

ans—nearly twice the number of today's veterinarians—will be needed to provide for minimum veterinary manpower needs. In view of mounting population pressures, the increasing need for consumer protection, the accelerated pace of bio-medical research, and the spectre of food shortages in our time, this estimate must now be considered extremely conservative.

The gigantic task of supplying sufficient numbers of competent veterinarians for the nation's growing health needs is the responsibility of 18 colleges of veterinary medicine in 17 states. These colleges are often understaffed, many lack modern teaching and training aids, most are overcrowded, some operate in nearly obsolete facilities. Because of all of these inadequacies, they now have to turn away from three to four qualified applicants for each freshman student they admit.

It has been clearly demonstrated that the states are unable to furnish the colleges with the support they need. The American Veterinary Medical Association therefore urges passage of the Health Manpower Act of 1968, together with an amendment to include colleges of veterinary medicine in the institutional grants provision.

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One of the major developments during the past few years has been the unexpectedly heavy pressures on the veterinary medical profession to share the responsibilities of public health. This is first apparent on the university campuses where medical school faculty and veterinary medical faculty share the teaching of series of courses concerned with public health. At the University of Missouri there are eight faculty members from the School of Medicine with joint appointment on the veterinary medical faculty. The same number of veterinarians share appointments in the School of Medicine. The arrangement is effective and shares the load with maximum benefit to medical students, veterinary medical students and graduate students.

One of the major factors in the current advance of human health students during recent years has been the utilization of the living larger animals as models for the human in research. The pig alone has been utilized for the development of a long list of effective treatments. Each of many animal species have certain features that closely parallel the human. Thus members of the animal kingdom may be selected to form a battery that, in the composite, nearly duplicate the human. In the work utilizing animals to solve human health problems we find the veterinarian and the physician working in collaboration. This is a most rewarding and logical approach. However, the number of veterinarians required for participation in comparative medical research is depleting veterinary medical manpower in the more traditional areas.

The School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri has as the major and unyielding financial problem the lack of funds for facility construction. In the competition for building dollars the sheer increase in student numbers causes the construction of additional classrooms to be highest on priority of construction programs. The demand by society for the annual graduation of more veterinarians is well documented. However, during the past 20 years the nation has responded by creating only one new college of veterinary medicine. This places great pressure on existing schools to expand their enrollments. Because veterinary medical facilities are expensive and because of the truly regional and national nature of the veterinary medical institutions it is a serious problem to find adequate funding for the construction of additional buildings to respond to the needs and demands of the nation.

Pressure on existing facilities are also exaggerated by the mounting number of veterinarians seeking graduate training as well as the very real need for expansion of instruction through continuing education. On the University of Missouri campus alone the number of doctors of veterinary medicine pursuing advanced degrees increased from four in 1964 to 59 in 1967. Obviously facility construction must appear as an essential response to such responsibilities.

At the University of Missouri support through operational funds has been increased rapidly. The existing space has been equipped, staffed and supported to the maximum. Should additional space be made available the major operational needs would be for modern teaching devices, suitable support for outstanding faculty and for the support of auxiliary staff.