

American Association of Avian Pathologists

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONSHIPS, 1961

Last year, we presented a cross section of opinions on the work area of a committee on industrial relationships within the AAAP. Out of this came the central idea, as emphasized by President Hitchner, that improvement of the poultry diagnostic service is the most urgent need. This year, means were explored to attain this goal.

One approach to a solution would be the holding of periodic refresher courses in various regions. This is already being done to some extent in the Northeast, Pacific West, and Utah. However, difficulties are encountered such as: a) some of these meetings are purely professional and closed to industry participants; b) they become regional research conferences without immediate applicability; c) they depend on regional set-ups and prevailing laboratory-industry relationships; d) the ones most in need are least likely to be reached.

Another suggestion has been the inspection of diagnostic laboratories by competent observers. This requires much expenditure in time and money and gives little positive return.

A third approach would be the compounding of a concise, diagnostic guide book. With this in mind, a possible expansion of the existing "Methods for the Examination of Poultry Biologics" was considered but turned down by the pertinent committee.

We feel that the preparation of an authoritative, diagnostic guide book would be one of the most worthwhile projects for the AAAP. These major points should be emphasized:

1. A listing of diagnostic laboratories, with affiliations.
2. Receipt of a specimen should be acknowledged within 24 hours, a tentative diagnosis made, and emergency measures recommended.
3. The tentative diagnosis should be followed by a definitive diagnostic report, if called for. The methods on which a diagnosis is based, should be specified.
4. All therapeutic recommendations must conform to state and federal regulations (e.g. suggested drug levels must not exceed those permitted by the FDA), and to reasonable economic principles (e.g. depopulation of 15,000 layers with a few cases of fowl cholera, spells bankruptcy).
5. With the increase of number of birds per flock-unit, field investigation of disease outbreaks must constitute an integral part of laboratory diagnostics.

Such a guide book is visualized in a cook-book style, arranged according to: Name of disease, clinical signs, gross and immediately perceptible microscopic features, accepted techniques for a definitive diagnosis, emergency therapeutic measures, and long-range control. There should be uniform presentation of the various diseases by experts, in key words or telegram style, with a minimum of references. A ring-type binding is preferred for easy revision and supplementation. It should be useful to the intelligent layman and available at low cost to assure wide distribution. It is believed that such public documentation of scientific poultry disease diagnostics would be a major contribution to the improvement of industrial relationships.

With this crystallization of opinions, the Committee feels that it has completed the spade work and, as such, can no longer make a contribution.

Two recommendations are submitted, for appropriate action:

- A. Appointment of regional chairmen to investigate the feasibility and activation of, regional refresher courses.
- B. Appointment of a working committee for the preparation of a diagnostic guide book.

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