

Memorandum on Work of the Veterinary Department, Ceylon.

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THE Veterinary work is carried out by the staff of the Veterinary Department, consisting of two European Veterinary Surgeons, 12 Graduates of the Indian Veterinary Colleges, and 15 Stock Inspectors—all paid from public funds. There are no associations engaged in veterinary research work.

2. The work is chiefly confined to prevention and suppression of infectious diseases as Rinderpest, Foot and Mouth Disease, Trypanosomiasis, Piroplasmosis, Anthrax and Rabies.

Considerable work is done with reference to the quarantine of cattle, sheep and goats from Asiatic and African ports to Colombo, chiefly for purposes of slaughter, and mainly from India. 9804 cattle and buffalos and 110,957 sheep and goats were imported during 1926. A large quarantine station is in charge of the Colombo Municipal Council.

3. Research work includes investigation as to the cause of osteitis fibrosa (Osteoporosis) a disease, very common amongst imported horses (English, Australian and Arab)—and its connection with mineral deficiencies in the foods, which is believed to be the chief factor.

Another point under consideration is the deficiency of mineral elements in the natural pastures, and its effect on the growth and development of the live-stock. It is considered that there is a deficiency, chiefly of Calcium, all over the Island, and influence has been brought to bear on the importation of sterilised bone flour, and the general question of administration of lime in some form to live stock.

A considerable variety of agents have been tested for effect on the 4th stomach worm (*Mechstocirrus digitatus*) of cattle, which causes much loss.

The department also supervises the Government Dairy, which supplies the large hospitals with milk, and at the same time conducts investigation with reference to the crossing of Indian cattle (Zebus) with the European breeds. At present imported Ayrshire bulls are being tried with very promising results.

4. Results of the working each year are summarised and published in the Annual Administration Report.