BCG vaccination is an already established effective control measure. In most of the countries where anti-tuberculosis work has a public health priority, this control measure has now been applied with the organization methods and techniques recommended by WHO. The possibility of raising community resistance has been clearly demonstrated. During 1957, five laboratories co-operated in a study co-ordinated by WHO to develop laboratory methods that will give reliable indices of the potency of the vaccines.

Chemotherapy and chemoprophylaxis both have highly important places in community control of tuberculosis, but, as was agreed by a WHO study group in September 1957, the role of each needs better definition through reliable information obtained in public health field research projects.

In the joint project between WHO and the Indian Council for Medical Research in Madras, no significant differences have been found between the effects of institutional and domiciliary chemotherapy. In Tunisia, a WHO/UNICEF-assisted pilot project has started work, to provide information on the prophylactic value of INH (isoniazid). Another pilot project was started in Kenya, primarily designed to develop methods for long-term community administration of drugs.

Meanwhile, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy recommended an active attitude towards the epidemiological potentials of chemotherapy and chemoprophylaxis.

ZOOONES AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Co-ordinated research, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), on several brucellosis problems (including those of diagnosis in man and animals, bacteriology of Brucella, therapy in humans, and vaccines in sheep and goats) was carried out during 1957 in preparation for the third meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Brucellosis, held in Lima.

During the year, an FAO/WHO Brucellosis Centre was designated at the Institute of Animal Health in Tokyo. The Expert Committee strongly recommended continued support by FAO and WHO of the 15 FAO/WHO Brucellosis Centres.

Co-ordinated research in rabies was undertaken with respect to continued studies recommended by the Expert Committee on Rabies concerning the effect of serum on vaccine inoculations. Surveys of bat rabies were encouraged in several countries. A small grant was made to the laboratories of the Alabama State Department of Health for research work on anti-rabies serum of human origin. A Rabies Training Course for Central and South American countries, similar to previous ones held in India in 1952 and in Kenya in 1955, was held in Caracas in late March.

The preparation of reference antisera for 18 major types of Leptospira was completed in several of the WHO/FAO Leptospirosis Reference Laboratories. In addition to the Reference Laboratories in Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, a Reference Laboratory was designated in Italy.

Because of the uncertain status of domestic animals in the epidemiology of human influenza, steps were taken early in the 1957 pandemic to have serum specimens collected from swine and horses in 25 countries before and after the human epidemic struck. These specimens were to be examined at certain WHO Influenza Centres, and it was hoped valuable information would be gained about the epidemiology of human influenza.

Also started were studies aimed at assessing the significance of the discovery of apparently specific antibodies to human poliomyelitis viruses in cattle and swine sera and of numerous viral agents being isolated from domestic animals analogous to the "oyshan" viruses in human beings. Other zoonoses dealt with during the year included anthrax, bovine tuberculosis, psittacosis, Q-fever, tick-borne encephalitis, and demartophytosis. WHO continued its collaboration with FAO on milk and meat hygiene work.

A seminar on Veterinary Public Health for European countries was held in Warsaw in late November 1957. The promotion of veterinary public health training in schools of public health was assisted in Europe and South America. The inclusion of public health subjects in undergraduate veterinary curriculums was also encouraged in these areas, as well as in the Middle East.