

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Hint for Polio Vaccine

Ways of producing more meat and saving of Thorough-bred baby foals with Rh blood problem also suggested to American Veterinary Medical Association meeting.

► AN AID to polio fighting, ways of producing more meat and tests that will help horse breeders were reported at the meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association in Milwaukee.

For polio fighting there is a hint that the virus of deadly Newcastle disease of chickens might help in producing a vaccine against poliomyelitis in humans. Monkeys developed polio more slowly, were better able to resist its fatal effects and recovered faster when they had been infected with Newcastle disease virus before being exposed to the polio virus, Drs. R. L. Reagan, P. M. Schenck, H. D. Livenweaver and A. L. Brueckner of the University of Maryland reported.

Chickens that get Newcastle disease sometimes develop a paralysis similar to that of human polio, it was pointed out. And in a few cases of humans who caught Newcastle disease from poultry, the symptoms were somewhat like those of a mild attack of polio.

Brucellosis Protection

Long time protection of cows against brucellosis can be had from vaccination with strain 19 vaccine, Dr. C. A. Manthei of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry reported. Brucellosis causes cows to abort. Tests with strain 19 vaccine showed that vaccinated cows had resistance to the disease even after their fifth pregnancy. Brucellosis is a serious problem both for the dairy industry and for humans who can get the disease from infected milk and from handling infected animals.

Thousands of baby foals from Thoroughbred horses will be saved as a result of new, improved tests for handling the Rh baby problem in baby horses. This prediction was made by Dr. W. L. Wallenstein who heads a team of Maryland veterinary researchers.

The fatal jaundice of newborn foals is like that in human babies in that it results when the blood of the father is not compatible with that of the mother. Unlike the human babies with Rh trouble, however, foals usually do not begin to show symptoms until they start to nurse, whereas human babies generally show the symptoms when they are born. This is because the antibodies to the sire's blood, produced in the mare's body, become concentrated in the colostrum, or first milk.

The new tests are designed to show where the trouble is likely to develop. The

foal can then be saved by hand milking the mare for the first day and not allowing the foal to nurse until about 24 to 36 hours after birth.

Shock Death Aid

An extract from the okra plant promises to save pet and farm animals from shock death, Dr. H. B. Benjamin of Milwaukee, Wis., reported at the meeting.

The extract is used as a substitute for animal blood plasma. In laboratory trials, dogs near death from shock quickly recovered when given the okra extract.

In case of atom bombing, there might be many cases of animals as well as humans needing treatment for shock following injuries, it was pointed out. Other times when it would be useful would be following operations, long illness or accidents.

The okra extract is readily available, inexpensive, easily purified and can be stored indefinitely. It is also being studied as a plasma substitute for human beings.

Metal plates, called fracture fixation plates, and Thomas extension splints are helping many animals recover from broken legs. The splints are for small animals and are put on outside the leg but are made so the animal will not entangle them in grass or shrubbery. Successful use of the splints was reported by Dr. J. H. Krichell of Keokuk, Iowa.

The fixation plates, reported by Dr. J. M. Baker of the veterinary staff of Colorado A and M College, are put on internally. Vitallium, tantalum and stainless steel are the metals used.

Atabrine for Fungus

Atabrine, the skin-yellowing anti-malaria drug familiar to thousands of servicemen in World War II, might turn out to be helpful as a remedy for a fungus disease of man and animals.

The disease is called histoplasmosis. It is sometimes fatal. So far no specific cure for it has been discovered. Scientists at Ohio State University in Columbus report that atabrine has shown "some promise" as a treatment in tests with infected mice.

Histoplasmosis has been confused with tuberculosis. It may attack other organs besides the lungs. World center for the disease is the Midwest.

Dogs and other animals also are attacked by the fungus cause, and the Ohio State

scientists believe there may be an animal reservoir. How the disease affects dogs was reported by Dr. C. R. Cole and associates at Ohio State at the meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Symptoms of the disease in dogs are cough, diarrhea, loss of weight and calcified spots on the lungs. The disease can be spread from dog to dog when they are in the same room.

Other members of the Ohio State research team working on histoplasmosis in man and animals are Dr. Deane M. Chamberlain, veterinary pathologist; two physicians, Dr. John A. Prior of the departments of medicine and preventive medicine, and Dr. Samuel Saslaw of the departments of bacteriology and medicine.

More Meat for Nation

The nation's meat counters would have more liver on them, and probably more beef and lamb, if a leaf-shaped parasite no larger than a pumpkin seed could be conquered. This parasite, the liver fluke, ruins thousands of animal livers each year besides lowering milk and beef production and reducing the quality of meat in infected cattle and sheep. Drs. Edward C. Batte and Leonard E. Swanson of the University of Florida, Gainesville, urged the following three steps for control of the problem: 1. prompt diagnosis; 2. treatment of affected animals with fluke-killing drugs such as hexachloroethane; 3. destruction of snails which harbor the flukes at one stage of their life cycle.

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MEDICINE

Outlook "Rather Better" for Multiple Sclerosis Victims

► THE OUTLOOK for patients with multiple sclerosis is "rather better" than is generally assumed, so far as death and disability are concerned.

Figures showing this encouraging situation are reported by Drs. Alexander R. MacLean and Joseph Berkson of the Mayo Clinic. (JOURNAL, AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Aug. 11).

Multiple sclerosis attacks the central nervous system and may cause impaired eyesight, lack of balance, weakness and numbness and difficulty in speech, among other symptoms.

In a group of 406 patients seen at the Mayo Clinic, the five-year survival rate was 95% of the normal rate and the 10-year survival rate was 85% of the rate for a normal population.

Of 100 patients who were walking and working when first seen, 96 are living and 64 are able to walk and work at the end of five years, and at the end of 10 years 88 are living and 42 are able to work and walk.

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