Indian Veterinary Journal

Vol. 44, No. 10, October 1967

The Editorial in this issue deliberated on the suitability or otherwise of the introduction of the system of Agricultural Universities based on the complicated model of American educational evolution. The write up, though cautioned the policy makers against any hasty ‘leap into the dark’ without proper appraisal, clarified that there was no blind opposition to the move. Since the profession of agriculture and animal husbandry is handled by and large by governmental agencies, its members are not able to express themselves openly either for or against all the omissions and commissions of the government. Thus, it becomes the duty of Indian Veterinary Journal, the only mouth piece of the profession to elicit the views of our professional brethren on this vital issue. The Editorial called upon the veterinary colleges all over the country to formulate resolutions on this issue for publication in the journal. As the Editorial indicated, the Universities in India came into being under the Universities Act, 1857 after the English Universities, particularly the London University. The universities thus formed had stood the test of time and produced eminent scholars, doctors, engineers, scientists and great men and women in all walks of life. With the introduction of the ‘credit system’ in the newly initiated agricultural university pattern, based on the American model, a student is evaluated from day to day and hour by hour and the results are converted to grades such as A, B, C and so on. Switching over from direct awarding of marks to the grading system would involve a mountain of labour, to catch the proverbial ‘mouse’. In an entirely internal evaluation based system, the individual teacher becomes the sole authority in deciding the success or otherwise of a student. This system would lead only to subjective bias in a country already ridden with prejudices based on castes, creeds, communities, strong likes and dislikes of various kinds. In the final analysis, the Editorial questioned whether the final end products of the new system were going to be better than what we had been producing thus far. The Editorial recommended the introduction of the proposed system only on a pilot scale before expanding the net too wide across the length and breadth of the country. Moreover, when there are not much of differences between the new and the old systems in terms of course contents and curricular details, why to upset the existing, time tested system and at what cost, asks the Editorial.

The Editorial pointed out the ‘unkindest cut of all’ that the animal husbandry subjects would be taught at agricultural colleges and the students of veterinary colleges should take their animal husbandry courses in the agricultural colleges. The write up underlined the fact that the veterinarians produced by the veterinary colleges have excelled in animal husbandry work throughout the country to which the rural India would bear witness. The Editorial has strongly protested against this provision which could be described as ‘unjust’. The write up says that the American system is too individualistic and not collective in responsibility and the new system would be too costly to have an army of subject matter specialists, elaborate teaching aids, equipment, buildings, lands and would not in any case quicken the process of producing perfectly qualified veterinarians which is the real need of the hour. Looking into the economic conditions of our country, the proposal would result in colossal waste of money, materials and resources.

Though the write up was published about forty five years back, some of the elements pointed out by the Editorial are painfully valid even today. Educational policies must be formulated by academicians and educationalists instead of allowing non-academic vested interests and publicity mongers to tamper and tinker with the system. It is only to be hoped that India possesses the strong resilience and collective willpower to withstand such onslaughts taking place from time to time at the enormous cost of endangering the future and prospects of young, upcoming generations on whom our country needs to arise and shine.

The issue carried abstracts of papers published in international veterinary and animal science journals. Though the news items was the mention of the move of the commonwealth veterinarians to form an association as per a decision taken in Southport, UK, on 22 September, 1967. There was a letter to the Editor on post-operative management of salpingitis in Murrah buffaloes. An obituary note was published on the demise of Dr. P. Srinivasan, Associate Professor of Anatomy, College of Veterinary Science, Hyderabad.

The general articles published in the issue included use of live and inactivated virus vaccines against sheep pox, role of Pasteurella multocida in infectious coryza in fowls, incidence of Salmonella spp. In poultry farms and hatcheries, histopathology of vegetative endocdritis in chicken, biometry of genital organs of buffalo bulls, internal egg quality of White Leghorn birds, hatchability and viability of crossbreds of poultry, fiber measurements of chokla wool, phenotypic intersexuality in fowls due to gonadal hyperplasia, atresia cervicalis or white heifer disease in cattle, experimental toxicity of Lochnera pusilla in buffalo calves, effects of synthetic oestrogens on growth of mice, colouring agents for bull semen, pathology of lung worm infection in pigs and treatment of monieziaisis in buffalo calves. There were clinical articles on unilateral facial paralysis in a bullock and a case of equine paralytic myoglobinuria.

N. Balaraman