

NI
636.08907
K16a
Preston

PD-AAN-182

ISN 31465

KIND-OF-TOUR REPORT

**K.S. PRESTON, D.V.M.
Professor and Head Department of Veterinary Surgery and Medicine
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
N I G E R I A:**

**Kansas State University Agency for International Development
Project 620-11-110-743
Contract AID/afr-707**

**Tour of Duty began September 18, 1971
Tour of Duty ended September 19, 1973**

**AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY
ZARIA, NIGERIA:**

1. Goals and Objectives of Tour

- (a) To develop a strong & able indigenous staff for the Department of Veterinary Surgery and Medicine.
- (b) To improve and expand facilities, equipment and teaching aids.
- (c) To teach the subjects of veterinary surgery and medicine in a way that they are relevant and can be applied to veterinary problems of West Africa.
- (d) To place special emphasis on the development of an ambulatory clinic and field services for the Fulani herdsmen and the Hausa farmer.
- (e) To provide stimulating and enthusiastic leadership for the department.

2. Activities, Accomplishments and Major problems encountered

(a) Administrative responsibilities

When I arrived, September 18, 1971, my predecessor, Professor Hamburg, had terminated two months previously. I did not have the advantage of an overlap with him so as to know what programs he had started or what problems I might encounter. The department consisted of only three professionals, two who were recent graduates from the class of 1971. The third member, Dr. W. Pimentel, was on home leave at the time of my arrival. Dr. Ayivon and Dr. Osofi were doing their best, as young graduates usually do, to maintain clinic services during the long vacation period.

My initial activity was to arrange a list of priorities and develop ways and means to accomplish them with a limited staff. Shortly after classes started, Dr. Akerejola joined our department and for the first year, 1971-72, the five of us in co-operation managed the course work and services of the clinic.

We would have been seriously handicapped without the fine co-operation of other members of the faculty who would assist us in teaching courses and the help of three short-term consultants during the 3rd quarter to teach obstetrics, viral diseases, and radiology. They were Dr. Richard Olson, Dr. Stan Dennis, and Dr. Horst Liepold, from Kansas State University,

In addition to the above support I have been immeasurably helped by having the assistance of a very capable Superintendent Technician who administered the Junior Staff and was responsible for ordering supplies and record keeping.

It was in the area of clinical teaching that I considered we should concentrate our efforts. When I arrived in the fall of 1971 a very active small animal section was already established however activity in its ambulatory clinic and food animal section was practically nil. Our objective in the department was to place special emphasis on food animal production and to do this an active ambulatory clinic was essential. Over the past two years we have been successful in doing this. It is now essential to dispatch two vehicles daily to its field to handle the calls.

(b) Teaching Assignments

First on the list of priorities was teaching. It was obvious that it would be physically impossible to teach the 12 courses which were taught in the department and to maintain and develop active

clinics without help from outside the department.

Throughout the two years of my tenure we have leaned heavily on support from other faculty members to teach certain blocks of information and short-term consultants were also depended upon. In this respect we could always depend on this support. Personally I feel this has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of my two years at Ahmadu Bello University that our faculty functioned as a complete team faced with getting a big job done with too few people to do it. Expertise from the departments of Pathology, Physiology, and Parasitology came to our aid in many situations.

Four short-term consultants were used during my two years of service. Three of these were from the U.S. and one from the U.K. The importance of the short-term consultant should be emphasized. I have always made a strong plea for additional Nigerian staff in the rank of lecturer, but it would be a serious error to fill the department with young unexperienced Nigerians without a few highly trained experienced faculty members who could train the young counterparts. The short-term consultant provided this essential element to the department and I would strongly recommend that the use of short-term consultants be continued to help develop the indigenous staff. These consultants can be hand-picked and quite frequently men of superior quality can be obtained for short periods of time.

(c) Research activities

The department of veterinary surgery and medicine lends itself easily to research. Interesting cases are presented almost daily which should receive further investigations and study. The department has been handicapped by lack of personnel and time to carry on extensive investigational work, but I have encouraged each staff member to become personally involved in one or more problems which are of special interest to him. The following is a list of projects that have been studied or are presently under investigation.

1. Ulcerative lymphangitis in horses
2. Epizootic lymphangitis in horses
3. Bovine mastitis
4. Infectious canine pancytopenia
5. Rabies in dogs
6. Eosinophilic granulomas in cattle
7. Keratoconjunctivitis in cattle.

(d) Nigerian Staff Development

From a personal standpoint I have always considered it my number one responsibility to develop an indigenous staff which would be the strength and foundation of a lasting department. During my tenure we have been successful in sending four veterinarians to the United States on participant training. They are

1. Dr. O. Akerejola
2. Dr. D.I.K. Usori
3. Dr. J. Adeyanju
4. Dr. H.D. Ayiver

It is planned that they will return to the department when they have completed the master's degree in their respective specialities.

When these men move out of the department for participant training a void in teaching strength immediately occurs. A program or system of active recruiting is essential. A back-log of desirable candidates seeking employment in the department would be highly desirable. One could speculate that all participants that have been sent for participant training might not return to the department for some reason or other. Some that have been trained may not be highly

desirable. For that reason more than what the present establishment calls for should be trained to allow for some degree of selection or flexibility.

Because of the National Youth Service Corps which was established this year, recruitment from this year's class will be delayed for a year. This produced an unexpected problem because we had looked forward to replacing the participants sent out this year with new graduates. The department was successful in recruiting Dr. C.D. Brookoll, a Cornell University graduate, in April. He has moved ahead in a very satisfactory manner and should make a worthwhile contribution to the staff.

Prospects for recruitment of staff educated and trained from European schools are bright at this moment.

3. Suggestions for further development of the area in which I have been working

I am leaving the department pleased and happy with the prospects for its future development. I am especially pleased to have had a year to work with Professor Robert Taussig who is taking over in my place. Professor Taussig and I have essentially the same philosophies and I am sure the ideas and programs which I have tried to initiate will continue to develop and expand. We have had numerous opportunities to discuss the problems of the department and methods as to how to solve them. I have every reason to believe that I am leaving the department in capable, experienced hands.

Professor Taussig and I are in agreement that what the Nigerian veterinary profession needs are men who I choose to call "generalists" in attitude and training in food animal production. We also agree that the Department of Surgery and Medicine is the department best qualified to impart this kind of training.

To train generalists is not an easy task especially in livestock production which encompasses so many aspects. We veterinarians generally relate veterinary medicine to animal diseases - their prevention, treatment, and control. The animal production generalist must concern himself with much more. The social, economic, and management factors in the overall picture of food animal production are important.

It is my concern that here at Ahmadu Bello University we are apt to produce specialists who tend to propose new developments in his field of specialization without adequate understanding of its relationship to the whole problem of livestock production. The result would be one of piecemeal innovation which would leave untouched the basic issues of tackling the important problems of increasing more animal protein for Nigeria.

The good generalist (in this case the livestock production specialist) must have at least the same training as the specialist up to the point of specialization. From there, his learning responsibilities become broader and more demanding than those of the specialist and he requires more assistance in integrating what he has learned.

The final indispensable step in his training, regardless of what has preceded it, must come from some kind of training and the practical application of this training.

What methods are there which we have at our disposal to accomplish this task?

A brief reference has been made in this report to the successful development of an ambulatory clinic to teach the practical aspect of veterinary medicine and livestock production to undergraduates. In

my opinion this is not enough.

The department has each year taken the final year students on extensive tours to visit livestock production centers throughout the country. This is an aid to stimulating thought in the total problem of livestock production but it too is too brief and superficial.

In my opinion there is a need for the department to start thinking about the development of in-service training programs for the graduate veterinarian. Such a program might be called "Livestock Production Specialty Training Project for Veterinarians." The department should direct the plans for its development.

I can visualize an "in-training course" in which the department provides the leadership which would encompass such general subjects as

- Animal Health
- Livestock Management
- Ranch Management
- Personnel Management
- Crops, Pasture, and Soils
- Analysis, Preparation, Utilization and Conservation of Soils
- Agricultural Engineering
- Agricultural Economics
- Marketing
- Agricultural Development
- Ecology and Utilization of Natural Resources
- Scientific Methods and Investigation

Under the present circumstances, with limited personnel, such a vision is unthinkable for the department. A program of this magnitude needs additional qualified experienced staff. However, expertise for many of these subjects are available here at Ahmadu Bello University and in other parts of Nigeria.

4. Conclusion

I would be remiss if I did not fully express my appreciation to Kansas State University and the AID officials who made it possible for me to participate in the Ahmadu Bello University project. My home university is Iowa State University but it has been easy for me to shift my loyalty from ISU to KSU. Here in the project I have felt that the KSU/AID personnel functioned as a team and that we were all totally involved in the primary objective of institution building.

I have been honored and fortunate to serve under two capable, dedicated and inspiring Deans, Professor Elbert Coles and Professor Stan Dennis.

I am now completing my third international program in veterinary education and the tour has been the most rewarding to me personally and professionally to all concerned, I give my thanks.

Best Available Document