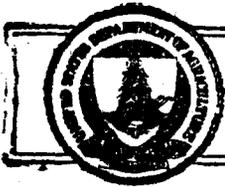


INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

*File with
Bureau release*

Release - Immediate.

January 23, 1931.

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EXPANDING VETERINARY FIELD NEEDS
MORE TRAINED WORKERS, SAYS MOHLER

One type of professional man, at least, the veterinarian, is not finding his field overcrowded to-day, in the opinion of Dr. J. R. Mohler, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, expressed at the Twenty-third Annual Conference for Veterinarians, January 15 and 16, at Ithaca, N. Y. He indicated also that the field is not likely to be overcrowded for some time because of the comparatively small number of students in veterinary colleges at present in contrast to a decade or more ago and because of the ever-widening field of service. "At no time in our history," the speaker said, "have there been such pressing demands for veterinarians who have received advanced training in research and experimental work."

Doctor Mohler spoke particularly of the opportunities offered in his bureau to the well-qualified veterinarian and indicated also the many opportunities in other branches of the Government, in the States, and in private practice. At present, he said, of approximately 10,500 veterinarians in active service in the United States nearly 1,400 are employed in the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry alone.

According to Doctor Mohler one of the most promising opportunities

for the veterinarian is in the field of parasitology. Parasites, he pointed out, are present in most animals almost everywhere and at all times. Thus the veterinary parasitologist has a broad field when he treats only our common domestic animals and fowls, but his future field will be very much broader than this, Doctor Mohler believes.

In this connection Doctor Mohler said: "Game conservationists, also State and Federal agencies, are opening up lines of attack on problems of parasitic infestation among game birds and mammals. Among the problems of evident importance are those involving the control of such parasitic conditions as coccidiosis, scabies, tick infestations, lungworm disease, gape-worm disease, and helminth infestations of various sorts. Thus far no measures have been evolved to prevent the spread of parasites from one State to another by shipments of game and game birds which endanger domesticated animals as well as other game animals. The interrelationships of disease and parasites of domesticated and wild animals require investigation. Fur farming is constantly adding to the list of semidomesticated animals which will be the veterinarians' patients in the future. Comparatively little is known of the parasites of fish." Thus the field of the future well-qualified veterinary parasitologist offers almost limitless possibilities.

Another field of promising opportunity, according to Doctor Mohler, is that of Federal inspection with a view to controlling and eradicating communicable animal diseases and administering regulations governing the export and import of livestock. "Experienced veterinarians in this field," he said, "are the first to be called in event of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, European fowl pest, or other contagious or infectious foreign

disease. They are frequently placed in entire charge of eradication activities in a given area."

Tuberculosis eradication in cattle furnishes at least part-time employment to more than 9,000 veterinarians whose qualifications for this work the department has approved. These figures include veterinarians employed by the Federal Government, the States, and the counties. He indicated the possibility that his bureau will soon be directed to cooperate with the States in eradicating tuberculosis among poultry, in which event it will be necessary to employ more veterinarians.

And there are still other duties for veterinarians in the Bureau of Animal Industry, according to its chief. Some of the veterinarians are laboratory workers who make diagnoses of, and carry on research into animal diseases. Others make ante-mortem and post-mortem examinations of animals in establishments engaged in interstate or foreign commerce in about 250 cities and towns throughout the country. Others carry on tick-eradication work in the South and hog-cholera control throughout the country. And, finally, supervising the activities of licensed establishments in the production of veterinary biological products is still another phase of Federal veterinary work.