

HAFKINE INSTITUTE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, BOMBAY

THE Report for the period 1944-46 is a record of all round activity. Owing to the impact of war the Institute had to assume various functions which were not in its usual programme. Substantial contribution to medical research in the direction of improvement in prophylactic vaccine, antitoxin serum, antivenene, etc., has been made during the period under report. The scope and activities of the department of chemotherapy was considerably expanded. The Report has been divided into Part I - General and Part II - Research. Among the essential features of the report a few may be cited.

1. *Cholera Vaccine*.—Casein hydrolysate direct cholera vaccine was developed during the period. This vaccine was found to possess ten times more protective value than the standard agar grown vaccine. A new method for assessing active immunity in cholera was developed using white mice as test animal. When prepared under controlled digestion process the Muller and Johnson's casein hydrolysate medium is protein free and the plague vaccine made in this medium was found to retain its protective power even when stored at 37° C. for 18 months. This vaccine is much less toxic to mice than the previous vaccine.

2. *Serum*. Anti-human horse serum was found to prevent allergic and anaphylactic reactions. This was demonstrated in field trials on plague patients treated with anti-plague serum to which 5 gm. of dried

anti-human serum was added to 1 litre of anti-plague horse serum.

In the preparation of antivenene a method was developed by which a highly potent polyvalent serum against all the four kinds of snake venom of cobra, krait, Russell's viper and Echis was obtained by injecting horses with a mixture of all the four venoms. The technique of lyophilising has been utilised in the preservation of anti-toxin and antislake venom sera. Now antivenene is issued in dried form in which it can be stored in any rural dispensary so that in case of emergency it can be made readily available and can be used for injection by dissolving in sterile distilled water. This is a remarkable achievement for this country where snake bite is so common and the absence of properly equipped storage condition made it difficult or impossible to make use of the benefit of the antivenene in most cases.

3. *Chemotherapy*.—Remarkable success has been obtained in reducing plague mortality to a negligible level by the use of streptomycin, sulpha-diazene and sulpha merazine and sulpha methazine. Pilot plant production of the sulpha drugs has already been established. The Report also contains various other important and instructive information for those interested in medical research.

The authorities of the Institute deserve praise for such a valuable record of work.

5th March 1949.

K. P. MENON.

INDIAN JOURNAL OF HELMINTHOLOGY

WE are very happy to welcome the *Indian Journal of Helminthology* being the official organ of the Helminthological Society of India.

While some may contend that there are far too many biological journals in India for all of which the right type of material is scarcely available, we feel that the want of a journal on applied zoology was long felt and the *Indian Journal of Helminthology* gives a large fillip to helminthological workers in India who had to seek hospitality elsewhere for their research publications. In the first issue (October 1948),

which has just reached us, all the articles (except one) are from the Lucknow School of Helminthology working under the inspiring guidance of its chief, Prof. G. S. Thapar who is also the Editor of the Journal.

The articles are of a high standard and like its contemporaries in other branches of science, the get-up of the journal is very good.

The journal is published biennially and each issue is priced Rs. 5.

We wish it all success.