

diagnosis. Some attention had been given at their Equine Research Station to the examination of the eye in the horse, but it had not yet been encouraged to the point of forming a real research investigation. Mr. Smythe, as usual, had focused attention on an important development when he asked what explanation there was for "the apparent similarity in the therapeutic action of certain vitamins, antibiotics and hormones." These biological substances all affected the complex equilibrium of chemical reactions which went to make up cellular activity and at times it was found that substances from more than one of these groups could affect the biological reaction in the same way. For instance, many vitamins, minerals and certain hormones affected the energy producing reactions of the cells, so in certain circumstances they might produce the same effect. Riboflavin was known to participate in some of those cellular oxidations and it was possible that chloromycetin would influence those enzymic systems in a similar way. The inter-play of those substances for cellular metabolism was a subject for an essay in itself and it was not possible to answer at that meeting the important question raised by Mr. Smythe.

Mr. Steward had aptly drawn attention to the part played by various veterinary surgeons in initiating a number of recent fundamental advances in science. As he stated, these earlier contributions of veterinarians were all too often overlooked by later workers not members of the profession. To some extent this was due to the comparative scientific isolation of the profession in the past, although this could hardly be considered the position to-day when so many veterinarians were undertaking research within the universities.

The following is a record of questions asked by Mr. W. A. NOBLE, of March, and of the replies given by Dr. Wooldridge:

Q. Lloyd's Insurance are using X-rays to find faults in sheet plates of ships. Would this machine be suitable to examine the pelvis of the horse?

A. He did not know. Their own X-ray apparatus was sufficiently powerful for this but their electricity supply was inadequate. They hoped shortly to be in a position to examine the pelvis of a horse by means of X-rays, as the electricity supply was being rectified. Already they had excellent skiagrams of a horse's shoulder and other parts of the body of the horse, with results far above those previously obtained.

Q. Would penicillin feeds create penicillin resistant strains?

A. He was not in a position to say categorically that these antibiotic supplements would not create penicillin resistance and perhaps in certain cases penicillin sensitivity.

Q. As the electro-microscope is capable of making visible viruses, can it be used in the diagnosis of swine fever?

A. By means of the electron microscope viruses can be photographed and in this way made visible and from the size of these particles it is often possible to recognise a particular virus.

Q. As viruses are being propagated from tissues and eggs outside the animal body, could this method be adopted with regard to the production of crystal violet vaccine, and thus cut down the price of this product?

A. He was not in a position to say categorically whether the fertilised egg technique had been used in the production of crystal violet vaccine, but he thought it unlikely that the workers at Weybridge would have neglected to examine this possibility.

MELTON MOWBRAY ONE-DAY EVENT

On Saturday, August 22nd, 1953, under the auspices of the British Horse Society, the Royal Army Veterinary Corps is organising a one-day event at its Training Centre, Melton Mowbray.

It is hoped that this entirely new venture of the Corps will become an annual fixture, replacing the very successful point-to-point races held in the past.

This year the event will comprise three phases: Dressage (novice), show jumping and cross country. Much work has been put into the construction of the cross country course, which should prove a fair test to both horse and rider.

Unlike many such courses, spectators will have an uninterrupted panoramic view of practically the whole course.

Members requiring further information concerning the event should apply to Major G. D. Young, M.B.E., R.A.V.C. Training Centre and Depot, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

ANIMALS I HAVE MET

THE RHINOCEROS

BY

D. D. OGILVIE

"Nasty chap, the rhino," said my friend as he put his foot hard on the accelerator and we moved forward again on the road to Nairobi. "One-horn or two-horn, male or female, I always give him his way. He's quite a packet in an argument and not the sort to accommodate you if he doesn't feel like it." I watched the rhinoceros lumber down the bank off the road and, with a switch of his tail, disappear into the gathering darkness. It took me quite some time to learn that my friend was wrong and that the rhino, shyest beast of all when it comes to the presence of man, is interested only in getting out of the way. His reputation as a ferocious fellow has come merely from his somewhat belligerent appearance and his short-sighted nervousness in making off which sometimes leads him to blunder into or even over his pursuers.

Rhinos. come in all shapes and sizes with models to suit all tastes. There is the Lesser One-horned rhinoceros, the Great Indian One-horned rhinoceros, the Asiatic Two-horned rhinoceros, the Black African rhinoceros and, believe it or not, even a White rhinoceros. This last-named creature eats nothing but grass—enough to make anyone grow pale—and is a prize much sought after by agile African big game hunters. I was once offered one for sale in Khartoum and assured that if I could get it home I could make a very real profit on it. But astute as I am at dealing with officers of H.M. Customs and Excise, I could not think of how to gain entry for it without the payment of heavy duty and possibly even purchase tax. Nor was I able, off-hand, to fix on any of my friends likely to jump at the chance of owning such a beast. So I left it alone.

Now quite apart from the morphological differences between the various types of rhinos. and some details of their rather scandalous behaviour in the fastnesses of the jungle which really I would rather not go into here, there are two points about them which I have always considered to be especially notable. These concern, firstly, the powerful effects which are often ascribed to rhino. urine, and secondly, the legendary properties of rhino. horn, which is still popular as a medicament in China and many other parts of Asia.

In parts of India rhino. urine, like rhino. blood, is considered to be especially efficacious to the dying as it ensures for the soul both a peaceful departure and a happy release on the other side—a sort of spiritual lubricant, as it were. In addition, it is held to have powerful anti-septic properties and is often to be seen hung in vessels over doorways to houses as a charm against ghosts, ghoulies, and, no doubt, things which go bump in the night. Certainly the keeper in the Calcutta Zoo told me, when I was there, that there was always a brisk demand for this useful product. In fact, owing to shortage of rhinos. and the continuing hot weather, he was at that time having to ration supplies to his best customers, an awkward predicament which obviously was making life very difficult for him.

More hard cash, however, has been made from marketing rhino. horn than from flogging rhino. urine, if I may be permitted the use of the popular idiom. Back in history some Roman wide-boy no doubt ran a publicity drive to link up the rhino. with the unicorn in the public

eye and hence was able to put over the idea that a rhino horn, like the horn of the unicorn, if made into a cup, would detect any poison which was poured into it. Such a cup was a useful bit of apparatus to have around when the fashionable way to pay off old scores was to slip a spot of aconite or what not into the claret. And so the demand for rhino horn cups in the Middle Ages reached what our American friends aptly describe as an all-time high. Demand lagged later, however, when, despite routine use of this sterling prophylactic, kings and commoners alike still succumbed. But undaunted, the vendors of rhino horns found other uses for their product. Powdered and dropped into tea, rhino horn had an excellent effect on well-being and virility. And rhino skin, roasted like pork cracknel, became a delicacy for the better sort of people. Even rhino toe nails became marketable, a feat of salesmanship not yet paralleled even for the much more easily acquired human article.

All this placed a strain on the powers of procreation of the rhinoceros which even this fertile and active animal was unable to sustain. So now rhinos are becoming rare. The trails which they have worn down through the ages are weed grown, the steamy pools in which they wallow to coat themselves with mud have scummed over and are quiet. Please, then, when next you see a rhino moving along the close jungle track or being chased from its water hole by elephants, as it often is, or even glowering at the crowd at the local zoo, covet it not, demand neither its horns nor its skin nor any of its parts, no matter how dire your needs. Like a famous film star of long ago, the rhino asks only to be left alone. Respect its wishes and this happy monster, so long with us and harming no one, will not perish from the earth.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933

Statutory Instruments giving effect to recommendations made to the Secretary of State by the Poisons Board are being prepared. The following are among the changes it is proposed to make in the Poisons List and the Schedules to the Poisons Rules.

Sodium nitrite will be added to Part II of the Poisons List, and provision will be made in Group II of the Third Schedule to the Poisons Rules for exempting it from the requirements of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act and the Poisons Rules except when in the form of preparations for the destruction of rats or mice.

Ambodryl, under a name to be approved by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, will be added to the series of antihistamine substances included in Part I of the Poisons List and the Schedules to the Poisons Rules.

Chlorpromazine will be added to Part I of the Poisons List and the First and Fourth Schedules to the Poisons Rules.

Phenylbutazone will be added to Part I of the Poisons List and the First and Fourth Schedules to the Poisons Rules.

The *dithienylallylamine compounds* will be added to Part I of the Poisons List and the First and Fourth Schedules to the Poisons Rules; inclusion in the Fourth Schedule will cease should the substances be controlled under the Dangerous Drugs Law.

Mustine will be added to Part I of the Poisons List and the First and Fourth Schedules to the Poisons Rules. *Triethylene melamine* and *myleran*, under names to be approved by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, will be made subject to the same control.

N-allylmorphine, *3-methoxy-N-methylmorphine* and *morpholinylethylmorphine* will be added to Part I of the Poisons List and the First Schedule to the Poisons Rules. Exemption from the requirements of the First Schedule will be provided for substances containing less than 1.5 per cent. of morpholinylethylmorphine.

Procaine when associated with penicillin or other substances to which the Therapeutic Substances (Prevention of Misuse) Act applies, and included in concentrates or animal feeding-stuffs covered by Regulations made under that Act, will be exempted from the requirements of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act and the Poisons Rules.

CLINICAL COMMUNICATION

THE USE OF CORTISONE IN THE TREATMENT OF ARTHRITIS IN A BULL

M. R. LAWSON AND L. E. ROWSON

The use of cortisone in cases of human rheumatoid arthritis is well known, but largely owing to its prohibitive cost little work has been done on its effect in cases of arthritis involving farm animals.

Owing to the courtesy of the Medical Research Council a supply of 20 grammes of cortisone acetate (Merck) was made available for the treatment of a valuable Shorthorn bull standing at the Cambridge Artificial Insemination Centre.

The bull had shown signs of progressive arthritis of the hock and hip joints over a period of months and had been treated with sodii salicylas without any great benefit. As the condition became progressively worse treatment by diathermy was attempted, again without any appreciable effect. The animal had now reached the stage (illustrated by Figs. 1 and 2) where he constantly fell down when taken out of his box and spent most of his time lying down. He was showing some signs of pain and was not eating well and slowly losing condition.



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

As the appropriate dosage was not known, an experimental dose of 2 grammes of cortisone acetate was injected intramuscularly followed by daily doses of 1 gramme. Five days after the first injection the bull was showing signs of improvement which became progressively