

environment. Veterinary scientists have been among the innovators of some of the original research programs designed to quantitate the effects of acceleration and deceleration on human and animal metabolism and problems related to acclimatization at atmospheric pressures and composition at variance with those normally encountered by man.

Many other opportunities for valuable contributions in the field of scientific research parallel these newer challenges in which many of our nation's veterinarians are engaged. The production of vaccines and antitoxins to control the spread of both human and animal diseases has traditionally been a field in which veterinarians have worked together with physicians, immunologists, biochemist, pharmacologists and scientists from any other basic and clinical disciplines. Many advances in human medicine and surgery, including developing and perfecting open heart surgical techniques, hypothermia, the introduction of improved drugs for anesthesia and splinting techniques for broken bones have been pioneered with the aid of veterinarians. Other essential areas of research include the design and management of methods for insect and parasite control.

Today about 50% of the nation's veterinarians work with farmers and agricultural specialists to produce quality cattle, swine, sheep and poultry for human consumption. It is conservatively estimated that losses to the livestock industry incurred by the morbidity and mortality caused by animal disease and infection amount of 15% of total production annually. A considerable portion of the price the consumer pays for poultry, eggs, milk, meat and other animal products reflects losses to the farmer due to death and disease of animals he is unable to market. Estimations of the economic losses due to the six major disease problems among cattle, sheep and swine—mastitis, leptospirosis, bloat, hog cholera, erysipelas and brucellosis—range from 300 million to 500 million dollars yearly. Allied to the work of veterinarians in the field of disease eradication and control is the valuable assistance many veterinarians have given to our allies and to the lesser developed nations of the world as they have worked to rebuild or strengthen their livestock industries and improve their national economy.

Veterinarians are engaged in a wide variety of programs and activities oriented to provide our citizens with more wholesome and economic nutrition. Some of these include improving the quality of meat products, solving problems related to the sanitary preparation, packaging and storage of food products, the effect of drugs, food additives and insecticide residues on food products and monitoring the food industry to insure that legal safeguards regarding product identification, preparation and quality are respected.

Of the 100 diseases known to be transmissible from animal to man, about 30 occur with some degree of frequency in the United States of America. The effective cooperation of veterinarians with other public health professionals has been specifically responsible for significant reductions in the incidence of rabies, tuberculosis, brucellosis, parrot fever and other diseases of man. At various research stations throughout the United States, veterinarians and other public health officials are alert to the identification of animal diseases which are not presently found within continental United States. These activities have prevented the introduction of the dreaded hoof and mouth disease and rinderpest. Continuing research studies in the control and eradication of such diseases are essential because there is constant danger that such diseases may accidentally be introduced into our country at any time because of the ease and rapidity with which world-wide transportation functions as a disease vector.

In order to insure our nation's supply of manpower to staff these varied and challenging opportunities available today and tomorrow for those whose aptitude, ability and interest lie within the realm of veterinary medicine, our nation's veterinary colleges need continued and expanding federal support.

In order to fulfill their commitment to those eager, capable and deserving to pursue the arduous training necessary to qualify as a graduate veterinarian, our nation's veterinary colleges urgently need federal funds to expand their teaching faculties. Currently, three qualified candidates are not admitted for every student that is admitted to veterinary school simply because teaching facilities are not available. Equally needed is financial support to completely equip and expand laboratories and clinical facilities and classrooms and to provide the means for the continuance of valuable fundamental and applied research. Loan and other plans to ease the financial problems associated with prolonged professional schooling must be made available to students in the basic veterinary science curriculum and to attract graduate students to the basic and clinical sciences. Those with graduate training are urgently needed as teachers in the biological and