

EDITORIAL:

ON THE BIRTH OF THE TANZANIAN VETERINARY BULLETIN

No periodic publication can be justified unless there is a definite need for it and unless it can contribute something worthwhile to the development of science or to that of society. Thus the reasons for, and the standards of, a publication are of paramount importance.

The reasons for the appearance of the Tanzanian Veterinary Bulletin (The Tropical Veterinarian) fall into two groups. The first of these is the necessity of the distribution of the scientific informations throughout Tanzania and even beyond the Tanzanian border. We aim at reaching every professional, which works in a tropical environment; we intend to inform him about investigations carried out in various Institutions; and to help him in application of new methods and new approaches; and, last but not least, we want to encourage the local research and to induce a concentrated effort directed towards the tropical problems.

So far, in the vast amount of literature, there are only few veterinary journals which focus on the tropics. What is more we believe that the accent on the tropical problems should be made, in the first place, within the tropical area itself.

Consequently the knowledge about such problems should be not only available in the tropics but also cultivated in them. Thus it could be that the portion of the Tanzanian Veterinary Bulletin dealing with the specificity of the tropics will in future become the most important one.

The second group of reasons for publishing the Bulletin is related to the professional activities. At present we know little about one another. The dissemination of news related to research, to the movements of staff as well as to the conferences, refresher courses, and other similar events are important for the proper functioning of the profession and, therefore, also to its contributions to the economic or scientific progress.

As far as the standards are concerned we should aim high. In any field of endeavour the wares of quality are valued the most. The quality, though, has many faces: it includes, or could be attached to the facts, actions, ideas, approaches or comparisons. However, whatever type of quality or of excellence it is, it can be achieved only through a strenuous effort. And a common venture needs a common effort as well as support and enthusiasm of all professionals in the country. If such a support could not be mustered the Tanzanian Veterinary Bulletin will have a short life.

I understand that the decision of the Board of the Tanzanian Veterinary Association to go ahead with this publication is an expression of trust which the Association has in the scientific and professional personnel of Tanzania and I did undertake the task of editing the Bulletin believing that such a trust is, indeed, well placed.

Let us turn the trust and beliefs into reality.

The Editor.