In the Editorial of this issue, the fourth and concluding write-up on the tasks before the new governments which had assumed charge then in the field of Animal Husbandry chiefly dealt with the matter concerning the appointment to the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner. The write up recalled that since the inception of the post in 1929, the post was occupied by eminent veterinarians. The dividends accrued were substantial as reflected by the progress made in this field. However, in 1964, the post came to be occupied by a non-vet. Several editorials by the IVJ proved in vain. The Editorial of this issue emphatically stated that the ‘Animal Husbandry Commissioner is the fountainhead of all livestock work and as such must be an inspiring personality infusing confidence in all field workers and laying the necessary guidelines for them’. Of course, in later years, the post had come under the leadership of accomplished vets to the full satisfaction of the vets all over the country.

The Editorial also called for an effective policy on milk and dairy production. It expressed concern that more emphasis on collection and distribution in pockets is emphasized rather than taking measures to enhance production and productivity. Evolving suitable milch breeds for our country through well planned cross breeding work and ensuring availability of cattle feeds to the dairy farmers are the matters which require serious thought. An outstanding example of the development of a dual purpose crossbred sheep in Australia was mentioned to drive home the point. With regard to racing and horse breeding also the government seemed to have no policy. Only a national policy on horse breeding needed to be put in place. Abolition of racing would endanger the quality of fine specimens of horse breeds developed in the country through dedicated application of science. It must be remembered that horses are also required for security personnel, armed forces and production of sera for development of vaccines, toxoids and other biologicals. Illustrating with examples drawn from programmes like community development programmes and intensive cattle development schemes, the editorial cautioned against creating parallel agencies which duplicate the work and overlap areas causing avoidable expenditure. In this light, the Editorial pleaded for reorganization of Animal Husbandry Departments with more personnel and more funds rather than creating unnecessary structures with adequate functions or expertise. These points are even more valid today with ever expanding field agencies and bureaucracy resulting in less work coupled with inefficiency and least commitment to accomplish anything worthwhile.

This issue also carried abstracts of papers from leading veterinary journals. Among the news items were the development of a dual purpose crossbred sheep in Australia and the value of English language in communication and education. There was a book review on ‘Veterinary Operative Surgery’ (h.c. Edwald Berge and h.c. Melchior Westhues) by Dr. Umamaheswaran. The issue also carried an Obituary Note on Dr. D.V. Subba Rao, Former Lecturer in Extension, College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati.

The general articles include subject matters on persistence of sulphonamides in bovine milk, pathology of phenothiazine intoxication in cattle (clinical pathology), transpulmonary metastasis of epidermoid carcinoma in canine, staphylococcal infection in chicks, a report on the efficacy of therapy in chronic respiratory disease of poultry, warty growth in chickens, testicular neoplasms in bovine, histopathology of crop of the fowl infected with Gongylonema ingluvicola, analysis of serum proteins of heifers infected with lung worm Dictyocaulus viviparous, control of endoparasites in ducks, effect of castration and feed supplementation in Western Sudan range cattle, biochemical norms for porcine uteri, ovarian abnormalities as a cause for infertility in buffalos, artificial insemination in goats, effect of urea feeding on serum proteins and non-protein nitrogen values in calves, vitamin A deficiency in calves and nutritional aspects of cham ghas (Corchorus antichorus). There was a clinical article on stay suture technique for retention of vaginal prolapse in bovine.

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