

1944

Postwar Planning

B. W. Kingrey
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian



Part of the [Veterinary Medicine Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kingrey, B. W. (1944) "Postwar Planning," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol6/iss3/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

Postwar Planning

Committee studies veterinary readjustment

B. W. Kingrey, '44

THE history of postwar periods of the past would indicate that following the armistice of the second world war, great changes may be expected. It behooves us in the proposed world uplift program to be sure to give adequate attention to our professional problems. The veterinary profession is confronted with impending changes which it must undergo following the cessation of hostilities. While adapting itself to those changes it is imperative that it maintain its position in the respected sphere of medical science. In the process of this metamorphosis the profession must be alert to utilize this opportunity to establish itself in the desirable new fields which may develop rapidly with the consummation of peace.

Postwar Planning Committee

In an effort to prepare for these changes President Bower of the A.V.M.A. has appointed a Postwar Planning Committee consisting of ten members headed by Dr. H. L. Foust of Iowa State College to study the postwar problems pertaining to the veterinary profession. This committee is already active in an earnest effort to solve the problems which are present or threaten to evolve.

Let us consider some of the problems confronting these men. One of the most pertinent of the immediate problems is how to stimulate a great enough interest in the members of the profession to cause them to realize the necessity of the changes which may occur after the war and to excite in them a desire to see these changes

through with the least possible disruption. If the committee can cause discussion and reflection on these problems now, with the members in sympathy with the problems and in a receptive state of mind, the transition will be less abrupt.

Probably the most pressing problem is what to do with the veterinarians returning from service. This problem has manifold aspects. For example, what will be the attitude of a veterinarian who returns to the community in which he practiced before the war and finds that another veterinarian has established himself there? Or, what will be the attitude of a veterinarian who returns to a community where a previous competitor has shouldered the whole load during the war?—and the attitude of the competitor? Also to be considered is the possibility of refresher courses for the returning men. Since much of the army work is highly specialized a review of the basic education as well as a presentation of recent developments should be available to these men.

Publicity

Another major problem of the committee is the education of the public as to the training and qualifications of veterinarians. It will be necessary to keep veterinary medicine before the people at all times and assure them of our ability. Service men are now realizing that the scope of veterinary work includes meat inspection and sanitation, but the civilians are surprisingly unaware of these functions of our service. Most people have little real-

ization of the scope and proficiency of our profession. It is a problem as to how this information can be impressed upon the public. Possibly state and district associations will assume the function of disseminating facts about our activities through the media of newspapers, magazines, and radio.

Distribution of Veterinarians

Another endeavor of the committee is the accumulation of data concerning the relation of the animal population throughout the country to veterinary service. Present information in this respect is deficient. In order to present a practical picture of the distribution of veterinarians other factors must be considered such as climatic conditions and the quality of roads in the local communities. With such information it is hoped that the proper distribution of practitioners can be brought about so as to avoid excessive competition in some areas and insufficient veterinary service in others. Improved transportation facilities will have a bearing on this problem. In the past the stockmen in the ranching districts of the western part of the country have been compelled to request the services of a veterinarian only for the treatment of herd conditions. Because of the distance it would be necessary for a practitioner to travel it would not be practical to call for a veterinarian to treat individual animals. Under these conditions producers have been obliged to become their own veterinarians, and doubtful practices including the use and distribution of biological products have resulted. The speculation is that after the war it will be possible to purchase private airplanes at prices which will be practically equivalent to the present cost of an automobile. Such developments would aid the veterinarian in rendering these areas better service.

New Fields

The provision of veterinary service to the marginal lands of the country is another serious problem. In these areas of low income a veterinarian cannot afford to render his services for the fees that he can secure. If an arrangement of some

sort is not made to maintain veterinarians in these areas, the producers in these districts may request the services of a state man. This would be a definite step toward socialized medicine. To avoid this it has been suggested that practitioners in these localities be given work in public health, sanitation, and preventive medicine. Such men can use the remainder of their time as practitioners and thus give largely self-supporting veterinary service in many communities where it is now lacking.

In the process of transforming a nation at war back to a peaceful status the concurrent industrial changes will provide an opportunity for the veterinary profession to attain a firmer grasp on certain fields of enterprise, rightfully theirs, which have been permitted to develop somewhat estranged from their services. Poultry practice is a good example. Not only must poultry raisers be educated as to the qualifications of veterinarians to handle their problems, but also the veterinarian must be certain that his recognition is merited. It may be necessary to provide poultry short courses for the older practitioner who has not incorporated much poultry work into his practice.

Wild Life Work

Another field with great potentiality is the handling of the problems of wild life and fur industries. We must be alert lest this work, which rightfully belongs to the profession, is allowed to slip from our hands as has been the case with several promising fields in the past.

The mounting number of proprietary drug concerns gives evidence of another phase of our work that has not been adequately dealt with. These agencies must be filling a need or they could not exist. This situation is acute. The veterinary profession must lose no time in solving this problem of supplying the demands which these concerns are now filling or be compelled to watch another phase of our work dissociated from our profession and acquired by factions whose interest lies in the accumulation of money rather than actual

(Continued on page 169)

Alumni Committee

The newest creation in the Veterinary Division is the Committee on Alumni Affairs. The organization is a standing committee of the Jr. A.V.M.A. and is under the advisorship of the dean of the Veterinary Division. Its formation was initiated by a desire to maintain closer contact between the veterinary alumni and the school and to maintain complete files. The Veterinary Student in continuing its policy of keeping alumni informed will publish information recommended by the alumni committee as a supplement to its own method of obtaining reports of alumni activity.

This venture is one requiring the cooperation of all alumni interested in keeping in touch with their former classmates. Does this cooperation mean a lot of work on your part? It does not. All that is necessary is a post card with pertinent information as regards your present location, vital statistics, and the like. Communications may be sent to the Alumni Committee of the A.V.M.A., the officers of the alumni committee within your class, if such a committee exists, or to the Veterinary Student.

While speaking of changes of location, it might be well to mention that an occasional post card from those recent graduates who as yet haven't a wife and family to keep them stationary would aid in getting their next "Student" to the proper address.

POSTWAR PLANNING

(Continued from page 137)

service rendered. This problem must be treated ethically. With free enterprise in jeopardy in this country it behooves the profession as a whole to consider services ahead of personal gain.

Heretofore the preponderance of the veterinarian's work was concerned with the actual treatment of disease while preventive medicine was handled largely through state and federal agencies. In the

coming phase of intensified farming the private practitioner must develop in his clientele the desire and confidence to rely upon him for consultation in preventive medicine. With the advancement of programs of disease control and eradication and with the mechanization of agriculture it is only in this way that the practitioner can maintain and justify his existence in the community. He should also strive to ally himself with the physician in public health work. The veterinary service now being required by the army has highly educated many veterinarians in the field of meat, milk, and food inspection and sanitation. We must follow up this advantage and strive to create a demand from the people that the veterinarian be given this work to do. It is up to the veterinarian to create this demand.

The chaos following the last war demonstrated the disastrous effects of insufficient post war planning. Since we are a relatively small profession we must make up for our lack in numbers by earnest and enthusiastic support of progressive programs in order to establish and maintain a secure and respected position in the postwar professional and economic world.

(This is the first of a series of articles discussing the activity of the Postwar Planning Committee of the A.V.M.A.)

MASTITIS

(Continued from page 133)

too much time and equipment for the average practitioner, and most laboratories haven't the personnel to run these tests if large numbers of samples are submitted.

Segregation of the infected cows would seem a simple matter, but a great many dairymen will not take the 2 weeks time and trouble necessary to break a cow into going into a different stanchion. They also consider washing udders with warm water and chlorine and drying them on separate towels, and disinfecting the teat cups of the milking machine as a procedure requiring too much time.