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Bovine Tuberculosis — Brucellosis — Leptospirosis

Q Fever — Rabies

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ADVANCES IN THE CONTROL OF ZONOSSES

**BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS
BRUCELLOSIS — LEPTOSPIROSIS
Q FEVER — RABIES**

WHO/FAO Seminar on Zoonoses

Vienna, November 1952

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NOTE

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INTRODUCTION

This monograph contains the principal papers which were presented, and summaries of the discussions which took place, at the WHO/FAO Seminar on Zoonoses, held in Vienna from 24 to 29 November 1952. This meeting was sponsored jointly by the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Its purpose was to bring together medical and veterinary officials of European countries to discuss certain diseases of public-health and economic importance in this region.

The term "zoonoses", although fairly new in the vocabulary of public-health and veterinary medicine, is a useful one to denote diseases of animals transmissible to man. A report of a Joint WHO/FAO Expert Group on Zoonoses * deals with the subject in general and devotes special attention to five of these diseases. Annex 1 of this report lists more than 80 zoonoses, but, as regards European countries, perhaps 10 or 15 can be said to occupy a position of importance. The five diseases considered at the Seminar were selected for their broad interest to the countries of Europe.

The papers were prepared with the knowledge that both administrative officers and laboratory workers would attend the meeting. It would obviously have been impossible, within the time limits imposed, to prepare comprehensive reviews on each of the topics, and emphasis was therefore placed rather on the highlights and recent advances with respect to each disease. The discussions which followed each section are here presented in very summary form ; no more than the salient points raised at the meeting are indicated. FAO and WHO will be glad to supply further technical information upon request.

There can be little doubt as to the usefulness of bringing together medical and veterinary workers—whether their work lies in administration, in the laboratory, or in the field—to discuss topics of common interest. Particularly does this apply to the zoonoses, where a combined medical and veterinary approach, utilizing the full resources of public-health and agricultural departments, constitutes the most effective means of combating these diseases.

* *World Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.* 1951, 40

The prevention and eradication of zoonoses in human beings can be accomplished in large part by control of these diseases in animals, so that it is natural for public-health officials to give every assistance—moral, financial, scientific, and educational—to agricultural authorities in carrying out animal-disease-control programmes. Practically speaking, this can take the form of financial subsidies in, say, bovine-tuberculosis- and brucellosis-control programmes; the fostering of research and epidemiological surveys in newly emerging problems such as are presented by Q fever and leptospirosis; popular education in the control of rabies and hydatidosis; and many other projects, indicated in the papers which follow. The contribution which can be made by agricultural and veterinary authorities in tracking down the source of infection (the animal), applying measures for control and eradication, co-operating in surveys, and educating the farmers, is obvious.

To integrate the efforts of public-health and agricultural authorities, a development in recent years has been the establishing of veterinary public-health units in many countries, usually within the organizational framework of municipal, district, or federal departments of health. These units act as the bridge connecting public-health and agricultural resources and interests, and serve to synthesize the attack on the various problems of concern to each group. Their size and their degree of active operation in the field vary in different countries according to local conditions. The scope of veterinary public health is broader than that of zoonosis control—comprising in addition, for example, food hygiene. More information on this subject will be found in the report of the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Group on Zoonoses referred to previously.

It is hoped that this seminar has encouraged closer co-operation between public-health and agricultural authorities, so that accelerated strides can be made in lessening the public-health and economic toll exacted by the zoonoses.
