

Xth INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DISEASES OF ZOO ANIMALS

The Xth International Symposium on diseases of zoo animals was held in the ancient Austrian town Salzburg from 1st to 5th May, 1968. Of the 144 delegates from various countries of the world 6 were from Czechoslovakia.

The first day of the symposium was devoted to diseases of the respiratory organs (21 contributions). These reports were concerned with diseases of the respiratory organs of monkeys, wild carnivores, ruminants, birds and reptiles. Some communications dealt with clinical histories, the pathology and therapy of pneumohelminthoses. The reports of the Czechoslovak delegates Zajíček and Pavlíček (Prague) and Pačnovský (Nitra) were also delivered on the first day.

On the second day, papers on various problems such as internal diseases, affections of the skin, infectious diseases in zoo animals, were delivered. Blažek, Jaroš, Otčenášek and Konrád presented a paper on deep mycoses of the organs of some zoo animals, Dyková and Jaroš on trichinosis. Very interesting information on modern methods applied in statistical evaluation of the data obtained in postmortem examinations of zoo animals, was presented in the papers by Griner and Hutton (U.S.A.) and by Appleby (Great Britain). The discussion to these reports revealed the necessity of introducing a uniform nomenclature of pathological findings. Therefore, an international working group was established and its members were asked to record in the countries under consideration postmortem findings in accordance with this uniform system. Dr Blažek from the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague was delegated to represent Czechoslovakia in this international group.

The programme of the third day of the symposium was concerned with surgery (surgery

of the stomach, the extremities, the head and the sexual organs) and with the occurrence of tumours.

All 63 papers presented at this symposium are published in the Congress Report. The delegates from Czechoslovakia delivered 6 papers.

At the eve of the symposium a reception was held to welcome the delegates and, at the end of the first-day-session, all participants were invited by the Mayor of Salzburg to a reception at the town hall. On the second day the organizers arranged a visit to the zoo of Hellbrunn. A rarity of this zoo are the vultures, which, not being kept in captivity, fly away to the mountains and return regularly at feeding times. The workers of this zoo obtained very good results with acclimatizing various tropical animals, in particular zebras, jaguars, pumas and lions, to the cold climate. These animals are kept on the runs throughout the winter.

Also a round-trip through the Salzkammergut and a visit to the Alpine zoo at Innsbruck was arranged during the Symposium. For those who had arranged to partake in the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the Veterinary College in Vienna, transport was provided by the organisers.

The large numbers of delegates attending the Prague and Salzburg symposium show clearly the great interest in these meetings and also the growing interest in the pathology of zoo animals, which had been neglected in the past. We feel that also in our country more attention should be paid to this field and that regular lectures on the pathology of zoo animals (sometimes different from the pathology of domestic animals) should be introduced to our veterinary colleges.

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