highveld of Zimbabwe'. In their informative report, we note the following:

"Little is known about the age structure of cattle herds in Communal Lands in the highveld of Zimbabwe. Livestock management in these areas is generally unsophisticated and cattle are kept principally as draft animals. Few are sold for slaughter and in general the Communal Lands are overstocked with cattle in poor condition as a result of nutritional stress."

Sound advice

The central issue in any argument for or against intensive dipping must be the economics of cattle production, as this is the most important factor affecting both the farmer and the national economy. For any livestock industry to exist there must be effective disease control. It is only when the survival of the animals is assured that it is worthwhile to invest in increasing their productivity.

Source: Zimbabwe Vet. Journal Vol. 13 (Dec.83) pg.19 - Dr. R.A.I. Norval.

Cooperation is key to economical food production

Quote: "Veterinarians must also continue to work cooperatively and productively with non-veterinary qualified experts for the ultimate good of economically sound, quality animal food production in Ontario and Canada.

I believe that the profession must meet these challenges and secure the recognition of its important role in the health management process. What is really important is that the veterinary profession recognizes the capabilities of other experts in advising and assisting producers, but is willing and able to ensure that we have carved out and enshrined our value and expertise in serving the livestock industry. Failure to do so will cause an irreversible erosion of our profession.

Source: OVA Update, Vol. 4, No. 1 - Dr. Harvey Grenn, Registrar, Ontario Veterinary Association.

"Communal Land farmers in the areas studied owned small herds of cattle (6-10). A large portion of these was calves." - "The severe drop in numbers of calves in the under 'one and a half year old' class to the 'one and a half to three year old' class suggests that the mortality in young calves must be high, particularly as there was no evidence of young animals being sold for slaughter or other purposes."

"In summer, cattle in the crop producing areas of the Communal Lands are kraaled at night and are let out to graze during the day." - "In most herds there were two or less draft oxen. Females outnumbered males in all age groups. The ratios of oxen to bulls indicated that castration was usually carried out

in animals over one and half years of age. There were insufficient cattle in most herds to produce animals for both slaughter and draft purposes."

"As draft-power for ploughing is the most important function of cattle in these crop-producing areas there is clearly little or no potential for selling cattle on a regular basis. When there are insufficient oxen, cows and bulls are used for ploughing but these are less suitable and ploughing reduces their reproductive potential."

"(Under these conditions) a high percentage of the animals is therefore unproductive in terms of either draft or calf and milk production.

Source: Zimbabwe Vet. Jour. Vol. 15 No. 14 (1984).

Aggressiveness in bull elephants is handled by castrating

In the Banket area of Zimbabwe a six year old African bull elephant brought up in captivity and herded together with a cow of the same age was beginning to become aggressive. Although he was quite amenable with his herdsman, any strangers, particularly groups of women labourers, would be mock charged. The resulting pandemonium was obviously enjoyed by the young bull, and in an attempt to avoid a possible accident in the future, castration was suggested.

The testes in an elephant are abdominal and lie in a fold of peritoneum in close proximity to the medial border of the kidney. The exact location of the testes was determined by post-mortem examination on an adult bull culled in the Marangora National Park. The testes in this bull were approximately

15 cm. in diameter and were very much larger than those of the young bull. For the operation on the young bull a 30 cm. vertical incision was made in the left flank area just posterior to the last rib.

Within six months there was a definite increase in docility. Two years later the young bull had lost its very aggressive nature and growth had not been in any way visibly affected. Because of the aggressiveness of (African elephant) bulls in captivity, most baby males captured during elephant culling operations have to be destroyed. If the increase in docility following castration is a fairly constant feature, more use could be made of the bulls in the future.

Source: Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal - Dec. 1982 - Drs. H.O. Flanagan and F.O. Flanagan.

Kenya

Over 300 veterinarians

Kenya is reported to have over three hundred veterinarians (300). About thirty (30) are in private practice mainly in Nairobi; about thirty (30) are employed by commercial and international organizations and the remainder by Government. The number of veterinarians has risen faster than the provision of funds with the result that competent veterinary surgeons are poorly paid, have few drugs, little equipment and usually no transport. The result is, of course, much

frustration.

The April 1986 Kenya Veterinary Association Annual Congress, held in Nairobi, was attended by about one hundred and fifty (150) members. The theme of the congress was Clinical and Extension Services in Kenya. The interest and attention of all during these two days of discussions forcefully emphasized the growing importance of this topic.

Source: News item in ZVA News.

Occupational hazard

Leptospirosis occurred in two veterinarians in Alberta, following exposure to leptospirae of domestic animal origin. The disease at onset resembled "flu" with fever, muscle and joint pain and lassitude. It progressed through an extremely debilitating period with mild to severe hepatic and renal dysfunction, icterus and hemorrhage in one case, and cerebral meningitis in the other. Both patients were hospitalized for 11 to 14 days, where they responded to supportive and specific antibiotic and steroid therapy (penicillin G IU q.i.d. and steroids,

or tetracycline 500 mg q.i.d.). Diagnosis rested in one case on clinical signs and the observation of leptospirae in blood and urine. In the other case, a tentative diagnosis of leptospirosis based on history and clinical signs was confirmed by serological test results and by the isolation of *Leptospira interrogans* serovar pomona from the patient's blood on day six. Current occurrences of leptospirosis in man are reviewed. Convenient diagnostic methods, treatment and behavioural sequelae of leptospirosis are discussed.

The above item is the abstract of an article in the February 1986 issue of *The Canadian Veterinary Journal*. Dr. B.F. Kingscote is the author. She has written other articles on Leptospirosis.

Those interested in obtaining reprints of these can contact her at the following address:-

Dr. Barbara F. Kingscote,
Box 1468,
Innisfail, Alberta,
Canada, T0M 1A0.

Rabies

Trinidad and Tobago situations differ

The rabies situation in Trinidad and Tobago is interesting. The following article by Dr. E.P.I. Cazabon describes it. Trinidad has rabies in bats and food producing animals are, from time to time, victims. However the last case of rabies in a dog was some 73 years ago. On nearby Tobago rabies apparently does not occur.

The article is from Vol. 2 No. 2 (1986) of *Vet-News*. *Vet-News* is a publication of the Animal Health Division of Trinidad's Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Food Production and is produced by the Information and Training Section of the Extension Training and Information Division. This article is reproduced here through the courtesy and cooperation of *Vet-News* and its editor Dr. Mervyn Campbell.

is generally believed that there is no cure for the disease.

The questions usually asked is "since there is rabies in bats in Trinidad (there are no reports of rabies in Tobago) what is the point in quarantining when we already have it here?" The simple answer to this question is that we do not have rabies in dogs and cats nor in our wildlife (except bats). The last case of rabies in dogs was in the year 1912 - seventy-three (73) years ago. The Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production would like to keep it that way forever. One (1) rabid dog will result in major Animal Health, Human Health and Economic Problems. Major costs will be involved in arresting and eradicating the disease.

ing rabies, it could have already spread the virus to other animals or even members of the household.

There is a case on record of a dog admitted into England from a rabies enzootic country, was quarantined for six (6) months and started showing signs of rabies approximately three (3) months after its release from quarantine. Assuming that this dog was infected immediately before entering England, it would put the incubation period at this case at about nine (9) months.

When one takes everything into consideration, a six (6) month quarantine period is striking a happy medium - statistically, most dogs infected by the rabies virus will succumb within six (6) months.

Information on the rabies status of the countries of the world is obtained from periodic reports from international agencies e.g. the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), etc. At the present time direct entry (i.e. no quarantine) is allowed for dogs and cats originating from the following countries: Antigua, Barbados, Great Britain, Jamaica, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent.

Even after all that has been said above, some individuals can still find one (1) question - "What is this big thing about rabies in dogs when we have rabies in food producing animals in Trinidad and Tobago." The answer is simple - rabid food producing animals e.g. cows, goats, etc. become paralysed relatively quickly and die. It is a dead-end for the virus in such animals.

THE QUARANTINING OF DOGS AND CATS IMPORTED INTO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By Dr. E.P.I. Cazabon
Veterinary Pathologist

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Curepe

Dogs and cats entering Trinidad and Tobago are held in isolation from other animals in quarantine for six (6) months if imported from rabies enzootic countries.

The main reason for holding these animals in quarantine is to prevent the spread of rabies to the local animal population - both domestic and wildlife and to the human population.

Rabies is a very serious viral disease of man and animals. It is spread from animal to animal, and from animal to man by rabid animals including bats. It

Recommendation

The recommendation of the Veterinary Services Division, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production therefore, is that dogs and cats can enter Trinidad and Tobago directly, when originating from rabies free countries e.g. Antigua, Barbados, England, etc. When originating from rabies enzootic countries e.g. U.S.A., Canada, etc. they should be held in quarantine for six (6) months.

Two questions need to be answered now:

- Why as long as six (6) months and
- How do we know which countries are rabies free.

The incubation period of rabies varies greatly from days to many months. What is very important is that a dog incubating the disease but showing no signs of disease can be spreading the virus. That is to say that when a dog is noticed to be ill and diagnosed as hav-

Brucellosis is investigated

Investigation of the incidence of brucellosis in animals led to the opinion that the disease is mostly an infection of exotic breeds (Rahman et al., 1978, Rahman & Rahman, 1981 and Phare et al., 1981). Some interesting observations are contained in an article in the Bangladesh Veterinary Journal (Vol. 16 No. 1-4 1982). The article is entitled Study on the Prevalence of Brucellosis in Cows in Organized Farms and Domestic Holdings in Bangladesh. The authors are M.M. Rahman and M.S. Rahman. We quote from the article: "It is clear from the results of this investigation that the prevalence of brucellosis among cows belonging to organized farms is remarkably different from the cows belonging to domestic holdings. It is also noteworthy that the infection of brucellosis as revealed by serological test is higher in animals of the high milk yield varieties particularly the exotic and crossbreeds which are now reared in the Beghabari milk shed area. Conversely the incidence of brucellosis in cows of native breeds belonging to domestic holdings of Bogra district were found to be

serologically negative. This reveals the fact that brucellosis may be considered as a foreign disease in this country and might have been introduced by importing foreign breeds. The incidence of brucellosis in native breeds though found to be negligible may be of considerable importance in the future by being responsible for an occupational hazard. Investigations conducted by Rahman et al. (1982, unpublished data) showed that the incidence of brucellosis in humans may be due to transmission from animals. They also suggest that cases of pyrexia of unknown origin encountered in hospitals might be due to brucellosis".

A changing problem

The problem of pests is changing. With increasing population pressure farming systems are becoming more intensive and crop rotations shorter, so that some pest problems are worsening and other previously unimportant pests are becoming a threat. As farmers attempt to increase yields, particularly where cash cropping dominates, there has been an increase in single cropping and use of pesticides, producing potential problems of operator safety, pesticide residue in food, and increased risks of pest resistance. Source: Commonwealth Currents April 1986.

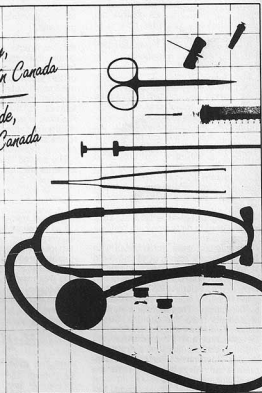
Cat Scratch disease

Cat scratch disease occurs only in humans. It is observed mainly in children and has been reported on all continents. It may be a result of a cat scratch or bite. One week after infection a papular lesion appears on the site of the trauma and then in two or three weeks there is pus formation and a fistula develops. During the course of the cat scratch fever the victim experiences fever and slight pain.

The source of this item is an article entitled 'Cat Scratch Disease' by Dr. Jocelyn Fournier. Dr. Fournier's article appears in the Disease Control section of the July 1986 issue of Agriculture Canada's 'Communication' (vol. 4 no. 1). Readers are reminded that their CwVA Council Member has been, through the courtesy of Agriculture Canada, supplied with copies of the Communication for circulation among their veterinarians.

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Did you know

Most tick-borne diseases cause only mild reactions in animals infected soon after birth, but cause severe and often fatal reactions in older animals.

Report on Pong-Tamale College

The CwVA News is pleased to carry this article, by Dr. J.B.B. Ansah, about the Pong Tamale Veterinary College. It was written in response to a request from the CwVA News for information about the school. Dr. Ansah is Principal of the College. The address of the college is Veterinary College, Pong Tamale, Veterinary Services Department, P.O. Box 300, Tamale, N-R, Ghana.

Pong-Tamale Veterinary College

History: Pong-Tamale Veterinary College is a Post Secondary institution and is the only institution in Ghana where middle level personnel are trained to assist in animal diseases control and other veterinary activities related to livestock development.

It was established in November 1960 with the technical assistance of the Danish government.

The college provides two programmes, namely a training programme for field officers and another programme for laboratory technicians. Admission to these courses is by a competitive examination of candidates with the minimum entry qualification which is five credits in G.C.E. 'O' level, including a science subject and mathematics. Students in this category do six months pre-entry field practical, then two years residential course and another six months field attachment. There is also an in-service programme for serving technical assistants. They are required to do three years residential programme.

The annual intake which began with 12 students now stands at 40 and could be increased to 60 or more if additional living and classroom accommodation were made available. Up to 1985 a total of 578 technical staff had been produced by the college. They include a number of students from The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Development and Progress: After the initial technical assistance from the Danish Government further development of the college has solely rested on the Ghana government.

The progress of development has therefore been very slow. For in order to function effectively a technical college of this category needs some basic infrastructure, teaching aids and text books, laboratory equipment and logistic facilities for practical training in the field. The college buildings, some of which are over 20 years old, are in a very poor state of repair, due to lack of funds for maintenance over the years. The result of all this is that teaching has become a difficult occupation in the col-

lege and the students are, thus, the ultimate losers.

Problems: The College's problems are legion. These include the college buildings, some of which are over 20 years old, are in a very poor state of repair, due to lack of funds for maintenance. Microscopes, anatomical and other specimens, as well as most of the teaching aid equipment have broken down. A full complement of transport which is a *sine Quo non* for students extension work is lacking. Similarly text books and library books are almost out of reach of both students and staff.

Plans for the Future: As an institution which continues to grow inspite of problems, the future looks bright and promising.

New courses have been planned for the immediate future. The first is a sandwiched course designed to offer training for prospective young farmers in the rudiments of animal management and nutrition. This course is designed primarily for young school leavers, in the Northern and Upper Regions, who already have the responsibility for taking the family cattle out to grazing and for providing the needs of other livestock in the household.

The second is a diploma course for students who have already graduated

West Africa representatives

Regional Representative is

Dr. B. N. Touray (The Gambia).

Council Members:

The Gambia-	Dr. B.N. Touray
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from Pong-Tamale College and have had some field experience. It is hoped that the course will have more practical content than the comparable diploma course available in the other institutions in the country.

For these reasons it has become imperative to embark on a massive rehabilitation programme to provide facilities for increased intake of students which the demand from the livestock industries has imposed on the college.

Some of the items on the programme include a revision of the syllabus (as well as inclusion of an extension course).

Also the West German government has been approached, and it has agreed to provide a limited amount of teaching aids to the college, through the German Foundation for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) project at the station where the college is situated.

A note to practitioners

As food animals veterinarians we are in an excellent position to demonstrate leadership by providing professional advice to clients to help them produce a quality product. When dispensing antibiotics it is important to ensure that the treatment regime and appropriate withdrawal period are made clear to the producer. This is best accomplished by leaving a set of clearly written instructions on the farm for the client to

refer to or, if more appropriate, by giving clear verbal instructions, which you are confident are well understood. As well records should be kept in case an infraction, that is later disputed by the owner, occurs. Producers should be encouraged to keep records of treatments that they themselves administer.

Source: Communication of Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners to its membership - July 10, 1986.

Buffalo population is on increase

The 1st World Buffalo Congress was held from the 27th to the 31st of December, 1985, at Cairo in the Arabic Republic of Egypt. The organization of this First World Buffalo Congress finds its justification in the fact that this species with ever increasing numbers is, in many countries, a source of meat and milk production and widely used as a working animal.

The water buffalo population in various CwVA member countries is reported, by the World Veterinary Association Informative Bulletin, to be: Bangladesh 1,750,000; India 64,000,000;

Malaysia 255,000; Singapore 2,000; Sri Lanka 951,000; Trinidad and Tobago 8,000.

The well

At the edge of the village there is a well. It is an open well and was dug by hand. The women, children in hand, walk there every day to draw water out with a pail. The animals also come there to drink. The water is dirty and no doubt leads to the disease and high infant mortality rate in the village.

Compulsory reading

The following item should be compulsory reading for anyone interested in the improvement of the health and productivity of livestock in the developing countries of Africa. The CwVA News takes pride in reproducing Guy Freeland's paper on 'Veterinary Services in Developing Africa', which he presented at the British Veterinary Congress (Sept. '86) at Brighton. Mr. G.G. Freeland is the Animal Health Advisor at the Overseas Development Administration.

Veterinary Services in Developing Countries of Africa

In the majority of the developing countries in Africa livestock have traditionally played important cultural and economic roles. Today their importance in general agricultural development is receiving more attention than perhaps ever before. Regrettably, in this paper I must highlight the fact that in most of the countries there has been significant deterioration in the general quality and availability of livestock services. This fact is particularly saddening because it must have seemed no more than 20 years ago, that veterinary services had been established in many African Countries which promised to be highly effective and beneficial to the livestock farming community. Before going any further I should like to make it clear that my comments are necessarily broad generalisations but, whilst it is unlikely that any one country is guilty of all the criticisms that I shall make, it is I regret few, if any, of the developing countries of Africa that are totally free of at least some of them.

To start with I should like to go backwards in time and look at the situation of veterinary services in the earlier years of this century.

Traditional Role

The traditional role of government veterinary services has been to provide a system for control and prevention of the major epidemic diseases, and other diseases of serious economic or public health importance. Initially the range of the diseases that could be effectively tackled was relatively small and their control was achieved through a network of professional and sub professional veterinary staff making regular tours of their districts, providing as rapid as possible diagnosis and reporting of outbreaks of major disease, and then carrying out appropriate therapeutic, prophylactic and regulatory measures.

Not only were the livestock owners generally appreciative of their service

which reduced the hazards and losses sustained by their herds, but also because of the economic and political benefits which resulted, governments were quite happy to ensure that veterinary services were adequately financed to cover their operational costs. Moreover, governments were happy to support the introduction and enforcement of animal health regulations to facilitate the control of these diseases.

In those times, when expectations were relatively low, not only could a sub-professional veterinary assistant get adequate financial reward, both in terms of salary and allowances, but also he acquired status, respect and appreciation from the community he served. The reward and satisfaction he achieved from his job was generally adequate motivation for him to carry it out conscientiously but at the same time he was also subject to fairly regular supervision and encouragement as well as discipline from his superiors.

Effective Control

With scientific advances in epidemiology and drug and vaccine production not only did it become possible to exert still more effective control measures but also to increase the range of major diseases that could be tackled. Gradually, as the demand for animal products increased and the economics of production and treatment changed, so too, did the pressures to deal with diseases on an individual herd and even individual animal basis. Since in most situations in Africa, private veterinary practice was (and still is) not a very attractive proposition, the burden of carrying out these treatments fell upon the staff of the government veterinary services. This is not to say that they were unwilling to accept this challenge. Indeed as I am sure you will appreciate, this aspect of treatment is not only personally gratifying but is of course much appreciated by the owner, and therefore increases the degree of confidence, respect and co-operation he is willing to give to the veterinary staff. These aspects of goodwill are I believe potentially of the greatest importance today.

Of course the increase in the scope of and demand for veterinary services has also led to increased costs in the areas of staff numbers, intensity of training, drugs and equipment, and fuel and transport. Regrettably very few African governments have been able to keep pace with these increased budgetary demands. Even in those countries where the revenue derived

UK-Europe Representatives

Regional representative is Mr. J.T. Blackburn (United Kingdom). Mr. Blackburn is also council member for Cyprus, Malta and the United Kingdom.

from the livestock sector is of major importance, the pressures upon government spending, from all sectors of the developing economy, have been so great that the proportion of the total budget that can be devoted to livestock services has steadily declined. Indeed it is ironic that in some instances the very success of the veterinary services in tackling certain major diseases, such as rinderpest and east coast fever, did in fact allow governments to divert expenditure to other sectors without incurring, at least initially, too much complaint and unrest from their livestock community. As a result, in the last 10 or 20 years the proportion of recurrent expenditure allocated to salaries, as against operational cost, has escalated from a ratio of approximately 60 to 40 to one of 90 to 10 or even worse and, in real terms, even the actual value of salaries has still declined markedly. Yet, in spite of these deteriorating finances, the range and volume of work that the veterinary services have been expected to perform has increased.

To these financial problems we must add the ever increasing reluctance on the part of many governments to enforce existing animal health regulations or to punish offenders.

Services Deteriorate

In these circumstances it is easy to understand why the actual level of performance of state veterinary services has deteriorated so dramatically. Morale, discipline and motivation amongst all veterinary staff, but most especially the front line staff in the field, is now often so low that success can no longer be sustained even in controlling some of those major diseases against which we have been so successful in the past. The recent dramatic resurgence of rinderpest in Africa is perhaps the most striking example of this but there are many others.

All too often the monthly or quarterly reports of activities of veterinary staff in the field turn out to be nothing more than paper reports and seldom bear close examination. In too many instances, even when they do have the basic materials with which to work, field staff literally can no longer afford to perform even their most basic field duties because they know they will not be paid their travel and subsistence

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Poor circumstances result in loss of respect for profession

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allowances, either on time or even at all. Indeed there are often occasions when even their basic salaries are not paid for periods of up to three months or more in succession and, when they are paid, salaries are now frequently so low in real terms that the man finds it necessary to hold down at least a second job to sustain his willingness to travel out in the field to do his government job properly.

In these circumstances of poorly supported, poorly motivated, poorly supervised and poorly disciplined field staff who are seldom able or even willing to meet the farmers requests for help or treatment, it is little wonder that the livestock owners as a whole have lost respect for, and confidence in, the abilities of their livestock services and, as a result, have tended to withdraw their co-operation, even in those fields of major disease control which still attempt to function.

Governments of course are dependent upon their people for support. Where their power base is at all shaky they must look to satisfying the demands of the majority, the influential elite and the politically active. Regrettably livestock owners seldom fall into any of these groups, so it seems almost inevitable that the share of the national budget that will be allocated to help them will decline further and that state veterinary services will continue to suffer unless policies are changed. Indeed, even in the best run services in Africa where financial problems are still relatively small, I find that as a sop to the rural communities there is an increasing reluctance by governments to back up veterinary services in the enforcement of strict disease control regulations, especially if the offender is a man of influence. This sort of attitude immediately undermines the authority of the veterinary staff and with repetition will soon cause him to think twice before attempting to enforce regulations at all. Once this situation is reached the staff begin to lose the respect of their community. After all if one farmer can freely transgress why shouldn't they all?

So, even where material support is good, the veterinary assistant can still find his morale seriously damaged and will begin to carry out his duties with a less than whole-hearted commitment.

In many countries there is a need for close scrutiny of existing disease and stock control regulations with a view to scrapping those that are no longer necessary or are patently unenforceable or ineffective, and rethinking and rewriting those that can be justified. Why for instance do so many countries still talk of mandatory, year

round dipping of all cattle, when for weeks or months on end they cannot supply acaricides nor can they in any way penalize owners who fail to dip. Surely, in such situations other strategies must be worked out, if indeed the mass control of tick-borne diseases is an economically justifiable proposition at all in some circumstances.

These are just a few of the constraints facing Vet services in developing countries. Physical, social, cultural and religious constraints also present their own local problems.

Where then lies the answer to improving the quality of the state veterinary services in the interests of the health status of the national herds? It can I believe only be achieved by restoring staff motivation and farmer confidence and co-operation. Motivation is principally derived from a combination of job satisfaction and just financial reward for work performed. But we should not forget the added incentives of status, good supervision and moral support and discipline. Farmer confidence and co-operation will only be regained if the livestock owners can first get what they primarily want from a veterinary service - that is protection of their own herds from major existing or threatening diseases, plus the occasional treatment of individual animals.

The vast majority of livestock owners are quite happy to pay for such preventive, prophylactic and therapeutic services and indeed frequently pay much more than the real costs incurred, in order to secure protection for their valuable stock, even in situations where the service is allegedly free. They are not so willing however, to go to the trouble of presenting their animals for treatment they consider of little or no importance, for instance foot and mouth disease has been absent for several years. Their co-operation in these circumstances, if severe punitive measures cannot be imposed, can only be achieved if they are satisfied that the veterinary service is adequately meeting their more pressing demands, and genuinely has their best interests at heart. In other words the service earns their goodwill and co-operation.

Yet, when I have painted such a dismal picture of poor pay, poor support and lack of motivation how can this goodwill and confidence possibly be regained. There are several options under consideration and being put to the test at the present. Although these vary in their philosophy and content they all hinge upon the factor of finance. Whilst it is clear that in most instances governments must be prepared to increase the proportion of their budget allocated to their livestock

sector, and make it more realistic in terms of the total value of that sector to the country, it is also clear that governments can no longer support the full burden of fully effective veterinary and livestock services. The livestock sector must become more self supporting and there is every evidence that by and large it is prepared to contribute to the costs of the services it wishes to receive.

There are various ways in which governments can increase the revenue which they derive from the livestock sector. Perhaps the most obvious is that they should make direct, although not fully economic, charges for the services they provide, especially in the realms of therapeutic and prophylactic treatment requested by farmers for their stock. Alternatively, governments may levy poll taxes upon herds or charges upon the use of markets or livestock trek routes, or they may consider the imposition of taxes upon their situation. However, at the same time as they increase the revenue derived from the livestock sector in order to increase the budgetary allocation to services for that sector, governments must also adequately pursue policies which enable them to reduce the proportion of the total cost of these services which is borne by the government. This of course implies some degree of privatisation. This is most critical at the level of the field operator who, as I have stated before, is poorly paid and poorly motivated at present.

It is a fact that, in many African countries, the government veterinary service is heavily over staffed in relation to the tasks it is able to perform, therefore as a first move it may be proposed that staff numbers be reduced and that the therapeutic work of the field staff should be largely transferred to individuals in the private sector. At the basic level of primary animal health care one proposition is that governments should look to the use of auxiliary para-veterinary staff. The proposal being that some farmers from the community who perhaps already act as the local 'horse doctor' in the area, should receive some basic training in the simple diagnosis and treatment of the commoner and more important ailments of stock and, through a herders association or livestock co-operative organization be provided with a very limited range of appropriate drugs to treat them. These farmers will already be essentially self supporting and have their own income, which they will supplement more effectively through continued treatment of their neighbour's stock. This type of ac-

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Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Blackburn, (right) when Mr. Anne, who formally opened the 1985 Annual General Meeting of the British Veterinary Association.

A varied and distinguished career

The CwVA vice president, Mr. Trevor Blackburn, who was elected president of the British Veterinary Association at the annual general meeting on September 9, 1984, might be described as an international veterinarian. He has had exceptionally wide veterinary experience in several African countries as well as England.

Like his predecessor, Trevor Blackburn is a Yorkshireman, having been born in Worsborough Dale, the son of a butcher. He left school at 15 to work in the family business and it was while studying for the National Federation of Meat Trades diploma at night school that he developed an interest in veterinary matters. He entered the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1952 and qualified in 1958.

After graduation he worked in a mixed practice in Barnsley for a short while. His first experience of Africa came in 1959 when he went to Tanganyika to work as a district veterinary officer in various areas for two years. Then came another spell in practice in Yorkshire, this time at Leyburn.

In 1963, Trevor Blackburn returned to Tanganyika, now Tanzania, for two years to take charge of the veterinary training section of the Ministry of Agriculture at Tengeru. Here he was responsible for training veterinary auxiliary staff and students on a three year course of disease control and animal husbandry and for in-service training for senior assistants. At the same time he developed clinical and extension work.

From Tanzania he moved north to Kenya in 1965 to work as an animal health officer for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations at Kabete. This was a new project for training animal health assistants and he helped to lay the foundations for a course on animal health and range management. Unfortunately this appointment was cut short when he was attacked and seriously injured in his Nairobi home in 1966 and had to return to England on sick leave. Characteristically he used the time to obtain the diploma in tropical veterinary medicine at the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in

Edinburgh.

His next FAO assignment was in Ethiopia in 1967 and '68 where he was engaged in educational work similar to what he had already carried out in Tanzania and Kenya.

By this time the Blackburns had a family to consider and because of the lack of schooling facilities in Ethiopia they decided to return to England. Trevor joined the State Veterinary Service as a veterinary officer, stationed at Cambridge, and furthered his own education by reading for his fellowship in his spare time. He was examined in animal husbandry and tropical animal husbandry and awarded his FRCVS in November 1970. The next year he passed the diploma in animal health at the Royal Veterinary College with distinction. His dissertation was on 'Wild animals as a source of food'.

This expertise was soon to be put to good use when Mr. Blackburn was seconded to Egypt in 1975 for six months to give advice on animal health and production training to the government.

In 1977 he was promoted to divisional

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Distinguished career

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veterinary officer and transferred to head office at Tolworth where he was to work in the staff office, the welfare section and the imported pathogens and enzootic bovine leucosis section until 1981. Mr. Blackburn is now regional meat hygiene adviser at Cambridge.

The CwVA president has been an active member of the BVA since his student days, even while working in Tanganyika. He was elected to BVA Council in 1977 to represent the Association of State Veterinary Officers, of which he is a former president. In 1978 he joined the BVA's European and Overseas Committee and also the RCVS-BVA Committee on European Affairs, becoming chairman in 1981. He was a founder member and president of the European Association of State Veterinary Officers in 1979 which he represented on the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe. Earlier this year he became vice president of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. He is currently a member of the RCVS-BVA Working Party on Continuing Professional Development.

Trevor Blackburn and his wife Mary have three children, John, Jane and Anne. John is an electronics engineer, Jane is studying maths and statistics and Anne, a sixth former, hopes to follow in her father's footsteps as a vet.

Veterinary services in developing Africa

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tivity of course would be most attractive to areas where pastoral nomadism is the norm for livestock keeping, since it is only those people who move with the herd that can be in regular contact with the stock.

At the other end of the scale there are several countries that have a surplus of trained veterinarians whom the government can no longer afford to employ. In those cases proposals are being investigated to assist some of these vets either to go into whole time private practice or into farming from which they will practice veterinary medicine on a part-time basis. However the problem still remains for those staff that remain in the government service itself. It is not possible to arbitrarily raise the salary levels of one particular branch of the Civil Service without doing it across the board for all civil servants of similar grades. Yet the impor-

Production statistics from Asia

The performance records of 79 cross-bred cows (several different crosses of Friesian, Sahiwal and Jersey) in a Sri Lanka herd reveal the following:-

1. Average age at first calving	4.03 years
2. Average calving interval	602 days
3. Services per conception	2.52
4. Average 305 day production	835 litres
5. Average length of lactation	414 days
6. Average calf birthweight	22.69 Kg (male) 20.5Kg (female)

The authors note the following:- "Continuous milking for long periods may be a contributory factor for prolonged calving interval. Delayed sexual maturity may be attributed to stunted growth during early stages due to insufficient availability of milk for calves."

Source: Abstract of paper presented at the 39th Sri Lanka Veterinary Association Annual Convention (1985).

Did you know that:

Fascioliasis among ruminants is reported, by an article in the Bangladesh Veterinary Journal, to be rampant. Apparently, despite its prevalence and the resulting economic losses, little epidemiological study of the condition has yet been undertaken.

In an attempt to improve this situation a paper by A.N.M. Abdul Qadir presents observations on the incidence of *Gyromnophalosis* cercarial infection in *Limnoria auricularia* snails. The work for this paper was carried out dur-

ing the period from July 1978 to June 1980, on the Bangladesh Agricultural University campus in Mymensingh.

Source: Bangladesh Veterinary Journal (Vol. 16 1982).

Canada has more water per capita than any other country - one-quarter of the world's liquid fresh water and nine percent of the river flow.

Source: The Western Producer September 19, 1985.

tance of veterinary staff and frequently their distance from central control and supervision means that we must find additional financial incentives to motivate them to carry out their work. In some countries private practice by government staff is already allowed after normal government working hours, but I believe that an added incentive for these staff could easily be found by allowing them to make a small percentage profit for themselves out of the sale of drugs disposed during the normal course of their duties and perhaps, at a later date, even by being allowed to raise a small service charge for their personal benefit. This may seem an unorthodox approach but, if such financial incentives can make working more profitable than not working and can displace the need to hold down a second job, then eventually it will be the livestock owners and the country who will be the greatest

beneficiaries. Also it will lead to the situation of mutual trust, confidence and respect that could restore co-operation between farmers and veterinary staff in the mandatory areas of disease control.

Whatever happens, free government services can no longer be allowed to continue across the boards. Not only do they inhibit the development of private enterprise in the animal health sector but worse still they encourage many farmers to rely upon the veterinary service to bail them out of their health problems, at no personal cost, rather than encouraging them to invest in improved methods of husbandry and preventive medicine to reduce the health hazards to which their stock are exposed.

G.G. Freeland,
Animal Health Adviser,
Overseas Development
Administration.

Australasia Regional meeting

The following is Dr. W.J. Pryor's report which was submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer of the CwVA.

Dr. Pryor's report is informative and interesting and it is reproduced here in its entirety. Its clarity of content and easily read style make it, in the opinion of this editorial staff, an excellent report. For those upon whose shoulders fall the burden of reporting meetings and who find it a cumbersome load, it would be worthwhile studying Dr. Pryor's report.

The reader of this report will be favourably impressed by the efforts and accomplishments of the CwVA (Australasia) Council and its member associations. In this report can be found much that will add substantially to "ideas and activities", that have the capacity of enhancing, not only the image, but the substance of the CwVA.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE AUSTRALASIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL, COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION HELD ON 21 APRIL 1986, AT PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA

The following delegates attended: Dr. W.J. Pryor (Chairman) of the Australian Veterinary Association, Dr. A. Mustafa Babjee and Dr. Yap Teow Chong (observer) of the Association of Veterinary Surgeons Malaysia, Dr. E. Shortridge of the New Zealand Veterinary Association, Dr. Ho Hon Fatt and Dr. Ng Cher Yew (observer) of the Singapore Veterinary Association, and Professor D.K. Blackmore (observer) of Massey University, New Zealand.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr. J. Archibald, Secretary-Treasurer of the CwVA, from Dr. M. Nunn, Papua New Guinea Veterinary Association and Dr. P.H. Boland, Australia.

Welcome to Delegates

Dr. A. Mustafa Babjee, delegate of the Association of Veterinary Surgeons Malaysia (AVSM) and Director-General of Veterinary Services, Malaysia welcomed all the delegates to Malaysia.

The Chairman, Dr. W. J. Pryor welcomed and thanked all the delegates for attending this Third Meeting of the Australasian Regional Council of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CwVA).

Report on CwVA Activities in the Australasian Region

Dr. W. J. Pryor, regional representative of the CwVA Australasian region reported as follows:

Since the August 1983 meeting in Perth, considerable effort has been put into improving the administrative and financial base of the CwVA. This has been done to ensure a full programme of cooperation and assistance between regional members, and has been followed by very vigorous support by the President and the Secretary-Treasurer of CwVA itself in Canada. Such efforts have been a necessity by virtue of the reduction in the grant to CwVA by the Commonwealth Foundation e.g. only 23,000 UK pounds approved for 1987 although 41,675 UK pounds was requested.

Regional members have been considering an increase in association grants to CwVA, and in three cases so far these have been arranged. Other member associations are currently considering this matter. CwVA has requested each region to raise C\$4,000 annually. After discussion the Regional Council felt it unlikely that more than C\$2,000 could be raised from the region by subscription annually but felt the outside sponsorship of specific projects may be obtained.

A new member to the CwVA, the Fiji Veterinary Association has been warmly welcomed to the Regional Council.

Specific programmes under implementation include:

- (a) the present seminar on Veterinary Public Health;
- (b) a detailed investigation of the possibility of convening a conference to review veterinary services in the S.W. Pacific. This is a specific policy initiative. A survey amongst veterinarians in South Pacific countries regarding such a need has already been commenced by the Australian Veterinary Association;
- (c) presentation of sets of veterinary journals to developing countries;
- (d) identification of veterinary students from developing countries in countries with veterinary schools, and the expectation of practical help to assist their integration;
- (e) information exchange. This is being greatly facilitated by the publication of the newsletter CwVA News, the editor of which is located in Canada. It is incumbent on this region to ensure a full flow of news to the CwVA News.

Due to financial limitations it has not been possible for CwVA to provide travel grants other than for the present seminar here in Malaysia. Nevertheless it is clear that a period of increased and effective activity of CwVA in the Australasian Region is present, and the full support of all members is earnestly sought to maintain this position.

Australasia representatives

Regional representative is Dr. W.J. Pryor (Australia). Council members are: Australia, Dr. W.J. Pryor; Malaysia, Dr. Ahmad Mustafa, B.H.J. Babjee; New Zealand, Dr. E. Shortridge; Papua New Guinea, Dr. M. Nunn; Singapore, Dr. Giam Choo Hoo; Fiji Island, Dr. N. Tabunakawai.

The Chairman particularly acknowledges the help of Dr. P.H. Boland, who has been a most valuable help to the Regional Representative in furthering CwVA aims in this region.

The meeting then estimated the membership in each member association: NZVA 800 members; AVA over 3,000 members; SVA 53 members; AVSM 130 members; PNGVA 12 members.

Review of the report of proceedings of The 2nd Meeting of the Australasia Regional Council, CwVA, Perth 1983

The meeting reviewed the report and delegates were brought up to date on activities, which follow:

- (a) An invitation has been extended to the Papua New Guinea Veterinary Association (PNGVA) to host a veterinary conference for the Pacific region. There may be need for some assistance to PNGVA.
- (b) NZVA has started a voluntary scheme whereby its members have been sending personal copies of veterinary journals to veterinary associations in member countries in response to request. So far four such requests have been met. Mailing labels with acknowledgement of donor have been sent with each edition.

The chairman commended the NZVA for this very practical approach and suggested that the Secretary-Treasurer should prepare such labels for use by the whole CwVA. The NZVA could send a copy of the mailing label that is currently used as a sample to the Secretary-Treasurer. The meeting also suggested that the list of donors and recipients of such journals be published in the CwVA News. Donations of such journals could also be back issues, and should be confined to associations who could not otherwise subscribe to the journals.

The meeting was informed that AVSM has also been sending its journals to the developing nations in the Pacific region. Other members of the region undertook to implement a similar scheme.

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Report on Australasia Regional meeting

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Regional Membership

The meeting was informed that the Fiji Veterinary Association (FVA) has been approved as a member of CwVA.

The meeting was then informed that the Secretary-Treasurer of CwVA had written to AVSM requesting the latter to encourage involvement of the Malaysian Veterinary Association (MVA) in the Australasian region of the CwVA. Dr. A. Mustafa informed the meeting that AVSM is growing from strength to strength and that it is the only Malaysian veterinary representative in the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA). Efforts are also under way to amalgamate AVSM and MVA into one common association.

The meeting then endorsed that (a) Malaysia is in the Australasian region as far as CwVA is concerned, and (b) AVSM continue to represent Malaysia at the CwVA as decided at the 2nd meeting of the Australasian Regional Council, CwVA at Perth on 19-21 August, 1983. CwVA shall continue to invite MVA members to its activities. The meeting noted the MVA has been paying membership grants to CwVA.

The meeting thought it worthwhile exploring the possibility of the Hong Kong Veterinary Association (HKVA) becoming involved in activities of the CwVA region. The chairman was asked to communicate with other non-member countries re participation in CwVA activities.

Financial State of CwVA

The meeting discussed the financial constraints imposed on the CwVA and resolved the following:

- Each delegate shall request his respective member association to increase its financial contribution to CwVA.
- The minimum subscription grant for each member association shall be C\$100.
- Administrative activities should be kept to a minimum, the regional meetings once in 3 or 4 years, and these should be held in conjunction with a scientific or technical function.
- Sponsorship should be solicited for the funding of scientific or technical functions.

Administrative Matters

Next Council Meeting

The meeting proposed that the next Council Meeting be held in 1988 in Papua New Guinea in conjunction with a conference on "Development of Veterinary Services in the South West Pacific". The chairman shall endeavour to obtain funding for the conference from sources such as the Australian Development Assistance Bureau (ADAB). If the conference does

not materialize, then other venues shall be considered such as Darwin, Penang or in New Zealand with an appropriate scientific programme.

CwVA Executive Committee Meeting

The last meeting of the Executive Committee of the CwVA was held in Banjul, The Gambia in 1977. At that meeting useful discussion and decisions were made on budgetary allocations and activities.

It was felt that another meeting in the near future could be valuable to discuss future activities of the association.

The meeting resolved that the Australasian Region support the convening of a CwVA Council and Executive meeting especially to discuss the future directions of CwVA.

Programme of Work for Next Biennium

The meeting proposed that efforts be made to collect data on which seminars could be based, covering the following: (a) animal production, (b) animal health services, (c) veterinary public health, and (d) veterinary administration and management.

Dr. E. Shortridge and Professor D. Blackmore were appointed to initiate and coordinate the preparatory work on the topics mentioned. (Dr. Shortridge for (a), (b) and (d) and Professor Blackmore for (c)).

Professor Blackmore was asked to establish a centre at Massey University to collect and disseminate information on veterinary public health matters, including the possible production of a newsletter.

Did you know that:

The European Community has 12 member states and a total population of 320 million.

Black Bengal goats are more agile than other breeds of goats. Hence the nasal bot fly has more difficulty and is therefore less successful in depositing its larvae in the nostrils of the Black Bengal goats than in other goats.

Infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (IBK), commonly known as "pinkeye", is a long established animal health problem, but in New Zealand the disease has become a matter of concern only in recent years. Pinkeye was not recognized in New Zealand until about 1974 and subsequently there has been a rapid increase in the annual incidence. Source: New Zealand Veterinary Journal Aug. 86 - Drs. J.A. Sinclair, B.S. Cooper and I.J. Steffert.

The meeting also proposed that the Foundations for Continuing Education in Australia and New Zealand be approached to send publications of proceedings and information on courses to member associations. Such a gesture will be acknowledged in the newsletter. The Australian and New Zealand delegates agreed to look into the matter.

The meeting recognized that some funding will be required to implement the specific programmes.

Other Matters

The Chairman proposed that a register of veterinarians in this region be prepared. The meeting decided that an exchange of membership lists shall be made between the associations.

The meeting was informed that SVA had returned through the chairman on April 20, 1986, a sum of S\$2860.34 to the CwVA from funds that the previous chairman of the Australasian Regional Council, CwVA, had held for a previous meeting.

Publication of Proceedings

AVSM has agreed to publish the proceedings of this Council Meeting in its journal and to provide 250 copies of reprints of the report to the Australasian Regional Council for wide distribution to CwVA.

Acknowledgements

The Regional Council expressed its warm appreciation to the AVSM for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting, the associated seminar, field visits and social activities.

Australian participants needed

There is an urgent need for increased support of and participation in the Australia (CwVA) program "For the distribution of veterinary journals, books and audio-visual materials". Idle journals and textbooks (both old and recent) are passed along to National Veterinary Associations of the Third World. From there they are distributed to needy veterinary schools, libraries, research and diagnostic institutions and practicing veterinarians.

Financial support as well as journals and books would be welcomed. Interested parties please contact: Dr. W. J. Pryor, "Galwiji", Pryor's Road, Scotsburn, Victoria, 3357, Australia.

Bowland's paper contains sage advice

Useful information and sound guidance for Developing Countries who are considering or initiating Regulatory Systems in the areas of control over veterinary drugs and or meat exports, are to be found in a paper by Dr. Pat Bowland of Australia's Department of Primary Industry. The paper was presented to the joint Commonwealth Veterinary Association - Association of Veterinary Surgeons of Malaysia meeting in Malaysia (April '86) by Dr. W.J. Pryor. Dr. Pryor is Australia's CwVA Council Member and the CwVA Regional Representative for Australasia.

Dr. Bowland's paper, entitled "Veterinary Drugs in Australia - Consumer Protection Aspects", is interesting and informative. He gives some of the history of Australia's Regulatory Controls over veterinary drugs and meat exports and then explains why they were necessary and how they work.

The following are direct quotes from Dr. Bowland's paper:-

"Australia has persistently argued that each country has its own unique pests, diseases and husbandry systems which require the use of unique chemicals. The effective control of those chemicals necessitates the development of a sophisticated regulatory infrastructure in which trade partners can place their confidence but which is not necessarily identical to their own regulatory infrastructure. Analytical programs for residue surveys should be designed so as to reflect the use of chemicals in the country and should not waste resources in searching for residues which experience has shown are unlikely to occur."

"In recent years, there have been two important international developments which impinge upon regulatory programs for veterinary drugs.

The first of these was the formation of an International Consultation on Veterinary Product Registration which first met in the USA in 1983. Representatives from 21 countries plus a number of international organizations attended. The Consultation met again in Sweden in 1984 and will meet in Paris this year (1986). Its purpose is to provide a forum for international exchange of information whereby some degree of international harmonization of regulatory control over veterinary drugs can be achieved. Not surprisingly, it is often for trade reasons that such harmonization is desired and countries which export or import significant quantities of

animal products have a strong interest in the Consultation."

"The second development was even more specifically directed at facilitating international trade. This was the establishment of a committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to make recommendations on internationally acceptable maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs. A similar Codex committee on residue limits for pesticides had been in existence since the late 1960's but the Codex Committee on Veterinary Drug Residues will meet for the first time in Washington, DC, in October this year (1986). Countries like Australia and New Zealand which export meat products and are therefore concerned about possible residue problems, are keen to see the establishment of this new committee. Participating countries are under some obligation to adopt the maximum residue limits recommended by Codex and a certain degree of international consistency will therefore result. Further, despite the fact that Codex recommendations are not binding on participating countries, the existence of a Codex maximum residue limit could be of considerable benefit in the event that an importing country did not have any limit for a particular chemical residue of concern".

"Regulation of the sale of veterinary drugs (i.e. product registration) and controls over the directions given to the user (i.e. the label) are the first and by far the most important means of controlling the ways in which those drugs are used."

"The purpose of any regulatory system for veterinary drugs must be consistent with the current needs of the country concerned."

"In countries developing regulatory control systems, a prior assessment needs to be made of the purposes of introducing new regulatory measures."

"The degree to which regulatory measures assist the animal industries should be considered, eg. the measures may increase the likelihood of drugs being safe and efficacious but they may also increase the cost of those drugs or perhaps even make their development non-viable."

"Regulatory control measures should be consistent with the current animal health and production standards of the country concerned rather than constitute an all-embracing commitment to some arbitrary standard of excellence."

"Irrespective of the final outcome of a contentious decision, the person who feels that his voice has been heard will be more inclined to acquiesce than the person who does not."

NZVA holds annual meeting

At the 1986 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Veterinary Association, held during the 62nd New Zealand Veterinary Conference, three vacancies on Council were filled by electing Drs. John Lifton, Roger Marchant and Gunner Petersen for another three year term. The election of president and vice president was conducted from within the council by secret ballot. Dr. Peter Trim was elected president and Dr. Alan Alexander vice president.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the election of Dr. Russell Dun to life membership in the association. Dr. John Lifton proposed the motion, detailing Dr. Dun's long and distinguished record of service to the association and to the profession, a role that he continues in retirement. Dr. Peter Malone seconded the motion and added his testimony to the role played by Dr. Dun over the years. The motion, when put to the meeting, was carried by acclamation. Dr. Dun, a 1949 graduate of Sydney University, officially retired from his Wellington City practice in September

1985. He has been and is still a good servant of the New Zealand Veterinary Association, the veterinary profession and the public.

New Zealand participants needed

There is an urgent need for increased support of and participation in the New Zealand (CwVA) program "For the distribution of veterinary journals, books and audio-visual materials". Idle journals and textbooks (both old and recent) are passed along to National Veterinary Associations of the Third World. From there they are distributed to needy veterinary schools, libraries, research and diagnostic institutions and practicing veterinarians.

Financial support as well as journals and books would be welcomed. Interested parties please contact Dr. E. Shortridge, Brookvale Road, Havelock North, New Zealand.

News from New Zealand Association

A meeting of veterinarians, organized by Dr. Herman Liberona, considered the establishment of a new special interest branch for those veterinarians interested and involved in the field of epidemiology. This meeting was held in Palmerston North. A steering committee has been formed (Herman Liberona, Roger Morris, Joanna McKenzie, Steve Hathaway and Roger Marchant). This group has the brief of establishing a properly constituted branch with widespread membership, and promoting the aims and benefits of the society as widely and effectively as possible.

Because the science of epidemiology is relative to all those veterinarians who deal with populations of animals, and how disease may effect the performance of these populations, this new branch should be of interest to many veterinarians. It is probably true to say that most veterinarians in their everyday work are involved to some extent in the science of epidemiology.

A NZVA Goat Advisory Panel was established by the New Zealand Veterinary Association Council. This step was taken due to the rapid growth of the fibre goat industries, and the increasing involvement of the veterinary profession. The aim of the panel is to provide information and advice on matters relating to these industries. Members of this new panel are Drs. Keith Thompson (Convenor), Richard

Lee, Max Merrall and Bruce Robertson.

Julie Lord and Glyn Patchett, of the New Zealand Veterinary Journal, were among guests hosted in Upper Hutt by Coopers Animal Health NZ. Ltd. They had the opportunity to have discussions on a range of matters involving production and marketing of animal remedies. A discussion on the animal remedy market in New Zealand provided interesting details on market segments. Recent figures confirmed the trend, detected by the association, which shows clearly that the profession is substantially increasing its share of the total non-ethical remedy market at the expense of its major competitors.

Veterinarians now control 40 per cent of the non-ethical retail market, in addition to 100 per cent of the ethical drug supply. These figures confirm the importance of veterinary practices stressing their role as professional animal health advisors, particularly at a time when farmers must obtain the maximum benefit for every item of expenditure.

The NZVA Deer Branch held its Third Annual Seminar in July at the Sheraton Hotel in Rotorua. More than 130 participants, representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, clinical practitioners and Animal Health Division veterinarians, attended the three days of meetings.

Technical sessions dealt with production and marketing, problems involved with deer slaughter, research papers on deer growth and products, venison research, deer reproduction and other aspects of deer farming. One major forum dealt with tuberculosis. The technical programme was rounded off by a significant number of papers covering a wide variety of topics, including paratuberculosis, yersiniosis, malignant catarrhal fever, leptospirosis, trace elements and parasites. Case reports and studies by various members were an important feature.

Visits to deer farms in the district allowed for a number of practical demonstrations and added a pleasant touch of the outdoors to the seminar. The Branch Executive, and especially the convenor Dr. Ian Scott, deserve the thanks and congratulations of all involved in any capacity with deer practice in New Zealand.

The Committee of the Equine Branch of the NZVA met in June and July. Both meetings involved mainly housekeeping. Subjects discussed included a newsletter - the equine insurance document and professional indemnity insurance. The E.B.N.Z.V.A. has officially joined the World Equine Veterinary Association.

Source: New Zealand Veterinary Journal: Vol. 34 (Sept. '86) News and Views Section.

Report on Antigua Barbuda Veterinary Services

The following report on the Antigua-Barbuda Veterinary Services is by Chief Veterinary Officer J.L. Robinson of Antigua.

Not long ago the veterinary service of Antigua-Barbuda was a one man service. Accordingly, no veterinary association as such could have been formed, nonetheless, matters relating to the well-being of veterinarians were not left in abeyance. The veterinary officer as he was called then sought the support of the National administration and Allied Services in providing for the well-being of the service.

Some six years ago another veterinarian was added to the service. A mini-association was becoming established without legislation. Then came animal health assistants and some of the responsibilities of veterinarians were assumed by their works, under the surveillance of the veterinarians.

Accordingly, the veterinarians had more time for administration, welfare, education and representation for the improvement in welfare of veterinarians.

Veterinarians responded to appeals from the Caribbean Veterinary Association, the Commonwealth Veterinary Associations and from its member associations and from International organizations interested in and responsible for the Third World Development.

The Antigua-Barbuda Veterinary Services is a member of good standing of the Caribbean Veterinary Association and the World Veterinary Association. It takes a place similar to an organized association in these bodies. The Antigua-Barbuda Veterinary Service has attended and participated in conferences and seminars and did host one in 1986 on Small Ruminants and

Rabbits. It has contributed with information to the CwVA News.

With regards to materials from the Secretariat, there could be an improvement here. It is the considered opinion that the veterinary services need to be upgraded in importance in the Commonwealth.

Under International Veterinary Development and under the auspices of the CVA one candidate is now with the University of Prince Edward Island University on a grant for laboratory technology attachment.

A Veterinary Act is being introduced into Parliament.

It is hoped that there will be at least one educational seminar-workshop for veterinarians and one for animal health assistants. Antigua-Barbuda stands ready to cooperate, collaborate and participate.

Subcommittee submits report on disasters

The following report, of the New Zealand Veterinary Association Subcommittee on Nuclear and Natural Disasters, was presented at the 62nd New Zealand Veterinary Conference (1986).

Quote:-

What Happened At Chernobyl?

The reasons for the dreadful accident at Chernobyl in the Ukraine, the most catastrophic nuclear disaster in history, have not yet been fully explained, but it is likely that the core of one reactor melted partly or completely.

Shortly after the accident, radiation levels at the site are believed to have been about 100 rem/hr (400 rem is the LD50 for humans). Radiation levels up to 5 km from the site are likely to have been lethal, and 'extremely dangerous' up to 8 km from the site.

At the time of reporting, 25 people have died (23 of radiation damage), 55 are critically ill and approximately 200 more are suffering from radiation sickness.

An area within 30 kilometres radius of the site was evacuated. 92, 000 people were moved out.

As many as 100,000 Soviet citizens may have suffered potentially harmful doses of radiation, and will be monitored throughout their lives. Many cancer cases are expected.

Women from this area have been urged to undergo abortions even if six months pregnant.

Although people were evacuated from a 30 kilometre zone around the reactor, livestock and domestic animals in the area were abandoned. There are no details yet of the consequences of this, but potentially outbreaks of serious disease could have occurred and could not have been controlled.

Areas outside the 30 kilometre zone to the north have also been shown to have been badly contaminated by radioactive material and have since been evacuated.

The accident occurred in the Northern Hemisphere growing season. Fresh vegetables in the affected area had to be destroyed in bulk, and produce which was growing at the time of the accident is also likely to be heavily contaminated. Wells were closed, and the locals warned not to eat locally grown produce.

Radioactive material spread downwind for huge distances mainly to the north and west of the site. For a while over much of Europe, people were advised to wash fruit and vegetables, not to drink milk and not to let their children play on grass or in sand.

In Poland, radiation levels were high enough to cause potassium iodine to be

administered to children around the country.

In Sweden, radiation levels were 100 times above normal, 'bordering on the serious.'

In parts of Scotland, radiation levels 400 times normal have been reported.

In parts of Scotland, Wales and north west England, radiation levels in sheep well above the maximum permitted by the EEC have caused a temporary stop to sheep movement until the situation is clarified and resolved.

Radioactive elements released by the Chernobyl disaster have been found as far away as Canada, the USA and Japan.

Apart from the direct medical effects of the fallout, the agricultural industry will suffer serious immediate and long term damage.

The USSR has been forced to increase its demands for Eastern European food and other resources while at the same time reducing the ability of these countries to trade with the west. The European community has banned the importation of food-stuffs for the Eastern bloc and Yugoslavia, a move that particularly hurts the Poles, Hungarians, and Yugoslavs because of their dependency on trade with the European community for hard currency.

The EEC is to introduce radiation checks on all fresh food imports to the Community in the wake of the accident. The new levels will be applied to all imports from non community states.

The direct effect of radiation damage on livestock and domestic animals will be similar to that in humans, as herbivores are as sensitive to radiation as humans, i.e. there will be radiation sickness, immunosuppression, malformations and increased incidences of cancers. Perhaps the most serious consequences to agriculture stem from the efficiency with which radioactive material is concentrated by the grass-herebivore-milk or meat route. Much of the radioactivity will remain in ground water, contaminating and accumulating in food chains for years.

The main long term threat from the plume of radioactive material is due to strontium (Str) 90 which accumulates in bones, and caesium (Cs) 137 which accumulates in muscle and soft tissues. Both of these isotopes have half lives of about 30 years. About 90 per cent of the long term damage comes from Cs 137 and another isotope Cs 134.

Editors Note:

The NZVA Subcommittee on Nuclear and Natural Disasters is a new committee formed in 1985 as a result of the successful remit put to the 61st AGM in Invercargill. The members of this committee are Dr. Brian Mason (convener), Drs. Marjorie Orr, Colin MacKintosh, Maurice Alley, Kevin Bell and John Hellstrom. Notwithstanding the recent formation of this Subcommittee, its members have researched their brief with commendable speed and thoroughness.

The greatest tragedy

Famine, malnutrition, high infant mortality and illiteracy are merely symptoms of mankind's greatest tragedy - **POVERTY**.

The world's tropical rain forests are under the threat of devastation from overharvesting. These forests are almost exclusively located in Third World countries, which use wood for more than 80 per cent of their fuel needs because they cannot afford other forms of energy. Until poverty is alleviated, the destruction of the rain forests will continue.

Agricultural scientists believe our planet can produce enough food to feed the present and foreseeable global population. Yet 500 million people suffer from severe undernourishment in a world that produces food surpluses and provides incentives to farmers in the developed world to restrain agricultural production.

Poverty is probably one of the major causes of the population explosion. Education and economic security are the most effective measures for popula-

tion control.

Source: Globe and Mail Oct. 1, 1985 - Cure for aid fatigue : cut poverty's cost by A. Roy Megarry.

What is peace

Peace is more than the absence of war. It is harmony and enlightenment and fairness and caring - the energy of compassion'. Peace is the people of the world working together as brothers and sisters, not as adversaries; men and women and children from all lands understanding their common humanity and that their fate is really inseparable; people aware that we have only one world and that we have to share its bounty and its fortunes better than we do.

Source: Keynote address by Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal at CUSO (an NGO) 25th anniversary dinner.

Report on Environmental PCBs

The following article is from the spring/86 issue of the Ontario Veterinary Report. It is reproduced here by the courtesy and permission of that magazine.

Environmental PCBs: Their Significance to Human and Animal Health

PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) are a group of man-made chemicals produced in large quantities from the 1930s to the mid-1970s for a variety of industrial applications. Their remarkable stability and dielectric properties made them well suited for use in electric transformers, as fire retardants, and as stabilizers in plastics, rubber and paint.

Industrial waste discharges of virtually indestructible PCBs have over decades contaminated the environment. Humans and animals have accumulated significant, persistent burdens of PCBs in body fats. For this reason, environmental PCBs have been suspected and scrutinized as potential human health hazards. The manufacture of PCBs was halted in the mid-1970's as a result of these concerns. However, PCBs persist in large amounts in industrial waste stockpiles and at gradually decreasing levels in the environment.

There is a range of experimental and epidemiological evidence to implicate PCBs as health hazards. Clearly, high level exposure from industrial accidents or heavily contaminated foodstuffs cause clinically significant disease in humans. For example, in Japan, a chronic skin problem termed chloracne was a major manifestation of "Yusho" caused by PCB-contaminated rice oil. On the other hand, low level exposure to ambient environmental levels of PCBs has so far not been firmly implicated in any significant human health problem. However, experimental evidence that PCBs are carcinogenic to laboratory animals has reinforced a prevailing concern that low levels of PCBs might not be evident for many years.

Concerns that PCBs might be carcinogenic are largely based on experimental evidence that is equivocal. For example, long-term (lifetime) exposure to high levels of dietary PCBs causes a low incidence of liver and gastric neoplasms in laboratory rodents. Old control animals also develop preneoplastic and neoplastic liver lesions, the incidence and progression of which can be increased by numerous physiological influences, including diet, sex hormones and high levels of many chemicals. A considerable number of such chemicals, e.g. barbiturates, have no detectable

carcinogenic effects in humans, e.g. epileptics. Similarly, physical irritation of the gastric mucosa by high levels of commercial PCBs and their contaminants could increase gastric neoplasms by a physical mechanism that has little to do with how low non-irritant levels of PCBs in food might affect the stomach.

PCBs are well recognized promoters of liver carcinogenesis in rodents. However, this effect is observed experimentally in animals previously exposed to high doses of strong carcinogens to "initiate" the carcinogenic process. This promoting effect of PCBs requires a level of exposure that is well above the amounts found in contaminated foodstuffs. PCBs might perhaps potentiate the carcinogenicity of many other natural or industrial chemicals. The experimental basis of this suspicion is derived from *in vitro* tests such as the Ames test, in which liver microsomes (smooth endoplasmic reticulum fragments) from animals previously given high doses of active PCBs have a much greater potential to generate metabolites of carcinogens. These metabolites have various mutagenic or "genotoxic" properties. However, in intact cells *in vivo*, PCBs also induce many detoxification enzymes that eliminate genotoxic metabolites before they cause harm to DNA, and so greatly reduce the carcinogenicity of other chemicals *in vivo*. Other experiments have shown that PCBs themselves are incapable of initiating carcinogenesis; so it is more than likely that individuals exposed to low levels of PCBs may, in fact, be less

Thirsty Worlds

In drought-prone countries poor quality water, great social need and an inability to pay all stand hand in hand with the scarcity of water.

Although well informed, local people are often ignored by planners and decision-makers as engineers design massive water projects in Third World countries even though small projects are usually far more successful. Large systems tend to carry with them a degree of vulnerability. If they break down more people and more enterprises are affected, often for longer periods. Some ecologies and economies are drought-prone or do not have the support to keep things running or to fix them quickly once broken. The failure of one large project can have immensely negative and sustained consequences.

Water planners tend to reinvent the wheel, even when a similar project failed only a few kilometers away.

likely to develop cancers from subsequent exposure to other, much more toxic carcinogens. Rats exposed to low levels of PCBs actually live longer than control animals, in spite of their increased incidence of preneoplastic liver lesions.

Collectively, the available evidence appears to justify some concern that PCBs might be a slight risk factor to human and animal health under some conditions. This justifies the cautious approach of regulatory agencies that attempt to reduce PCB pollution of the environment and to obtain, through further research, a definitive measure of the true significance of PCBs.

While low levels of PCBs might play a role in the pathogenesis of various other non-neoplastic problems, e.g. reproductive disorders, there is ample evidence that clinically normal humans and animals have PCBs in body fats. Accordingly, the toxicological significance of tissue PCBs in investigations of specific problems must be interpreted cautiously to avoid invalid cause-effect associations. Alarmist opinions that low levels of environmental PCBs are potent carcinogenic hazards are not supported by the epidemiological and experimental studies, nor by the evidence that PCBs may, in fact, prevent carcinogenesis by other environmental chemicals. In our polluted environment, there are numerous other chemicals that, perhaps, warrant far greater concern.

M. Anthony Hayes

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and Dept. of Pathology,

University of Toronto

Engineers, not having to live with their creations, tend not to review them and therefore any benefit is seldom dug out of the mistakes. It is assumed that devices can be repaired, when repair services are grossly inadequate. Technology has put people on the moon but so far it has failed to design and manufacture a hand pump which withstands the punishment of village women and small girls.

The United Nations goal of clean water for everyone by 1990 is unrealistic, but it will have been useful if it created public awareness. The population of the Third World will double in the next 25 to 30 years, and every single person needs water, however filthy, stinking and full of bugs. However many of these persons will be without even enough fuel to boil what water they can get.

Source: The Western Producer

Donations received from Provincial Associations

Donations in support of a Commonwealth Veterinary Association initiative to send copies of the Canadian Veterinary Research Journal and The Canadian Veterinary Journal to Sri Lanka have been received from the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association, the Prince Edward Island Veterinary Medical Association and the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association.

If other associations feel they are in a position to assist in this worthwhile venture they may contact the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. J. Archibald, 35 Lynwood Pl., Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2V9 or CwVA Council Member (Canada), Dr. R.G. Stevenson, P.O. Box 1410, Sackville, New Brunswick, E0A 3C0.

Dr. Bert Stevenson is Canada's council member to CwVA

Following graduation from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1963 Dr. G.R. (Bert) Stevenson received a diploma in Veterinary State Medicine from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in 1964 and in the same year began work as a scientific officer in the Department of Pathology at the Moredun Institute in Edinburgh. In 1968 he obtained his Ph.D. in pathology from the University of Edinburgh. Later that year he returned to Canada where he was employed as a research scientist at the Atlantic area laboratory, Health of Animals Directorate, Agriculture Canada in Sackville, New Brunswick. His primary research interests are acute and chronic respiratory diseases of sheep. In 1978 Dr. Stevenson was appointed director of the Atlantic area laboratory.

Dr. Stevenson has been active in provincial and national veterinary associations, having served as president of the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association in 1970-71 and as president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association in 1975-76. He was actively involved in the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Pet Food Certification Program and also served as the first chairman of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Research Trust Fund. For a number of years he has been the chairman of the Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference. Dr. Stevenson is also the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association council member to the CwVA.



Dr. Garry Morgan (right), President of The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, presents a \$4500.00 cheque to Dr. Laurent Choquette, President of The CwVA. The cheque is a CVMA contribution for the support of speakers' expenses for the joint CwVA-Caribbean-Canada Conference-Workshop (1986) held in Barbados.

Canadians are active participants

President Choquette has drawn attention to the very active part being played by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association in the affairs of the CwVA.

This organization has been a pillar of strength in keeping the CwVA as a viable instrument for the improvement of the profession throughout the Commonwealth. For example, in the past the CVMA, in addition to its regular annual financial contribution, has provided support for speakers' expenses for the biennial joint CwVA/Caribbean/Canada Veterinary Conference and Workshop. This is continuing for the 1986 Conference/Workshop to be held in Barbados.

The CVMA also contributed \$1000 to the CwVA to support the seminars held in Jamaica, Antigua and Trinidad in 1986.

President Choquette cites these examples as evidence that the Canadian

Veterinary Medical Association members regard their professional association as being concerned with more than their own immediate well-being. Such contributions to continuing education play a large part in alleviating malnutrition and starvation in developing countries in the Commonwealth. He particularly stressed that this is being done without the fanfare that has accompanied so-called "media events" of the recent past. The veterinary contribution, although low-key, is consistent and continuing and is vital to the provision of essential animal protein to endangered populations.

The president wishes to convey his thanks and appreciation to members of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association for their largely unsung contribution to the fight against world hunger.

A vital project is revived

Dr. Bert Stevenson, CwVA Council Member for Canada, has accepted the responsibility for the CwVA project of "Book and Journal Donations" to selected Commonwealth veterinary schools, institutions and individuals. This is a revival of a project that was discontinued a few years ago because of

lack of funds and the inability of the CwVA secretariat to recruit an individual willing to denote the time and effort required to manage the project.

Dr. Stevenson reports that since the beginning of last year (1986) he has successfully instituted donations, on a

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Dr. Stevenson reports on success of short course

by Dr. R.G. Stevenson

Joint Commonwealth Veterinary Association - Caribbean Veterinary Association Short Course/Seminar on Small Ruminant and Rabbit Health and Production.

At the instigation of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association secretariat, a series of short courses/seminars were organized by the regional CwVA representative, Professor Holman Williams and the Caribbean Veterinary Association, to be held in Kingston, Jamaica, St. John's, Antigua; and Port of Spain, Trinidad from April 23-29. In addition to local speakers, Dr. R.G. Stevenson and Dr. Paula Menzies from Canada and Dr. Flores Teresa from Venezuela assisted with the program. Local arrangements for the Canadian speakers were organized by Dr. L. Turner (Jamaica), Drs. J.L. Robinson and J. Mathew (Antigua), Drs. V. Moe and H. Williams (Trinidad) and Dr. Patricia Borrow-Smart (Tobago).

The Small Ruminant Seminar in Jamaica was well attended. The entire day was devoted to lectures/slide presentations by Drs. Menzies and Stevenson on the following topics:

- Newer anthelmintics for use in small ruminants.
- Caprine arthritis - encephalitis/maedi visna.
- Caseous lymphadenitis.
- Flock/herd health programs for small ruminants.
- More effective field/laboratory collaboration in small ruminant medicine.
- Respiratory diseases of small ruminants.

There was a discussion following the presentations which was equally beneficial to speakers and audience. The one day program was part of Jamaica Veterinary Association Animal Health Week, April 21-26.

Similar talks were given in St. John's, Antigua and re-enforced presentations on sheep and goat diseases given previously by Dr. Clarence Manasmith of Winrock International. The



Dr. R.G. (Bert) Stevenson

short course in Antigua also included management and diseases of rabbits. (In retrospect it was unfortunate that the short course/seminar in Antigua was organized on a Friday and Saturday as Friday afternoon and Saturday are days which most individuals use to look after domestic chores; as a result attendance was not as good as expected).

This was not the case in Trinidad. There was a large turnout of veterinarians, animal health technicians, agriculturists and producers for the short course/seminar in Trinidad. The facilities at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mount Hope Medical Sciences Complex were excellent and the organization of the meeting was first class. Because of the fullness of the program and the excellence of the speakers, time was at a premium. Drs. Menzies and Stevenson covered the topics of anthelmintics in small ruminants, more effective field and laboratory collaboration in small ruminant medicine, caprine arthritis-encephalitis, caseous lymphadenitis

and flock/herd health programs. Airline schedules made it necessary for the lively discussion by the panel of speakers to be prematurely terminated.

In addition to the formal presentations there were formal evening receptions sponsored by the Jamaica Veterinary Association, The Trinidad and Tobago Branch of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries of Antigua and Barbuda.

Because of time constraints it was not possible to visit many farms. We had the opportunity of visiting the veterinary facility in Antigua and of spending part of an afternoon discussing some of the problems which they encounter. By our standards, facilities, equipment and supplies are meagre. We were led to understand that economic restraints have been particularly severe in recent years not only in Antigua but in other Caribbean countries as well. There would appear to be numerous ways in which more prosperous Commonwealth countries could increase their practical assistance to their less wealthy southern members.

Dr. Menzies and I enjoyed our brief visit to the Caribbean. Our only regret is that there was insufficient time to visit "real" farms; nor was there time to fully discuss practical problems identified by producers at the meetings. All too often discussions were held in parking lots with one foot in the door because of scheduling constraints.

Since this was my first "official" visit I don't know what kind of follow-up there is to these meetings. I would like to suggest that a meeting be arranged sometime within the next year of Canadian veterinarians who have worked in the Caribbean in particular and in other tropical countries in general. By getting a group of these people together perhaps a plan could be worked out as to how we can assist in a more practical way. Seminars and short courses certainly help but I think there might be other ways of providing practical assistance at a reasonable cost.

Project revived

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regular basis, to Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. Time will be required for this service to reach fruition and for the day to arrive when all developing Commonwealth countries will be regularly receiving much needed veterinary textbooks and journals.

Priority will be given to veterinary schools, research institutions and members veterinary associations.

Canadian participants needed

There is an urgent need for increased support of and participation in the Canada (CwVA) program "For the distribution of veterinary journals, books and audio-visual materials". Idle journals and textbooks (both old and recent) are passed along to National Veterinary Associations of the Third World. From there they are

distributed to needy veterinary schools, libraries, research and diagnostic institutions and practicing veterinarians.

Financial support as well as journals and books would be welcomed. Interested parties please contact:- Dr. R.G. Stevenson/P.O. Box 1410/ Sackville/ New Brunswick E0A 3C0.

Membership of 29 in GVA

After a productive and progressive year under the 1985-86 executive, which was elected on April 19th, 1985, the Guyana Veterinary Association looks to the future with confidence and optimism. The Guyana Veterinary Association now has a membership of 29 and its members are actively involved in many aspects of life and development in Guyana.

The GVA 1986-87 executive has been elected. Its members are: Dr. R.S. Surujbally - re-elected as president, Dr. P.L. McKenzie - secretary-treasurer, Dr. S. Da Silva - committee member, Dr. L. Applewhaite - reserve committee member.

GVA is very active

Under the leadership of the 1985-86 executive, the Guyana Veterinary Association is busy in several areas with emphasis being placed on public relations, continuing education and raising funds.

Some of the activities carried out over the last few months are:

The 1st Guyana Veterinary Association Companion Animal Show. (Good public relations and a successful fundraiser). Show classes included the most unique pet, the cutest pair (Owner & pet) best doberman (male & female,) best German Shepherd (male & female). Obedience tests and guard dog demonstrations were among events

held. Attendance was good, competition strong, and it was an excellent show.

Members of the association have been lecturing to students of secondary schools within the context of career guidance and dissemination of information on indigenous fauna.

Monthly meetings of the GVA.

As part of the agenda of these meetings, members lecture on subjects relative to their activities and specializations. Thus the whole association is benefiting from the experiences and knowledge of its individual members.

The Guyana Veterinary Association is also working on the resuscitation of their association newsletter.

GVA presidential report for 1985 - 1986

by Dr. R.S. Surujbally, President
Guyana Veterinary Association

The executive that was elected on April 19, 1985 broke new ground by documenting to the membership at its very inception, the objectives and program of activities for the year.

The executive achieved the following:

(i) We accomplished that which was spoken of so often in the past, namely the first Pet Show that was run solely by the association.

(ii) The finances of the association are now much healthier. We assumed office with the coffers having less than \$1000. The treasurer's report will show that after all our bills have been paid we still have over \$9000 in the bank.

(iii) Attendance at meetings was reassuring. On no occasion did we have

a turn-out that was less than 60%.

(iv) We continued the information dissemination by having lectures by and for colleagues on most occasions. In some cases we entertained foreign guests who were able to share their experiences with us.

(v) We attended meetings of fraternal organizations.

(vi) We up-dated the veterinary register and had our membership officially gazetted as veterinarians. We are in the process of doing same for the new arrivals.

(vii) The newsletter has been resuscitated and the first issue for 1986 will be circulated to veterinarians free of cost.

(viii) The GVA now has its own letter-headed paper for national and international correspondence.

(ix) Similarly we now have our own

P.O. box.

(x) Members now have identity/membership cards.

(xi) We have impacted as a profession on the local scene e.g. with the Goat Raisers Association and the GSPCA.

(xii) And on the international scene we have finally gotten the association on the mailing list for the Commonwealth Veterinary Association's Newsletter.

There are some deficiencies as well:

(i) We did not achieve the dream of impacting on the schools via the zoo as we had hoped we could achieve.

(ii) There was no Christmas party.

After all has been weighed out we hope that the membership feels, as we do, that this was a successful year.

Dr. R.S. Surujbally
President
Guyana Veterinary Association

Antiqua Seminar Report

Small Ruminant and Rabbit Health

by Dr. Jose Mathew

A two-day seminar on Small Ruminant and Rabbit Health and Production sponsored jointly by Canada-Caribbean Region of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, Antigua was conducted in Antigua on 25th and 26th of April, 1986.

The seminar was attended by agricultural extension officers, animal health assistants, agricultural assistants and some selected farmers.

The permanent secretary in the

Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Earnest Benjamin in his welcome address, stressed the need for better nutrition for the health of human beings and cited the role of professionals and farmers in achieving that. He also pointed out the need for diversification of the source of animal protein due to increased urbanization and inadequate land availability in the Caribbean.

Professor Holman Williams, regional representative for the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, in his opening remarks, highlighted some of the ac-

tivities of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

The resource personnels for the seminar included Dr. Keith Archibald (U.W.I.), Dr. Mannasmith (Winrock Int.), Dr. Bert Stevenson and Dr. Paula Menzies (Canada), Dr. W.A. Caudle and Dr. Bob (North Carolina, U.S.A.) and Dr. G. Flores (Venezuela).

Dr. J.L. Robinson, chief veterinary officer and national representative to the C.W.A., thanked all who in different roles made the seminar successful.

The Bahamas

Veterinary medicine is still in its puberty

By Keith B. Campbell

B.Sc., D.V.M.

President,

Veterinary Medical Association
of the Bahamas

A look at the profession and the practice of Veterinary Medicine in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas will reveal that it is just about pubertal, in terms of its development. There are 12 licensed veterinarians in the country, five of whom are employed by the government, with the remainder in private practice. On the island of New Providence (location of the capital city of Nassau) there are four private veterinary clinics and in Freeport, on Grand Bahama Island, there is another one; there are two separate humane societies in the country, one in Nassau and the other in Freeport, with the Nassau based organization operating a veterinary clinic with one salaried veterinarian.

The professional association is The Veterinary Medical Association of the

Bahamas (VMAB) which came into being in the fall of 1981 when its constitution was ratified by its members.

The VMAB metamorphosed from the Bahama Islands Veterinary Association (BIVA) which began around 1969 with six members. The VMAB presently has a membership of 11.

The practice of the profession comes under the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act which was enacted in 1966. This act makes provision for a Veterinary Board which functions to advise the Minister responsible on matters pertaining to the administration of the act. By statute, this board is chaired by the Director of Agriculture.

The local profession realizes the need for the establishment of a veterinary diagnostic laboratory facility in the country with which to conduct surveys for animal diseases, per se, as well as zoonoses, in order to establish a data base for health programs planning, in addition to instituting therapeutic regimens. We are also advocating that

amendments be made to several sections of our Veterinary Surgeon's Act.

Private practice of veterinary medicine in The Bahamas centres predominantly around dogs and cats; there is a limited demand for equine and avian (pet birds) practice. Food animal practice is provided by the Government Veterinary Officers. One of the private practitioners in Freeport is a pioneer in fish farming in the country and has commenced commercial production of tilapia filets, as well as of replacement fry.

Over the past decade, the first four Bahamian nationals have graduated from schools of veterinary medicine and have returned home; it is expected that the first female Bahamian veterinarian will graduate this summer (1986).

The veterinary medical profession in the commonwealth of the Bahamas looks forward to its continued development as it continues to make its contributions to the goal of "Health For All".

Late news item

Guyana executive keeps its promise

The executive of the Guyana Veterinary Association have kept their promise to resuscitate the GVA newsletter. And they are to be congratulated for a job well-done. It is a fine newsletter and most appropriate for a small association. Its contents include items of clinical interest and regulatory concern. It has an editorial page, an update on drugs, a book review, news and views of both local and general interest.

To adequately illustrate the quality of the new GVA Newsletter we reproduce from Issue No. 1 (1986) quotes from 'The President's Page' and the editorial in its entirety.

Dr. R.S. Surujbally's remarks:-

"The function of a newsletter goes beyond the dissemination of information. A newsletter, such as this, should represent the vehicle through which colleagues can raise and analyse issues that impact, sometimes unconsciously and deleteriously, on the profession."

"The newsletter has also arrived at a time when the fraternal links that exist among the Commonwealth veterinarians in general and our Caribbean colleagues, in particular, need strengthening. We hope to use this newsletter and those that will follow as a means towards the end of maximizing

the exposure of our own Guyana Veterinary Association and therewith establishing our tile in the mosaic of regional and international veterinary togetherness."

Dr. P.L. McKenzie's editorial:-

"It has been about three years since the Newsletter of the Guyana Veterinary Association was last printed. For this apologies are in order. We pledge to do better. I would hope that in attempting to do better, members of the association will see themselves as part of this drive to educate, to share experiences, to promote a unified, even if broadbased, approach to the improvement of our livestock subsector.

Equally important should be our strive for excellence as professionals so that those who receive our wide and varied services may know of the satisfaction that comes from a job well-done. The editor invites suggestions and assistance from colleagues so that in time there can be genuine improvement in the newsletter.

They say that to be champion one must fight one more round. This attempt is to fight yet another round to have the GVA Newsletter printed and circulated. Hopefully, this time we will not fail, but if we do - we will rise

again."

The editor and his address are Dr. P.L. Mc Kenzie/ 334 Republic Park/ East Bank Demerara / Georgetown/Guyana.

Time, a
precious
asset

Time, that illimitable, silent, never-resting thing, which forever rolls and rushes on, swift and silent like an all embracing tide. The value of time is in everybody's mouth but in few people's practice.

Do not squander time for it is the stuff that life is made of. Each of us has been allotted an absolutely fixed amount of time, and there is no chance of begging, borrowing or stealing any more.

Please remember that time is the most precious asset we possess, because once we have spent it, there isn't any more of it. There is a time to talk and a time to act, let us always balance those two times well.

Source: Thomas Carlyle, Benjamin Franklin, Lord Chesterfield and others.

Cayman Islands joins The CwVA

During this past October (1986) the Cayman Islands Veterinary Association officially joined the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. The CIVA, with three member veterinarians all on Grand Cayman, plans to send an official delegate to the

Sept. '87 CwVA (Caribbean-Canada) Regional meeting in Barbados.

Dr. Benn H. Bell is CIVA's council member. His address is Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 459 (GT), Grand Cayman, Cayman Island, West Indies.

Caribbean - Canada

The CwVA Caribbean-Canada Region is made up of 14 Caribbean countries and Canada. The CwVA regional representative is Professor Holman E. Williams, who is also CwVA council member for Trinidad.

Is this goodbye

Commonwealth Veterinary Interchange Fund

The following item is from Dr. T.L. Jones (136 Cheltenham Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4N 1P9). It was written in response to a request of the CwVA News. It is with pride that the CwVA News carries the story of this small, but active and successful, development program.

If, by the time you read this, the Commonwealth Veterinary Interchange Fund is dead some of our pride, in carrying this story, will have changed to a feeling of sadness and loss. However, this project will live on in spirit because of the spin off and spread out benefits which it produced.

Commonwealth Veterinary Interchange Fund

Several different professions within the countries of the Commonwealth have been strengthened in a variety of ways through a program for this purpose,

initiated and supported financially by the Commonwealth Foundation, which is situated in London, England.

It was this program which attracted the attention of Professor H.R. Binns, who met the Director of the Foundation on a visit to London in 1972. Professor Binns was at that time Director of the Centre for International Programs at the University of Guelph.

Encouraged by the Director of the Foundation to pursue the initiation of a granting program to support study visits by veterinarians throughout the Commonwealth, Professor Binns discussed his ideas with veterinary officials in Canada and with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). As a result, the Commonwealth Veterinary Interchange Fund was established.

In 1973, with the commitment of contributions of matching grants from the Commonwealth Foundation and from CIDA, an *ex officio* Advisory Committee was formed to implement the program and Professor Binns served as Executive Director. The Committee was made up of the deans of the Canadian Veterinary Colleges, the Veterinary Director General and the secretary-treasurer of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

On retirement from the university, Professor Binns left Guelph in 1974 and was replaced by Dr. T.L. Jones as Executive Director of the Fund.

To date, the Advisory Committee has authorized 168 grants, and 23 countries of the Commonwealth are represented among the recipients.

The Fund has made it possible for

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Professor Williams reports on seminars

This report is from Professor Holman E. Williams, CwVA Caribbean-Canada Regional Representative and CwVA Council Member (Trinidad and Tobago). This is an informative report, giving some indication of the amount of work that goes into organizing and conducting such a seminar. Some of the problems encountered are touched upon and the report forms an excellent basis for the exchange of ideas and experiences between Regional Councils in this aspect of continuing education.

Report on Short Courses-Seminar

CwVA

Caribbean Veterinary Association Project

Jamaica, Antigua and Trinidad, April '86

These Short Courses-Seminars (SC-S) were discussed at the last CwVA Regional Meeting, held in Trinidad and Tobago, in November 1984. At that time, the subject - small ruminant and rabbit health and production - was selected, and it was decided to hold the SC-S at three Caribbean sites (unspecified) in 1985. All council members were written to on March 18,

1985 (LS.84-145-85), proposing a draft programme, three sites, and November 1985 for the SC-S. This circular memorandum forecasted the use of local speakers, in addition to speakers who would perform at all three sites - a significant departure from previous SC-S - and allowed for a varied programme at the three sites. Further, non-SC-S site associations were alerted to seek certain funds for attendance at the SC-S and the CwVA was asked to indicate what funds were available for this purpose.

Progress was slow. It was not until the end of January 1986 that Jamaica showed interest in hosting the SC-S. In the interim, the CwVA indicated that the total budget for the SC-S was 4,000 pounds UK and all council members were up-dated on the SC-S by LS.84-314-85, June 10, 1985 and LS.84-553-85, October 11, 1985. The later requested non-SC-S site associations to comment on the draft programme and indicate what participation was expected, urged them to seek support for attendance, warned them that CwVA support was unlikely to be full, and ad-

vised that March or April 1986 was the new proposed period for the SC-S.

On March 19, 1986 it was possible to confirm the dates of the SC-S (April 22-29, 1986) by cables to Antigua; Canada, the CwVA and Jamaica in which a request was made to SC-S site associations to copy their programmes urgently to the council members in nearest proximity to them. Council members were written to, also on March 19, 1986, confirming the dates of the SC-S (enclosing the Trinidad and Tobago programme for the council members, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent) and requesting nomination of one member for possible support (likely only a return economy airfare) by the CwVA. It was not possible to be specific about the support which could be offered then as the budget for the SC-S, in Jamaica, was outstanding still at that stage.

The three SC-S programmes are appended to this report.

The Jamaica programme was incorporated in an Animal Health Week. One day was devoted to papers presented by

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Meet the council member for Cayman Islands



Dr. Benn H. Bell

Meet Dr. Benn H. Bell. He has been Chief Agricultural Officer and Chief Veterinary Officer of the Cayman Islands since 1984. Last year (1986) the Cayman Islands joined the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Dr. Bell took on the added responsibility of CwVA council member.

Dr. Bell is married and has a family of three children. He was born and raised in Jamaica. In 1948 he received a Certificate in Agriculture from the Dinthill Practical Training Centre and in 1951 a Diploma in Agriculture from the Jamaica School of Agriculture. Dr. Bell then worked, for five years, with

Jamaica's Ministry of Agriculture in the following capacities - artificial insemination officer, agricultural instructor and veterinary assistant.

Then came six years of study in Canada, where in 1958 Dr. Bell graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with a Diploma in Agriculture. In 1962 Dr. Bell graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College with a D.V.M. degree. After graduation it was back to Jamaica, once more to serve with the Ministry of Agriculture until his departure to Grand Cayman on the Cayman Islands.

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Report on short courses and seminars

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the CwVA sponsored (Canadian) speakers. Unfortunately, the programme does not acknowledge the input of the CwVA. This session was held at the Division of Veterinary Services, Hope, Kingston. The president of the Jamaica Veterinary Association indicated that a report was being prepared. The Canadian speakers and regional representative were invited to a very pleasant social function and lunch was provided. Dr. M. Isaacs, of the Bahamas Association, attended the Jamaica SC-S; he was nominated by the council member, Bahamas, in September 1985.

The Antigua programme must have been a considerable challenge to the association there as several overseas speakers had to be engaged to have a viable programme. This was done very

successfully with personnel from the North Carolina Baptist Professionals, Winrock International, the Venezuelan Government, Dr. K.A.E. Archibald (on leave from the UWI), and of local origin. About 26 persons participated on the first day. Unfortunately, none of the nearby associations participated (the council member, Dominica, made an excuse in advance of this SC-S) and attendance was modest on the second day (a Saturday). The meeting was held at the Barrymore Hotel, St. John. The CwVA-sponsored Canadian speakers and regional representative were entertained socially in Antigua as well.

The Trinidad programme, which was held at the Mount Hope Medical Complex, was attended by over 70 persons. The meeting was advertised in the press. In addition to the CwVA-sponsored Canadian speakers, there

was a CwVA-sponsored Jamaican-based speaker. The balance of the programme was filled with local speakers. The SC-S was of a very high calibre and was well received by those who attended. Dr. B. Nyach, of the Grenada Association, attended the Trinidad SC-S and Dr. S. Surujbally, Guyana, attended on the first day. All of the speakers were entertained by the local association.

In closing, the regional representative wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of and thank the secretary-treasurer, CwVA, the three host associations and their respective council members, the council member, (Canada) speakers and chairpersons for their contribution to this successful exercise. The veterinary profession must continue to provide the leadership in animal agriculture in the CARICOM Region.

Commonwealth Veterinary Interchange Fund

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grantees to pursue a short period of concentrated study (usually six weeks) in their special field of professional interest at a veterinary institution in a Commonwealth country other than their own.

For the first three year contract each of the supporting agencies provided funding with a total for that period in the order of \$90,000. At the end of the first triennium it happened that CIDA had decided to increase its support for non-governmental organizations and, as a consequence we applied and obtained grants from then on which were approximately threefold the original contribution.

Normally, grants cover an approved

applicant's expenses on the following basis:

1. Return economy fair from the nearest airport, to the airport closest to the institution where a study visit is to be carried out.
2. Surface travel to and from airports - \$50 (Canadian).
3. A subsistence per diem of \$50 (Canadian) for six weeks.

The future of the fund is uncertain. The Commonwealth Foundation has already given support for a longer period than is usual for this kind of program. We are looking for other sources of funding in the hope that this worthwhile program can continue.

One hundred and sixty-eight grantees have utilized the fund's awards.

Twenty-three Commonwealth countries have been involved in CVIF activities. These are Antigua, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, England, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Scotland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad, Uganda, Wales and Zimbabwe.

Apart from the obvious value of this practical study program, it is clear that the sharing of professional skills among participating veterinarians in the Commonwealth countries involved, has led to improving professional standards, and has contributed to the development of the Commonwealth and its people.

The Non-Aligned Movement concerns many

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is not only of interest to all CwVA members, it is of direct concern to many CwVA national veterinary associations. Twenty-three CwVA countries belong to the NAM group. These are the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Cyprus, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The eighth NAM summit was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, this past September (1986). Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe, was chairman of the conference and will be Chairman of NAM for the next three years. Summit meetings held in the Commonwealth prior to this were the 3rd summit in Lusaka, Zambia in September 1970; the 5th summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in August of 1976; and the 7th summit in New Delhi, India, in March of 1983.

NAM's 101 member states and movements were all represented at this Zimbabwe conference. NAM countries form almost two-thirds of the membership of the UN. It is estimated that the influx of visitors into Harare numbered 15,000. Included were heads of state and senior delegates with their clerical, security and domestic entourages. There was also a wide variety of observers, special guests, journalists and photographers.

One of the basic principles that draws these countries together is the determination of each to be "masters of their own destiny". Another concern of the NAM is that the equality of people everywhere in the world be upheld. President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, who attended the conference, is chairman of the Frontline States. Early in the conference a special ceremony, marking the 25th anniversary of NAM, was held. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, the outgoing NAM chairman was among the speakers at this solemn ceremony.

The wide scope of the conference covered political, social and economic problems. Of concern were poverty, hunger, overpopulation, unemployment, deforestation and the inequalities of education, living standards and opportunity. It was noted that all Non-Aligned member states were developing countries, severely affected by the world economic crisis. However in Africa the situation has been particularly severe. There the problem was multi-faceted and had been aggravated by drought and famine.

One paper, prepared for a joint Zimbabwe Economic Society/Research and Information System seminar, noted that:-

-the African crisis in the 1980s had been characterized by poor growth, high population growth rates and high unequal income distribution. In such circumstances it was no wonder that hunger and malnutrition affect about 100 million people, nearly a quarter of Africa's population.

-it was important to distinguish between the food shortage caused by drought and the hunger problem caused by unequal income distribution coupled with poor transport and distribution facilities that result in hunger even when there are adequate supplies of food. All these factors has serious long-term implications. Infrastructure was being used without being adequately maintained, desertification was increasing at an alarming rate in many countries, and that governments were often so caught up in the problems of dealing with immediate crises that they had neither the capacity nor the

resources to deal with this deterioration of their basic assets.

-the problems facing Africa were therefore deep-rooted and the drought had, in a sense, merely highlighted the existing crisis and the fragile nature of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The situation had been described as a complex of super imposed crises - a technical crisis, a development crisis, an economic crisis and a political crisis.

-the Lagos Plan of Action had involved the building up of a collective self-reliance, in part calling on Africa to be more inward looking with an emphasis on strategies to increase food production for domestic markets rather than cash crop production for exports. The supposed failure of that approach was largely due to the crisis that hit Africa after the plan was formulated. It should be recognized that it was not a concrete plan of action but rather a framework within which more concrete strategies could be formulated and implemented by member states.

Source: Press clippings-courtesy of Dr. David Batchelor.

Did you know that:

One 1983 set of statistics estimates that India has 182,000,000 head of cattle. That same source indicates that the number is approximately 15 percent of the world's cattle population.

A parasite, the filarial worm "Parafilaria bovicola" causes subcutaneous lesions described on slaughter carcasses as "false bruising". Lesion trimming results in a considerable loss of tissue with a decrease in carcass value.

In Bangladesh - cows of indigenous breeding reach puberty at a later age than cows of exotic breeding. - Parasitic infestation is highest in crossbred cows. - The primary cause for culling cows of the Pabna and Red Chittagong dairy breeds is low milk production.

In India the important haemoprotozoan diseases are Leishmaniasis, Malaria, Babesiosis, Theileriosis, Toxoplasmosis and Anaplasmosis. Source: The Veterinarian Aug. 86, Dr. V.S. Alwar.

Five of the largest developing countries of the world are in the Commonwealth - India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania.

Early in 1986 Dr. L. Muniyappa, Assistant Professor in the Department of

Veterinary Microbiology at the Bangalore Veterinary College, returned home from Bulgaria after completing his Ph. D. Programme. Source: The Veterinarian Aug. 86.

Shorthorn x Zebu cattle dominate Tanzania's traditional pastoral scene.

Dr. Bell fills many positions

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In Jamaica Dr. Bell ably filled the positions of Veterinary Officer, Senior Veterinary Officer, Regional Veterinary Officer and Acting Deputy Director of Veterinary Services. During this time he attended courses and seminars on a wide variety of pertinent subjects. He has been a representative at REPAHA (Guyana-animal health assistant school) and also made good use of a PAHO-WHO Fellowship to study veterinary preventative and regulatory programs throughout the USA.

Dr. Bell's educational training and professional experience make him an extremely well-qualified Chief Agricultural Officer and Chief Veterinary officer. He enjoys playing table tennis and claims to keep physically fit by swimming and mentally sharp by reading.

Dr. Somerwill's memories of Swaziland

The following article is by Dr. George L. Somerwill of Tarrytown, New York, U.S.A. Dr. Somerwill left Swaziland over six years ago after 14 years of service there as a veterinarian. From 1966-69 Dr. Somerwill was District Veterinary officer at Lubomba, he was then on secondment from the British State Veterinary Service. He then resigned from the UK service and worked under contract to the Swaziland Government. During 1970-72 he was Veterinary Training Officer and from 1972 to 1980 he was Senior Veterinary Training Officer (Animal Health).

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INTRODUCTION

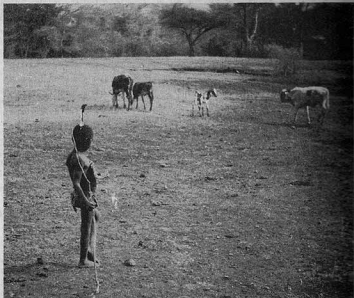
Swaziland is a southern African kingdom lying between the Transvaal and the southern tip of Mozambique. The Swazi number about half a million and there are additionally a few thousand souls of mainly European descent some of whom are the descendants of settlers, others there more temporarily on business or in connection with U.N. and foreign aid schemes. From the end of the 19th century until 1967 Swaziland was a British protectorate, becoming fully independent on 6 Sept. 1986 at which time it joined the Commonwealth.

Geographically the land is part mountainous, part undulating plain and heights above m.s.l. vary from 6000 ft. (rocky, bare) to 700 ft. (in summer, lush, sub-tropical). Sugar cane is grown intensively under irrigation in the lower areas and there is much afforestation, supporting two pulp mills, in the higher zones. Cattle do best in the grassland areas below 2000 ft. but are almost universal. Goats are also present in fair profusion.

The veterinary service had its beginnings in the early years of the present century when many cattle were lost from East Coast Fever. By 1980 the staff, engaged in disease control activities, numbered about 300 with eleven veterinarians, two of whom were at HQ, one at the export abattoir and one at the laboratory. A separate animal husbandry department also came under the control of the Director of Veterinary Services.

The method of controlling infectious diseases of cattle, sheep (of which there are few) and goats is based on strictly controlled movement of stock, regular dipping and inspection, together with fencing and patrolling international boundaries. Spleen, gland and bone marrow smears for microscopic examination by specially trained staff are

Turn to page 45

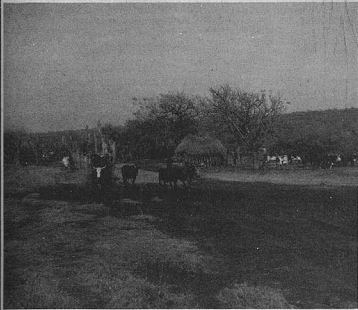


Herdsman and his herd in Swaziland



Cordon fence on Swaziland border

Memories of Swaziland



Community cattle grazing in Swaziland



Cattle drive to dipping tanks in Swaziland

from page 44

taken from all cattle which are slaughtered or die from any other cause. East Coast Fever was finally eradicated in 1958 but there are still losses from other tick-borne diseases, rabies, goat mange, horse sickness and helminthiasis. There is an increasing emphasis on the education of farmers in better methods. The construction of an export abattoir in 1964 increased the value of cattle and provided more financial incentive to owners to reduce overstocking.

There was no central diagnostic laboratory until 1970 until then material had to be sent to Onderstepoort in South Africa, over 200 miles from Mbabane, the capital.

In 1965 the country had its first outbreak of FMD which occurred in the centre of the country, close to the newly completed railway line from the port of Lourenco Marques (now Maputo). Swaziland's hitherto relative isolation had undoubtedly helped to keep the disease away as it was endemic in neighbouring territories. After some initial delay the outbreak was successfully dealt with by cordoning and aphisation.

DISTRICT VETERINARY OFFICER

Having arrived in Swaziland in March 1966, after a month's settling in period, I was appointed for a period of three years District V.O. of the Lubombo district which is the easternmost part and therefore adjacent of Mozambique with a common border 62 miles in length, as well as shorter borders with South Africa. FMD control was to be of paramount concern since the recent outbreaks had been very costly not only in cash terms but in diversion of resources and loss of exports, those of animal origin having ceased for a year or more.

The duties of a district V.O. at that time fell into three main groups: control of scheduled diseases; extension work in animal husbandry - a function now taken over by the A.H. department; clinical work in large and small animals - there were then no private practitioners.

Special to the Lubombo district was the supervision of the disease cordon along the international border with Mozambique. This involved using my limited equestrian skills through wild and precipitous country abounding with baboons as well as a few antelope and leopard. The boundary fence was then being reconstructed to a height of six feet and the materials often had to be transported to site on donkeys. Hun-

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Memories of Swaziland

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dreds of holes had to be blasted in solid rock to take the fence posts. (In 1980 the inner cordon, 100 yards back from the main, was likewise reconstructed with EEC funds. Following cyclone Domoina in 1984 both fences needed extensive repairs). A few horses are kept at the three cordon stations for the use of supervisory staff; the 60 or so cordon guards patrol on foot.

DIPPING OF CATTLE - AN AID TO GENERAL DISEASE CONTROL

A useful legacy of earlier days, when the control of E.C.F. was the most important activity, still remains in the form of a system of dip tank areas. All four veterinary districts are subdivided into such areas in each of which is a concrete dip tank with simply constructed races and crushes. In 1968 there were 628 dip tank areas about half of which were on privately owned or government farms and the rest on land communally occupied by farmers. The first category are provided at the owners expense as is the supply of dipping chemicals and they therefore have the option of having a spray race in lieu. On communal land the government pays dipping costs, including tank construction and maintenance. Compulsory dipping takes place weekly in summer, less frequently in winter; sodium arsenite was the main chemical used for many decades, now almost entirely replaced by more sophisticated and, one hopes, safer materials. As elsewhere tick resistance has become a problem.

Dipping at both government and private tanks normally starts at sunrise, controlled by a Veterinary Assistant, who, as well as testing dip strengths and general supervision keeps a register of all stock dipped. No movement is permitted out of a dip tank area without a permit. Permits must be signed by supervisory staff and countersigned by the Veterinary Assistants of the two areas concerned at time of departure and arrival. For stock, in the so-called "Red Line" areas, no movements are allowed out except into special quarantine stations. The Red Line area was instituted in 1969 and involves a cordon fence additional to those at the border and situated some ten miles within the Lubombo district. All roads into the area have permanently manned road blocks and all cloven-hoofed stock within the area are regularly vaccinated with FMD trivalent vaccine.

Veterinary Assistants are certificated graduates of the Veterinary Training Centre near Manzini where during a one year course they are taught to recognise the more common

diseases as well as the taking of blood smears, first aid, castration and dipping techniques. The higher ranks of the animal health inspectorate are filled by suitable V.A.s on promotion. The approximately 200 V.A.s live mostly in the rural communities they serve using bicycles as a means of transport. Each is in charge of from three to five dip tanks.

Another legacy of the E.C.F. days is the Central Smear Laboratory at Manzini. Here specially trained examiners see blood, spleen and bone-marrow smears from all cattle which have been killed or died. In 1968, for example, 79,274 smears were examined by three technicians.

THE GENERAL VETERINARY SCENE 1966-1980

During the writer's 14 years in Swaziland the country became independent (6 Sept. 86) and various stock improvement schemes were set up as a result of additional aid flowing into the country. This brought the need for improved veterinary services. A small but well-equipped diagnostic and investigation laboratory was ready by early 1970 funded by Britain which also provided a Veterinary Investigation Officer and laboratory technician. At the same time potential Swazi technicians were sent for training abroad. Additional veterinarians were also recruited, the first Swazi graduate having been already in post since 1967. Thus from the seven vets of all grades present in 1966 by 1980 there were twelve, of whom four were Swazis. In addition there was a thriving private practice in Mbabane run by a Swazi national. Meanwhile a Canadian veterinarian had arrived in connection with the importation of over 200 Holstein cattle donated by Canada, who also aided with both personnel and cash the setting up of a far reaching dairy industry improvement scheme. Finally two veterinarians from Germany and Denmark were on the staff of the University agricultural faculty.

In 1975 a veterinary association, affiliated to the CwVA, was set up, its first president being Dr. Austin Khoza, the then D.V. Quarterly meeting are a

feature, rendered possible by the size of the country and good road system.

Under the auspices of the association legislation has been drafted and referred to parliament to legalise the registration and right to practice of holders of suitable veterinary qualifications.

It is the writer's opinion that the veterinary profession can be proud of the part it has played in Swaziland's history and development. The work of the early forerunners who succeeded in controlling, and later eradicating, E.C.F. and who, in the process gained the confidence of the farming community, should not be forgotten. That the country's second outbreak of FMD in 1969 was rapidly and efficiently brought under control testifies to the improvement in the service's performance and morale following the extra input of government and external funds at that time. One can only wish those, who to-day carry the burden, every success in their twofold struggle against disease and shortage of resources.

CONCLUSION

It is now six years since the writer left Swaziland. Looking back, his five most vivid memories are:-

- 1). The sounds, sights and smells at a dipping tank as, while the sun begins to peep over the horizon, herds of cattle emerge from the bush in a cloud of dust, urged on by the cries of young herders, the sounds of whistles and flutes and the trampling of bovine feet; soon added to these the loud splash of cattle entering the dip.
- 2). The first Independence Day, as 8000 chanting warriors entered the arena to greet their king.
- 3). Riding horseback through the brooding silence of the Lubombo mountains with their stupendous views; a silence broken only by the occasional barking of baboons.
- 4). The sight, just after dawn, of a herd of Wildebeest crossing a road.
- 5). Farmers meetings under the shade of thorn trees and the unfailing politeness and good humour of those taking part.

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CwVA editor sends thanks

Dear Reader,

As there are few 'letters to the editor' for this issue I am taking the opportunity of writing to you. Now, acutally we did receive quite a lot of mail, friendly notes and letters of support and encouragement. Many contained welcome suggestions and helpful hints. We were especially pleased to hear from what can only, in the CwVA news bureau, be thought of as far away corners of the Commonwealth. We wish to thank veterinarians, such as Dr. Leon Mboera of Mpwapwa in Tanzania and Dr. M. Ahmed Mamun of Chapai-

Nawabganj District in Bangladesh for taking the time to write to us.

High mailing costs are of the utmost concern to the CwVA and they do severely strain our budget. It is vital that we get a realistic indication whether or not the CwVA News is reaching intended destinations. Also it has to be "reader interest" that ultimately decides not only the direction, but the life or death of our newsmagazine.

Sincere regards,
The editor

GVA president corrects error

Dr. R.R. Surujbally, president of the Guyana Veterinary Association, writes: -

"I should mention that on page 5 of the July 1986 issue (CwVA News) it is stated that over eight million in the Third World are illiterate. - I think you have to multiply that figure by 100. In 1963, UNESCO's figure was 600 million. In light of the massive population increase (especially in the Third World) things could only have gotten worse."

Dr. Surujbally is right. We should have multiplied our figures by 100. A television program, carried on a Cana-

dian TV network in July 1986, stated that the number of illiterate people in the world has reached one BILLION (that is one thousand (1000) million). This would indicate that Dr. Surujbally was absolutely correct when he wrote "things could only have gotten worse".

We misquoted our source (the 1985 winter issue of CIDA's magazine 'DEVELOPMENT') We regret making such an error particularly when referring to an issue of such paramount concern. We thank Dr. Surujbally for his interest and kindness in writing to us. (But then, the CwVA News is his magazine as well as yours and ours).

Coming Events

IV AAAP Animal

Science Congress

- February 1 - 6, 1987
- Hamilton, New Zealand

New Zealand Veterinary

Association

Clinical Pathology Workshop

- late Feb. / early March, 1987
- Massey University
- Palmerston North, New Zealand

CwVA ECIS Africa & West

Africa Regional Meeting

International Trypanotolerance Centre / Official Opening

- March 21-28, 1987
- Banjul, The Gambia

Kenya Veterinary Association

KVA Annual Scientific Conference

- April 23 & 24, 1987
- Nairobi, Kenya

Theme - Veterinary Research
Priorities for Increased Productivity

Australian Veterinary Conference

- May 11-16, 1987
- Launceston, Tasmania

Zimbabwe Veterinary Congress

- Sept. 1-4, 1987
- Zimbabwe

Attention: All delegates to the XXIII World Veterinary Congress, August 16 - 21, 1987, Montreal Canada

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CwVA Asia News is launched

A shining new star gleams in the CwVA sky. It can well be likened to a freshly launched communications satellite (our own, our CwVA satellite), for it not only beams down information and news to the veterinarians of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka within the CwVA Asia region, but it is a new and vital link from Asia to all the other regions of the Commonwealth. It is the CwVA Asia News.

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman is the editor and producer of the Commonwealth Veterinary Asia News. Dr. Rahman volunteered to produce this newsletter without any financial commitment on the part of the CwVA. Like 'The Veterinarian', a very popular monthly magazine of India, Dr. Rahman's new creation is built entirely on his own talents and efforts and at his own ex-

CwVA gains two new members

The Cayman Island Veterinary Association (CIVA) joined the Commonwealth Veterinary Association this past October (1986). The CIVA became an integral part of the CwVA Caribbean/Canada Region. Dr. Benn H. Bell is the new CwVA council member.

Earlier, in 1986 the Fiji Islands Veterinary Association joined the CwVA, becoming an integral part of the CwVA Australasia Region. Dr. N. Tabunakawai is the FIVA's council member.

Two new council members

Dr. Nyack is now council member for Grenada, succeeding Dr. Nutor. Dr. Nyack's address is c/o Ministry of Agriculture, St. Georges, Grenada, West Indies.

Dr. Maurice Isaacs is the new Council Member for The Bahamas, succeeding Dr. Gordon Leam. Dr. Isaacs's address is c/o Min. of Agric. & Fish, P.O. Box N3028, Nassau, Bahamas (21277), West Indies.

Clinical mininote

INDIA - The deaths of tigers and jaguars in the zoos of Madras, Trichur, Calcutta, and Mysore have been attributed to the Surra parasite, *Trypanosoma evansi*. The source of the infection was apparently beef from carrier animals.

Source: The Veterinarian August 1986, Dr. V.S. Alwar, Madras Veterinary College.

pense. He asks only for the active cooperation of the CwVA council members and regional representatives of all CwVA regions, not only Asia.

This is only one of the many commendable personal efforts of Dr. Rahman to strengthen the veterinary profession in India and throughout Asia. It is to be hoped that he receives the active cooperation he asks for, for this new project richly deserves it.

Vol. 1 No. 1 of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asia News was published this past October (1986). It is an excellent and timely publication and it should serve as an example and model of a regional newsletter. The CwVA News congratulates Dr. Rahman and we sincerely hope to enjoy the benefits of being on the mailing list.

The Editor/CwVA News.



New handbook

An official CwVA Handbook, prepared by CwVA Prsident, Dr. L.P.E. Choquette, will soon be available. It will be an official history of the CwVA, highlighting its conception, its birth and its growth. The CwVA constitution along with much information of significant worth and interest will be included.

Requests for the handbook should be directed to the CwVA secretary-treasurer's office. (Dr. J. Archibald / 35 Lynwood Pl. / Guelph / Ontario / Canada / N1G 2V9).

Stork visits Commonwealth countries

Forty percent of the infants born in 1986 were born in the developing Commonwealth countries.

New words and meanings appear

That language is a living changing phenomenon is evidenced by the continual appearance of new words and new meanings for old words. Recently 'Commonsense' has been defined as 'The manifestation of diverse competencies in accordance with cultural contexts.'

A living tribute

The Indian Government is launching its own nation-wide effort as "A Living Memorial to Indira Gandhi" to complete that country's immunization of its children by 1990.

Did you know that

In India the skin of the wild rabbit is used for making a musical instrument. In the rural areas it is cured and used in the making of the "DAKKE", a popular folk music instrument.

Source: The Veterinarian August 1986.

The first written records concerned with the veterinary profession date back 4,000 years, when veterinarians and veterinary hospitals operated in the great civilizations of India, Babylon and Egypt. The ancient Greeks, Romans and Arabs inherited a tradition of organized and scientific care of animals for the benefit of mankind.

Mount St. Helens is bouncing back

Five years ago, the worst volcanic disaster in United States history turned the Mount St. Helens area into a vast gray wasteland. On May 18, 1980, a massive landslide and powerful eruption tore apart the mountain and sent a rain of rocks, hot gases and ash over hundreds of miles, wiping out plants and animals, destroying property and leaving 57 people dead or missing.

Ever since, color has been creeping into the landscape as the region springs back to life. Most habitats, even those hit hard by high-speed clouds of ash, searing temperatures and heavy ash deposits, sheltered some survivors—animals that live underground, small trees protected under snow and aquatic organisms in frozen lakes. These were soon joined by migrators—large mammals, birds, fish from spared tributaries and insects.

Within several centuries the area should once again look like a well-developed Pacific Northwest (USA) forest.

Source: Earth Sciences Newsletter (Jan.-Feb. '86) - Commonwealth Science Council.