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Curriculum Committee Progress Report

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The macroscopic tube-agglutination test for leptospirosis. Advance in knowledge in the field of leptospirosis is closely correlated with methods of serological testing. Determination of the disease depends on accurate and simplified methods of detecting presence of leptospiral antibodies in serums.

Of the three general types of serological tests which have been developed, none are suitable as an agglutination test which is practical for laboratories not specializing in leptospiral research.

Leptospira pomona, Leptospira canicola, and Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae organisms were propagated in culture media and formalized when maximum growth had been obtained. In performing the test, ten-fold dilutions of the serum in saline were mixed with the appropriate antigens and incubated. A grossly visible floccule in the bottom of the cone-shaped tubes denoted a positive reaction.

The test was highly specific for leptospiral infections. Serums containing antibodies of various bovine, porcine and canine diseases failed to agglutinate leptospiral antigens. The test compared favorably with the classic agglutination-lysis test.


Cows are less tolerant to heat than man because of their inability to shed heat by perspiring.

There are 800 dressed animal carcasses inspected each hour of an 8-hour work day by the meat inspection service.

THE MEMBERS of the student curriculum committee wish to thank all those who spent the necessary time and effort on the questionnaire to contribute a valuable opinion. Response to questionnaires sent to recent graduates has now exceeded 20 percent, which demonstrates a gratifying degree of interest in the curriculum by those no longer directly affected by it.

As you recall, the student curriculum committee is an undergraduate group charged by the ISC Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association with the responsibility of obtaining, studying and approving suggestions for improvement of the curriculum made by the students of the division. These suggestions are then to be submitted to the faculty curriculum committee.

This year we have attempted, by use of the questionnaire, to obtain a complete and accurate student opinion and to compare it with a cross-section of alumni opinion.

Our current report to the faculty committee includes suggestions which were quite uniformly favored by those answering the questionnaire—both students and alumni.

The student committee presently is meeting with the staff of each of the departments to discuss those recommendations which apply. It is hoped that the joint discussion of the curriculum by the faculty and student committee will strengthen our course of study which is now one of the best in the country.

—Dean Thackery '57