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Twenty-second Report

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WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION

Geneva, 30 September to 8 October 1969

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WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION

Twenty-second Report

The WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization met in Geneva from 30 September to 8 October 1969. Dr P. Dorolle, Deputy Director-General, on behalf of the Director-General, welcomed the members of the Committee. He also welcomed the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE). This was the first time that representatives of OIE had attended a meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization. A large proportion of the work of the Committee was concerned with items of veterinary interest, since the Organization now worked for the establishment of biological standards and the formulation of requirements for biological products within the sphere of interest of FAO. The collaboration of OIE was invaluable in providing expert advice and assistance in these tasks.

The Deputy Director-General observed that, as usual, the agenda contained items of varied application and interest. As he had mentioned on previous occasions, an important function of the Committee was to advise the Organization on the priorities for establishing biological standards and on the activities that would be of most use to countries in enabling them to use biological products of adequate efficacy and safety in prophylaxis and therapy. There were many countries that needed help and guidance in ensuring the necessary minimum level of quality. It was most opportune that one of the items before the Committee was the consideration of a guide to the development of laboratory facilities for the control of biological products. Since it was important to help promote the wider adoption of international standards and requirements for biological substances and their more effective application, he hoped the Committee would keep this aspect of the programme well in mind.

PHARMACOLOGICAL

ANTIBIOTICS

1. Viomycin

The Committee noted [1] the results of the limited collaborative assay, requested in its twenty-first report,[2] of the proposed second international

[1] Unpublished working document WHO/BS/69.984.

[2] *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1969, No. 413, p. 10.

reference preparation of viomycin. The Committee also noted [1] that, in accordance with the authorization given in its twenty-first report,[2] the National Institute for Medical Research, London, had established the second International Reference Preparation of Viomycin in replacement of the first international reference preparation and, on the basis of the results of the collaborative assay, had defined the International Unit for Viomycin as the activity contained in 0.0012285 mg of the International Reference Preparation of Viomycin.

2. Chlortetracycline

The Committee noted [3] that the collaborative assay of the proposed second international standard for chlortetracycline had been completed. The Committee also noted [3] that, in accordance with the authorization given in its twenty-first report,[4] the National Institute for Medical Research, London, had established the second International Standard for Chlortetracycline in replacement of the first international standard and, with the agreement of the participants, had defined the International Unit for Chlortetracycline as the activity contained in 0.001 mg of the International Standard for Chlortetracycline.

3. Methacycline

The Committee was informed that, in accordance with the authorization given in its twenty-first report,[5] the National Institute for Medical Research, London, had established the International Reference Preparation of Methacycline and, on the basis of the results of the limited collaborative assay requested in the twenty-first report,[5] had defined the International Unit for Methacycline as the activity contained in 0.001082 mg of the International Reference Preparation of Methacycline.

4. Polymyxin B

The Committee noted [6] that the collaborative assay of the proposed second international standard for polymyxin B had been completed and that, in accordance with the authorization given in its twenty-first report,[7]

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[1] Unpublished working document WHO/BS/69.984.
[2] *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1969, No. 413, p. 10.
[3] Unpublished working document WHO/BS/69.983.
[4] *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1969, No. 413, p. 11.
[5] *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1969, No. 413, p. 12.
[6] Unpublished working document WHO/BS/69.990.
[7] *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1969, No. 413, p. 13.