



## MORE COMMENTS ON THE BULLETIN

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOOD NEWS ON  
INDEXING BULLETIN ARTICLES

"I know that you will be pleased to learn that the National Library of Medicine's Ad Hoc Panel on the Selection of Journals for *Index Medicus* recommended that the *Bulletin of the Wildlife Disease Association* be indexed selectively when our resources permit its addition to our *List of Journals Indexed*. . . . hopefully within the next year.

LEONARD KAREL, PH.D.,  
Chief, Bibliographic Services  
National Library of Medicine,  
Bethesda, 7 February, 1966

"TUBERCULOSIS VS. ACID-FAST INFECTION  
IN WILDLIFE:

## A PLEA FOR PRECISION"

"The report of 'tuberculosis' in a ruffed grouse by Snoeyinkos (Bull. WDA 2:9, 1966) suggested infection due to *Mycobacterium avium*, possibly as a result of contact with domestic fowl. A similar article by Ferris, et al. (JAVMA 138: 326-328, 1961) emphasized the possibility that "tuberculosis" found in deer under confinement could have been acquired from human or other mammalian contacts. Unfortunately, in both the above studies, the acid-fast organisms observed were not isolated and identified.

A case report of acid-fast infection in a wild animal is certainly of interest in itself. However, acceptance of the epizootologic implications presented in the above articles, without specific identification of the organisms involved

can hardly be of benefit to future investigations in this area

There are numerous species of *Mycobacterium* that are pathogenic for man and other animals. For years, the attention of public health and agricultural investigators was focused on *Myco. tuberculosis*, *Myco. bovis* and, to a lesser extent, *Myco. avium*. Until recently, members of the unclassified acid-fast group were considered as contaminants or saprophytes. Many of these species are now recognized pathogens of considerable importance for man as well as domestic animals.

The ecologic picture for the *Mycobacteria* is not yet complete. It is especially important that all those investigating wildlife diseases increase its clarity rather than add to the confusion. Please, let us isolate and identify the acid-fast (cf. Koch's postulates)."

W. T. HUBBERT, D.V.M.

Communicable Disease Center,  
San Francisco, 24 Feb., 1966

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"I disagree with Dr. Kartman (letter to the editor, *Bull. Wildlife Dis. Assoc.* 2:1-2, 1966) advocating the publishing of abstracts only rather than full articles. In general, original observations should be reported with all evidence necessary to support the author's interpretation and conclusions. If not worth this, they are not worth publishing. As far as illustrations are concerned, each requires a minimum size to clearly depict its signi-

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ficant detail or details. It must be big enough to do this, and should be no larger."

"I do suggest that every article be presented as concisely as possible, omitting any unnecessary statements. I have hastily rewritten the article of Barret and Worley, indicating the importance of presenting data as well as conclusions. . . . .

C. N. BARRON D.V.M., PH.D.,  
Smith Kline & French Laboratories  
Philadelphia. 10 February, 1966.

### BOOK REVIEW

**VETERINARY MEDICINE AND HUMAN HEALTH**, by Calvin W. Schwabe. Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore. 1964. 515 pp., 93 figs.

The approaches and philosophies interwoven into this volume are not new to those of us who are involved in wildlife disease investigations, but their expression in a book of this sort is refreshing because this is the first attempt to bring together an exploration of the interface between veterinary medicine and human medicine. There are numerous examples and references to contributions by investigators in peripheral fields, but this reviewer, as a non-veterinarian, was disappointed at the author's failure to recognize the wide scope of disciplines other than veterinary or medical in development of this broad field. However, Dr. Schwabe's expressed intent was to point out to veterinarians their potential role in the field of animal epidemiology, particularly from the public health standpoint, thereby encouraging them to pursue

studies in this field. His enthusiasm should produce many converts to the study of comparative medicine for which the veterinarian is admirably trained.

The book is divided into four sections: 1) the practice of population medicine, 2) epidemiology, 3) food and hygiene, and 4) tools. The author seizes every opportunity to emphasize the role played by veterinarians which is, after all, the underlying inspiration for writing the book. This does not, however, detract from the value of this volume to veterinarians or to others involved in studies of wildlife diseases, zoonoses, or the role of animals in our public health. Dr. Schwabe consistently strives to stimulate interest, to develop a fresh approach, to encourage a consciousness of potential. The examples he uses are for the purpose of presenting this thesis, and he has cited the references that accomplish this for him. Many readers will find his fresh approach, original analyses, charts and illustrations to be a stimulating aspect of this work. An index comprises the last 43 pages.

The material presented is well documented with references listed at the end of each chapter, including additional suggestions for further reading. It was unfortunate that a number of typographical errors, particularly wrong dates of publication, were not corrected. Nevertheless, this book should be required supplemental reading for all veterinarians and investigators interested in the ecology and epidemiology of disease in animal hosts, in zoonoses, and in public health. — Carleton M. Herman