THE INSTITUTE REPORT

September 1, 1951 Vol. 1, No. 1

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Director of Dog Laboratory Development .... Joseph D. Minogue, B.S

On August 13, 1951, Vice President Willard I. Emerson, of Corne'll University, appointed Mrs. Dudley Baker editor of publications of the Veterinary Virus Research Institute. In this capacity, Mrs. Baker serves without compensation.
LABORATORY RECEIVES MUCH FAVORABLE PUBLICITY

In "The President’s Report to the Alumni, 1950-51", recently published, acting President T. P. Wright of Cornell University stated:

"Now a word of physical plant. You are aware of course of the establishment of the laboratory for the study of virus diseases of dogs. That received considerable publicity last year and is a very fine addition. Henceforth Cornell will very likely be considered as having the outstanding center in that area. The laboratory building was completed, staff is at work in it, and we are accumulating funds for endowing the operation of the laboratory."

Recent articles and illustrations about the Laboratory and its work have appeared in THE AMERICAN SPANIEL YEARBOOK, THE CHASE for October, 1951, COLLIE AND SHETLAND SHEEPDOG REVIEW for May, 1951, DOG WORLD, September, 1951, GAINES DOG RESEARCH PROGRESS, Summer, 1951, in several comments under club news in the AMERICAN KENNEL GAZETTE, and in POPULAR DOGS, June, 1951.

Scientific articles published during the past year have been:


NEW WATER SYSTEM INSTALLED

The Virus Institute now has a new water system, with a deep well, new pipes and a 30,000 gallon water tank, just installed by the State of New York at a cost of $15,000.00. Work will begin shortly on a filter system and on hydrant connections for fire protection.
DR. POPPENSIEK JOINS PERMANENT STAFF OF INSTITUTE

Dr. George C. Poppensiek has resigned as director of the Diagnostic Laboratory of the Veterinary College, and on September 1st joined the staff of the V. V. R. I. as research associate. Dr. Poppensiek (V.M.D., U. Penn., '42) received his M.S. degree in virology from Cornell during the past summer.

OUR "NEW LOOK"

The muddy embankments, gravelly patches, earth piles, and other unsightly reminders of recent construction work are disappearing rapidly around the Virus Institute.

Great improvement of our new road was made during the summer by a State of New York road crew under Mr. A. C. Pearce's direction. This not only makes travel over our road more pleasant but has cut down the serious dust hazard to bacteriological work.

A vastly improved appearance of our extensive grounds followed the planting of several thousand shrubs and trees, all the gift of Mr. William Flemer of the Princeton Nurseries in Princeton, New Jersey. Among other things, nine varieties of dogwood have been planted around the dog kennels.

All of our new fences have been finished and painted, and all of the barns have been painted.
LATEST LABORATORY FINDINGS

Before work is presented for publication in scientific journals, countless tests are performed to insure complete accuracy of results. In the meantime, however, brief mention may be made in our INSTITUTE REPORT of work or uncompleted problems under study in our various laboratories. For the most part, our readers are those who contribute to our operating funds and are interested in knowing about the scope and importance of these different experiments in progress.

NEW DISEASE ORGANISM ISOLATED
FROM PNEUMONIA OF DOGS

A new organism, which may prove to be a filterable virus, has just been isolated for the first time from pneumonia in dogs by Dr. Andrew S. Greig, working for the Ph.D. at Cornell in the Daynemouth Division of the C.R.L.D.D. Dr. Greig's isolation of this new organism is so recent that it has not as yet been named or classified. This exciting finding should help in eventual clarification of the confused distemper picture.

Since pneumonia so often follows cases of distemper, many workers have been taught in the past that any pneumonia of dogs was caused only by distemper. Knowledge that a separate disease organism can be responsible for some cases of pneumonia should prove of great help in arriving at correct diagnosis and treatment.

SIMULTANEOUS INFECTION
BY VIRUSES STUDIED

Dr. James I. Robinson has completed work on the M.S. degree from Cornell this summer. Working in the Daynemouth Division of the C.R.L.D.D., Dr. Robinson has studied the effects of simultaneous infection with distemper (Carré) virus and with infectious hepatitis virus. For many years both diseases were called distemper and were believed to be identical. Later workers found that Carré virus was different from infectious hepatitis virus; meanwhile, Rubarth, in Sweden, proved that infectious hepatitis in dogs was caused by the same virus that workers in this country were calling fox encephalitis virus. The latter name has been discarded by the majority of workers.

A bothersome problem has been settled definitely by Dr. Robinson's work. He has found that while some dogs had distemper (Carré) and later the same dogs had infectious hepatitis, other dogs had infectious hepatitis and later had distemper (Carré). In other words, there is no
interference between the two diseases, and one of these viruses does not in any way immunize against the other. In some cases animals have been found suffering from both of these diseases at the same time. This complication has probably been diagnosed in the past as very severe distemper.

Further studies will be carried on in the Laboratory upon the nature of viruses in general, including simultaneous infection and interference phenomena.

Dr. Robinson, who received the D.V.M. from Ontario Veterinary College in 1950, will soon be associated in practice with Dr. Frank MacBride in Tonawanda, New York.

**NEW VIRUS ISOLATED FROM CALVES**

In the June issue of *The Journal of Experimental Medicine* is a report by Drs. Charles J. York and James A. Baker concerning their isolation of a virus that causes infection in calves. Morphological, serological and other studies indicated that this new organism is a member of the psittacosis-lymphogranuloma group of viruses—the first ever reported from cattle or any other domestic animal except cats (Baker, J. Exp. Med., 1944, 79, 159), although similar infections have been

![Uranium-shadowed electron photomicrograph of elementary bodies of new virus of psittacosis-lymphogranuloma group.](image-url)
found in human beings, pigeons, parrots, chickens, turkeys, mice, and opossums. In keeping with classification practices, this new virus is named, provisionally, *Miyagawanella bovis*. Studies are also being conducted to determine whether a related organism infects dogs.

**INFECTION HEPATITIS WORK PUBLISHED**

**FURTHER PROOF FOUND OF NEW THEORY OF VIRUS SPREAD**

Work on the persistence of infectious hepatitis virus in the urine of dogs, by Drs. George Poppensiek and J. A. Baker was published in the *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine* for July, 1951. A preliminary non-technical resume of this work was given in the May issue of our Newsletter and Dr. Poppensiek discussed this subject at the meeting of the A.A.H.A. at Atlantic City. Experimental work which formed the basis for this paper was the subject matter of Dr. Poppensiek’s thesis for the M.S. degree.

Evidence was found that infectious hepatitis virus, capable of producing infection, was excreted in the urine of dogs 200 days after infection, from dogs apparently normal in every respect. This proof that the kidney can serve as an unsuspected reservoir of infection bears out a fairly new concept of disease dissemination. In 1946, while working on leptospirosis in cattle, Drs. Baker and Little found that for many months the urine of infected cattle contained leptospira capable of producing infection.

**ACCURATE TEST FOR LEPTOSPIROSIS FOUND AT CORNELL VIRUS INSTITUTE**

23 COUNTIES IN NEW YORK STATE NOW HAVE INFECTED HERDS

At last an accurate test for diagnosis of bovine leptospirosis has been found by Dr. Charles J. York, working in the Giralda Division on various related aspects of leptospirosis problems. Studies are being made also on the adaptation of this new test to canine leptospirosis. In the course of his work, Dr. York has tested samples sent in recently by veterinarians from infected herds in Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee and in 23 different counties of New York. Methods used in his test will be published shortly in a scientific journal, with a complete description of this first accurate complement fixation test for bovine leptospirosis.

Fortunately, the type of bovine leptospirosis found in this country seems to differ serologically from the types found in Russia, Palestine, and Australia, where the organism from cattle also causes a severe infec-
LATEST LABORATORY FINDINGS

Electron photomicrograph of leptospira

tion in man. Different strains of leptospira can infect man, dogs, rats, swine, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, hamsters, and chickens.

First described in Russia in 1935, the disease was found prevalent in Palestine nearly 6 years later, where human cases were also reported. In 1949 several outbreaks occurred in Australia; in 1950 the disease was found in England. In the United States, the disease was reported first by Jungherr in Connecticut in 1944, in Montana by Marsh in 1945, in Texas by Mathews in 1946, in New Jersey and Pennsylvania by Baker and Little in 1948, in Illinois by Sutherland and Morrill in 1948, in Wisconsin by Spencer and Lillesand in 1950, and in New York by Reinhard, Tierney, and Roberts in 1950. The 1950 outbreak in New York was studied in this laboratory by Dr. Reinhard, then a candidate for the Ph.D. As an interesting example of how this disease may be spreading, during the year following this initial outbreak, confirmed cases have been studied by Dr. York in 23 different counties in New York, while in many of these counties more than one herd is affected.

Fever usually accompanies the disease in cattle. Abortion in some herds has been very high. Bloody, or thickened, yellow milk, accompanied by a lowering or complete stopping of milk production is seen in many dairy cattle with leptospirosis. Hemoglobinuria (an excess of hemoglobin or red blood cells—in other words, bloody urine) usually means that death will follow. Young animals with the disease do not develop properly and are unsatisfactory animals generally.

The first isolation of the type of leptospira causing disease in cattle in the United States was made by Baker and Little in 1948. At that time they found that animals recovered from the disease and with no visible symptoms, could spread infection for many months. Leptospira localized in the kidney and could be excreted in urine from an infected animal. This urine, falling upon a hard surface—such as the floor of most barns—could probably turn into an infective spray, capable of causing disease
when inhaled by susceptible animals. Thus, only one infected animal, with no visible signs of disease, could be capable of causing an outbreak of leptospirosis in an entire susceptible herd. For this reason alone great care should be taken in purchasing herd replacements. This also explains why the test Dr. York has devised is of such importance, since this test will show if an animal has had leptospirosis.

The importance of this new test, therefore, cannot be overemphasized. If properly applied, it should prove of particular value in helping prevent further spread of the disease and lead to eventual eradication. Here is one disease that should be eradicated now, before it spreads throughout the country, and here is one disease that can be eradicated now, through intelligent cooperation of livestock owners, veterinarians, diagnostic laboratories, pharmaceutical houses, various state boards of health, and possibly Federal agencies. The problem seems serious enough, particularly in these days of shortages, to warrant an all out effort on the part of everyone interested in either livestock or in meat and dairy products. Since even vegetarians use milk and butter, this would include nearly everyone who eats.

Transportation of infected animals from one part of the country to another has spread the disease. As yet, a drug which prevents the carrier state of leptospirosis has not been found.

Correlation of the work in various species is being made, with particular attention being given to the species of leptospira which infect dogs.

KENNEL CLUBS CONTINUE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

The kennel clubs of the country have been quick to realize the importance of the Cornell Research Laboratory for Diseases of Dogs to them and to their dogs. Already over 120 are supporters of the laboratory. This action by kennel clubs is very encouraging as it is proving instrumental in helping to provide the funds needed for annual operation. The Cornell laboratory is the only one of its kind in the country and since public funds are not available for research on diseases of dogs, this help from kennel clubs is vitally important in permitting the research program to continue.

It is interesting to note that kennel, breed and specialty clubs from all parts of the country are participating equally in aiding the laboratory. This nation wide support is indicative of the way in which all dog owners realize the need for healthier dogs if their breed is to be improved.

Various Methods Being Used A number of different methods are being used by clubs to aid the laboratory. Several individuals have
made subscriptions in the name of the club of which they are members. Among these are subscriptions from the Moskeeter Gun Club given by Hiram D. B. Blauvelt, the Fox River Valley Hunt given by Denison Hull, and Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds given by Mrs. John B. Hannum III. Many clubs are making contributions from the club treasury, several of the most recent being the Greenwich Kennel Club, Suffolk County Kennel Club, Saginaw Valley Beagle Club, and the Weimaraner Club of America. In other clubs, members are making individual contributions, and the total is given in the name of the club as the Collie Club of Northern New Jersey, Great Dane Club of America, Great Barrington Kennel Club, and the Cocker Spaniel Club of Southern Louisiana.

**Beagle Clubs Enthusiastic**

The International Beagle Federation became a Sustaining Subscriber last spring and set the pattern for the other beagle clubs of the country. Over 55 beagle clubs have held trials so far this year with the proceeds given to aid the Cornell Laboratory. Some clubs are already holding their second trial. Each club plans to run at least one trial a year for the benefit of the laboratory. Some of the most recent clubs to run trials are the Ohio Valley Beagle Club, the New Jersey Beagle Club, Charlotte Beagle Club, and the Salem County Beagle Club.

More and more kennel clubs are becoming supporters and this must continue for the long-range research projects to go forward without interruption. It is gratifying to note that many clubs are becoming Sustaining Subscribers by contributing $100 a year for a period of five years, and have their names listed on the Bronze Plaque erected in the laboratory. Every club has an opportunity to share in making possible this research which will result in healthier dogs and thereby improve the breed. The manner in which kennel clubs are meeting this challenge is very encouraging to the laboratory staff.

Donations in any amount are welcome. Contributions are deductible in computing income tax. Checks should be made payable to Cornell University and mailed to Mr. Joseph D. Minogue, Director, Dog Laboratory Development, Day Hall, Ithaca, New York.
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