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Paper No. 34.

RABIES IN BURMA.

By D. T. MITCHELL, M.R.C.V.S., Chief Veterinary Officer, Burma.

IN connection with the introduction of animals from the East (Asia) into the African territories the question of rabies has to be considered.

While in Burma during the last 18 months, I had an opportunity of noting the rabies position there and my object in presenting this note to the Conference is to illustrate the consequence of almost total absence of control measures in this disease.

In the East where artificial methods of sanitation are in many cases still very rudimentary, nature provides her own means of disposal of waste material by calling to her aid vultures, crows and pariah dogs and a rough estimate of the inefficiency of the sanitary measures in any Eastern town may be obtained by noting the number of animals and bird scavengers present.

The question of sanitation has a very direct effect on rabies control for so long as there is an available food supply pariah dogs will continue to exist and to maintain their numbers and any drastic measures for the diminution of their numbers would have disadvantages from the point of view of Town and Village sanitation.

Stray pariah dogs are destroyed at frequent intervals in Cantonment areas by the Military authorities and in towns where Municipal Councils or their equivalent exist.

In all other areas destruction of dogs can only be done, even on private grounds, with the consent of the local (police) authorities. The Burman on account of his religious views will not willingly take life in any form, and until the rabid animal becomes a menace

to human life, little action is taken. Under these conditions it is only natural that rabies infection is widely disseminated and cases in dogs are met with so frequently that one becomes very little disturbed by the reports of cases, after a few months residence in the country.

The Burma Mining Corporation who own property in the extreme north-east on the China frontier, finding that the treatment of their staff against this disease, interfere considerably with work, have had their property enclosed with jackal proof fencing and no dogs or cats are allowed in this enclosure.

Daily treatment of a small army of suspects is carried out at the Pasteur Institute in Rangoon with carbolated virus with very successful results. No mortality of Europeans has yet been recorded.

The vaccine is also used for the prevention of the disease in valuable dogs which have been exposed to infection. The dog treatment is carried out at the hospital of the Veterinary School where also a diagnosis of rabies is occasionally made on animals brought in for treatment.

The position in the East of Burma can be taken as a fair example—is of interest to show the position which can arise in the absence of control over a long period.

Paper No. 35.

A GRAVE SICKNESS IN DOGS IN EGYPT: SICKNESS VERY SIMILAR TO RABIES.

By DR. M. CARPANO, Chief Specialist of Pathology and
Bacteriology of the Veterinary Department, Egypt.

WITH reference to the very interesting communication made by Dr. Du Toit, on the subject of Rabies, I wish to bring to your notice a special affection studied in Egypt during the past month and which with regard to the clinical symptoms and the anatomical pathological lesions has a lot in common with rabies.

This is why it has been considered by the Egyptian Veterinarians as true rabies. Our researches have established that this particular affection is like rabies due to a filterable virus which may be transmitted serially to dogs and laboratory animals (rabbit and guinea pigs).

The affection, however, may be differentiated from hydrophobia for the following reasons:—

- (1) The sick animal has no tendency to bite.
- (2) The inferior maxillary has never been found to be affected by paralysis.
- (3) No negri bodies are found.
- (4) The sickness may be transmitted through the blood, contrarily to what is the case with rabies.