

Conference of the Helminthological Society of the Soviet Union on anthrozoohelminthoses and perspectives of their liquidation

A session of the Helminthological Society of the Soviet Union and a conference devoted to anthrozoohelminthoses, an important problem of medicine and veterinary, were held in Samarkand-Taylak (Uzbek SSR) from 16—18 April 1975. The conference was organized by the foremost Soviet scientific institutions, as K. I. Skryabin Institute of Helminthology of the Soviet Union, Helminthological Laboratory of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Uzbek Scientific-Research Veterinary Institute and other institutions of the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Agriculture of the U.S.S.R. The sessions took place in the Samarkand Institute of Agriculture and were attended by almost 300 Soviet helminthologists and 7 parasitologists from the socialist countries (Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Yugoslavia).

The program of the conference was very ample. A total of 80 lectures and many other speeches were read during the 3-day sessions. The conference was opened by an address of Academician V. P. Shishkov, Secretary of the Academy of Agriculture of the Soviet Union and a lecture on immunological mechanisms in helminthoses of domestic animals, presented by Academician V. S. Yershov, President of the Helminthological Society of the Soviet Union. On the first day, the lectures were devoted to the immunity in cattle cysticercoses, pathogenicity, dynamics of antibody formation in experimental infections, mechanism of allergy in helminthoses and some methodical problems, as the purification of antigens.

The reports of the second day dealt with the biochemical diagnostic of helminths and immunofluorescence and a special attention was paid to larval cestodes of man and domestic animals. Other papers discussed the epizootology and pathomorphology of toxocarosis and other larval ascaridoses, strongyloidosis and trichinellosis, and of trematodoses, especially fasciolosis and opisthorchosis.

On the third day, important results obtained in the studies of epizootology of anthrozoohelminthoses in various regions of the U.S.S.R. were presented, pointing out the significance of prophylaxis and effective curing. Excellent results were obtained in the control of helminthoses of this type and in many regions some of these helminthoses were completely eradicated.

Attention was paid also to other problems, as natural focality of some helminthoses of man and domestic animals, nomenclature, ultrastructure of helminths, biochemistry etc. The lectures presented at the conference gave evidence of the high level of the experimental work of the Soviet helminthological school. Not only theoretical, but also practical problems of anthrozoohelminthoses are the main subject investigated at present.

The participants of the conference visited the Scientific-Research Veterinary Institute in Samarkand-Taylak, which is a leading institute in the research of veterinary and agriculture in the Soviet Central Asia. There are 78 scientific workers, 21 of them have the highest scientific degrees, and 20 laboratories. Since the foundation of the institute in 1924 (as Veterinary and Bacteriological Laboratory) attention has been focused to parasitoses. The fauna of ticks of Uzbekistan, morphology of causative agents and wide aspects of epizootology of haemosporidiosis of domestic animals have been studied in detail. Methods of tick control using acaricides have been worked out and successfully applied in practice. Of importance are also the investigations of helminth fauna of domestic animals in different landscapes of Uzbekistan and methods of the control of the causative agents of the main helminthoses have also been worked out. These include complex measures in the control of diatyocaulosis, coenurosis, echinococcosis, bunostomatosis, monieziosis and other diseases. The parasitoses of birds are studied in a special laboratory and the present problems are coccidiosis and ascaridiosis of poultry. The institute is still further built up and enlarged.

The conference was very successful. Excellent results of the research and their application in medicine and agriculture were presented. In the friendly atmosphere of the sessions and discussions the work accomplished till the present time was critically evaluated and further perspectives of the study of anthrozoohelminthoses were traced out. The theses of the lectures were published in a special volume "Anthrozoohelminthoses and perspectives of their liquidation" edited in Moscow (1975, pp. 1—128). It was a very successful scientific meeting and the organizers should be warmly congratulated.

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