

# VETERINARY LABORATORY, WALLACEVILLE.

## REPORT OF C. S. M. HOPKIRK, D.V.Sc., OFFICER IN CHARGE.

It is pleasing to be able to report that Wallaceville, which has been mainly a diagnostic laboratory, is assuming the rôle of a Veterinary Research Station. There have been additions to staff and additions to the outbuildings, where experimental animals can now be kept under more sanitary conditions than hitherto. Permission for the building of a new laboratory to be staffed and devoted to research has been obtained from Cabinet. Co-operation with field officers is availed of whenever possible, and it is believed that the diagnostic service of the laboratory to the field is improving.

The development of the use in bulk of several types of vaccine has made it necessary to import material from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories at a minimum cost to the farmer. The production of large quantities of vaccine is at present beyond the facilities of the Laboratory, and to be able to supply the country heavy expenditure would be required.

"Animal Health Notes," commenced several years ago under the editorship of Mr. D. A. Gill, followed by Colonel H. A. Reid, and now in the hands of Mr. L. W. N. Fitch, carry on as a medium whereby results of experiments and abstracts from journals not readily accessible to field veterinarians are placed in the hands of field officers. It is believed that this quarterly review is of practical use in departmental routine.

In making this report I should like to acknowledge with gratitude the excellent work carried out in their respective spheres by the whole staff of the Institute.

*Staff.*—Changes, by resignations and additions, have taken place during the year :—

(1) Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Reid, O.B.E., F.R.C.V.S., D.V.H., F.R.S.E., left the Laboratory in August, 1936, to take up the position of veterinary officer in the New Zealand High Commissioner's Office in London.

(2) Mr. J. Evans, Farm Overseer, was retired as from 1st May, 1936, and was replaced by Mr. P. McMillan from Winton.

(3) Dr. I. J. Cunningham returned from Sydney Veterinary School for the long vacation and carried out his usual work on male sterility.

(4) Mr. V. G. Cole, B.V.Sc., was appointed as Parasitologist to the Department and is stationed at Wallaceville.

(5) Mr. I. G. Watt, M.Sc., was awarded a bursary to study veterinary science at Sydney Veterinary School and is on leave from Wallaceville.

(6) Mr. J. G. Peddie, B.Sc., has been recalled from Samoa to take up duties at Wallaceville as Senior Laboratory Assistant in Bacteriology.

(7) Mr. B. A. Reynolds resigned to take up a similar laboratory position in Massey Agricultural College.

In order to place the laboratory work on a better footing, Mr. L. W. N. Fitch has been given the responsibility of all routine diagnostic work, with the designation of Veterinary Bacteriologist.

There are still many additions required to build the staff up to a standard which might be considered satisfactory. More particularly, research workers are needed in poultry, swine, and sheep diseases, and also in such subjects as sterility and mastitis of dairy cows.

*Diagnostic Work.*—The work of both Hamilton and Wallaceville Laboratories has been well sustained over the year. There has been an increase in milk examinations under the mammitis-control scheme at Wallaceville, and an increase in poultry specimens received. The appointment of an officer to investigate the position of disease in the poultry industry is becoming urgent, for many deaths have occurred from leukaemia and coccidiosis, both of which, with our present limited knowledge, are difficult to control.

The following material has been received for examination :—

	Wallaceville.	Hamilton.
Mastitis milk-samples—		
Routine—		
Positive .. .. .	306	2,792
Negative .. .. .	322	2,315
Control Scheme—		
A Group .. .. .	3,852—60 per cent.	21,139 63·5 per cent.
B Group .. .. .	2,220—34 per cent.	9,385—28·0 per cent.
C Group .. .. .	384— 6 per cent.	2,828— 8·5 per cent.
Quarter samples .. .. .	..	1,971
Biological test for T.B. .. .. .	69	..
Contagious-abortion milks .. .. .	7	..
Contagious-abortion wheys—		
Positive .. .. .	..	149
Negative .. .. .	..	296
Ewcs' milk .. .. .	9	..
Blood-samples—		
Contagious abortion—		
Positive .. .. .	224	115
Negative .. .. .	496	445
Pulpy-kidney ewes .. .. .	107	..
Specimens from cattle (other than Johne's disease)	188	..
Johne's disease—		
Positive .. .. .	133	..
Negative .. .. .	184	..
Specimens from sheep .. .. .	299	..
Specimens from pigs .. .. .	196	..
Specimens from horses .. .. .	16	..
Specimens from poultry .. .. .	341	..
Tumours .. .. .	59	..
Miscellaneous specimens .. .. .	93	..
Biochemical Section .. .. .	743	..
Total .. .. .	10,248	41,426