

apparent that by concentrating diagnostic work in the hands of a few Mechanised Veterinary Officers it is not only possible to increase the scope and speed of the work by means of the car, but it ought to be possible to train and equip the fewer men needed in a manner worthy of the duties they have to perform. As far as post-graduate training is concerned, a step has already been made in this direction, but the key step of mechanisation has so far not been developed, and the question of supply of diagnostic apparatus has not so far as is known been thought of.

The Mechanised Veterinary Officer's diagnostic work can be divided into two classes, viz., direct, i.e., the work he can do himself in his mobile laboratory and indirect, i.e., cases where he has to send specimen for laboratory examination. It is clear, moreover, that in the cause of speedy diagnosis the direct method should be used whenever possible. Indirect diagnosis also includes specimens taken from cases diagnosed directly but which the operator desires to be sent to the laboratory for check. Direct diagnosis could probably be achieved in most of the better known infectious diseases and it might be useful to schedule these conditions and call for special reports on them. Indirect diagnosis would be needed in more obscure conditions which crop up from time to time in certain virus and poultry infections.

For direct diagnosis the first and foremost requisites would be a microscope, slides, and the more ordinary stains. With these and an ability to make satisfactory smears, it ought to be possible to recognise some of the everyday diseases. For the diagnosis of special diseases such as tuberculosis, all that will be required is a special syringe and some tuberculin; for contagious abortion and other diseases recognised by a simple agglutination test a glass plate, some antigen, a few pipettes, and so on. The packing and carriage of such articles is a simple matter and the room occupied in a car is negligible. Further, many provinces

may already have sufficient microscopes to equip the few Mechanised Veterinary Officers and the cost of this apparatus would not, therefore, be great. Certain diseases can be recognised by means of a *post-mortem* examination and a suitable *post-mortem* kit would have to be included. A minor surgical kit and castrating instruments could also be carried for the stockman's use.

For indirect diagnosis the equipment would have to be rather more specialised, but it would be little more than elaborately prepared glassware, in the designing of which the advice of an experienced research officer familiar with field technique would be required. Such glassware would have to be properly packed, returned to and re-issued from the parent laboratory whenever samples had to be transported. In passing, it may be mentioned that there is a very wide scope for the use of the thermos flask; an article far from fully appreciated by the field service.

In conclusion, during the transition period, when a policy of jobbing surgery is being altered to one of mechanised state of diagnosis and control of epidemics, it appears that a field *liaison* officer might advantageously be appointed in one or other of the more important research institutions of this country. The duties of this officer, who would require a small staff, would be (1) to advise on mechanisation, (2) to train officers in practical field diagnosis and control, (3) to keep a record of the condition of indirect diagnostic materials coming into the various departments of the institute and, arising from this, to investigate the cause and correct the defects of systems of diagnosis, (4) to develop better methods of field diagnosis, mainly with the object of substituting direct methods for indirect methods, (5) to perfect field diagnostic apparatus and (6) to tour widely in conjunction with Mechanised Veterinary Officers in first one and then another part of the country.

J. B. POLDING.

DR. R. E. M. WHEELER, M.C., D.Litt., F.S.A.

BRIGADIER MORTIMER WHEELER whom we have pleasure in welcoming as Rao Bahadur K. N. Dikshit's successor was, before he went on active service to Tunisia, the Keeper and Secretary of the London Museum, Director of the Institute of Archaeology in the University of London, and Lecturer in Archaeology in the University College, London. Earlier he was in charge of Archaeology in the National Museum of Wales, one of the most progressive among the larger museums of Great Britain. He is an outstanding member of his profession and has a wide range of experience in modern archaeological excavation, the preservation of ancient monuments and the organisation of museums. He is a Fellow of the University College, London, Member of the Ancient Monuments Board for England and Wales, and a Governor of the National Museum of Wales. Dr. Wheeler's

excavations of Bronze Age, early Iron Age, and Roman sites such as Verulamium, in England and in France are considered to be perfect examples of modern archaeological technique. India, particularly Southern India, abounds in megalithic monuments, to which class of archaeological remains Dr. Wheeler has paid special attention, and we hope that this branch of archaeology will benefit by his knowledge.

Dr. Wheeler is known to be a man of active habits with a great capacity for friendship and team work, and we have no doubt that under his guidance the museum movement in India will be better organised than it is at present, and that Indian archaeology will not only maintain the progress that it has made since the days of Sir John Marshall, but help to throw further light on the several unsolved problems connected with the story of India's past.