

THE BEAUDETTE VETERINARY HISTORY COLLECTION

AMONG the many avocational interests of Doctor Beaudette, one is deserving of particular notice because of the continuing influence it may be expected to have in the veterinary profession. This is the fabulous collection of old and rare books on veterinary medicine assembled by him and which has been acquired for the Historical Library of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University. As a fitting monument to the man and his unique distinction as a veterinary bibliophile, these works will retain their identity as the Fred R. Beaudette Collection.

This collection, consisting of about 250 distinct works (some more than one volume), contains six items from before 1500, another 19 before 1600, and a total of 60 items published before 1700. Few such collections in existence contain such a wealth of early material. As might be expected, there are a number of items relating to the diseases of birds, including several extremely rare 16th and 17th century works on the diseases of falcons, and one on canaries. Together with books already held, the MSU Historical Library, including the Beaudette Collection, presently consists of more than 400 distinct works of which 80 are dated prior to 1700.

Such a collection, of course, serves an important function as a repository for the significant works which form the background of the veterinary profession. But more than this, it will be used to implement an active program of teaching, research and writing in the area of the history of veterinary medicine. In addition, as an outstanding collection on this aspect of the larger area of the history of civilization, it is anticipated that scholars from other areas may find source material here that is not readily available elsewhere. Rather than being buried in a vault, both the Beaudette Collection and the Historical Library as a whole will be on display—with

proper safeguards—in the Veterinary Medicine Reading Room at MSU, and both will be open to qualified scholars. The many friends of Doctor Beaudette are always welcome to drop in to see the collection whenever they may be in the vicinity.

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STRAIN DIFFERENCES OF PLEUROPNEUMONIALIKE ORGANISMS OF AVIAN ORIGIN

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PLEUROPNEUMONIALIKE organisms (PPLO) have been routinely isolated from the respiratory tract of chickens and turkeys. Since the studies of Nelson¹¹ and more recently Markham and Wong,¹⁰ there has been some question concerning the role of this group of organisms as the cause of chronic respiratory disease (CRD). Reports from the various laboratories suggest that PPLO can cause either a mild disease or that the organisms are nonpathogens.^{8,9} Serological studies^{4,11} on a number of different strains isolated from so-called air sac infection showed that the organisms were antigenically similar. The observations to be presented