

1937

Kenya

No. 38317

SUBJECT: C0533/486

Veterinary Dept Staff

Previous

3300/33

Subsequent

S. F. I. Meat Inspector

1938

VETERINARY.

[Handwritten initials]

- 2. GOV. KENYA.....336.....26.6.37. Proposes to create one additional post of Vet. Research Officer and gives reasons therefor enclosing form of particulars of the vacant office, and suggesting that Mr. Hudson might be asked to assist in selection.

The recommendation is not very clear in so far as it concerns Dr. Anderson whose substantive post is that of Veterinary Officer. He was specially selected in 1934 for research work at the Naivasha Stock Farm and his salary has been provided from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund. The work is to continue for another three years.

See 23157/34

I think this is clear. J.P.P.

It appears that the Governor wishes Dr. Anderson to be permanently transferred ^{from the field staff} to the research staff. So that the research staff ^(would) will be Mr. Hudson, Mr. Danks, Mr. Fotheringham and Dr. Anderson. But a fifth Veterinary Research Officer is required in the new organization of the Veterinary Department, and two posts of Laboratory Assistant will not be required.

I do not think that it is proposed to move Dr. Anderson from Naivasha but we might enquire on this point, and if Sir F. Stockdale agrees ? a V.F. may be prepared for the additional post of Veterinary Research Officer.

C.A. Ross with

7/7/37.

J.P.P. 7-7.

I agree with the proposal, although it may be difficult to find the additional research officer required. This should be easier, as it is Kenya, than the finding of an ordinary veterinary officer. The Kenya Vet. Research work has a reputation in the profession.

In making the enquiry about Mr. Anderson, it might be put in the form that it is assumed that this officer will continue his work at Rawaraha but that in some cases it be assumed as this point.

In considering possibilities for the new post in Kenya the name of Mr. Hutson in the Leewards Islands should not be overlooked & might be discussed by Promotions with Mr. Anderson & Research Officer in Kenya. It is possible that he may be objected to because of his Canadian degree and because he is not a M.R.C.V.S., but he has done well in Antigua & is worthy of consideration for promotion.

He also might be able to fill the Antigua post by another Canadian but produce those papers as with appls.

The fact that we have agreed to reciprocity in regard to vet. qualifications with the Dominions should not be overlooked.

J.A. Kirkdale

8/7

will consider Mr. Hutson when we get the V.F.

J. (16)

9.7

As proposed: E.C. approve, ask about Mr. Anderson & say we will try to get a S.D.O. from fifth Research man but it may be hard.

A.P. did not advise re: inclusion of the vet. staff.

3 To Kenya 551 - (2 ansd) — 17/7/57

3A

see V.F. attached with Proms, file of L.R. Hutson who is mentioned in previous minutes

SONA aoman

9.7.57

In No. 2 the Governor asked that Mr. J.R. Hudson might be consulted in this selection and in No. 3, which went by the last mail, we said that this would be done, but it appears from his Personal File that he must have gone back to Kenya some few weeks ago.

Mr. L.R. Hutson of the Leewards, who has been mentioned by Sir F. Stockdale, is the only Promotions candidate to be put forward for this. He is a Barbadian but of European extraction, and has a European wife. According to the submission (copy on his Promotions file) he had nearly two years post-graduate experience at McGill in pathological and veterinary work, and was thoroughly recommended by the authorities of that institution. He has done well in the Leewards and the only possible objection that I can see to his selection for this appointment is that his qualifications are Canadian and not from the United Kingdom. Unless it is thought advisable to consult the Governor ^{about} this - and in this connection the fact that we have agreed with the Dominions to reciprocity in regard to veterinary qualifications should be borne in mind - I think the offer might be made straightaway to Mr. Hutson and that in view of his service of nearly four years he might be started at £550 per annum in the Kenya scale.

* which will justify the salary proposed below

7958/36 Egenel

See Sir F. Stockdale's minute opposite 31/2

J.A. Kirkdale

P.T.O.

Mr. Hutson is a member
of the Colonial Veterinary
Service, and eligible for
appointment to any
scheduled post. I see
no reason, therefore, to
pursue the question of his
academic qualifications
? Offer him the
appt. at £550

J. Jeffries
24.7.37

W. Beckett
20/7/37

W. O. Kent
27.

S. J. J.
27.7.37

When Capt. C.A. Bevan was
acting as ^{as a Veterinary Officer} ~~acting as a~~ ^{about 20}
years ago (also I think with a
Canadian qualification) we
found that there was a legal
bar, and a special post had to
be created.

I cannot find any Ord.
relating to Veterinary practitioners
in the Ind. & the Colonies, the
position may have changed.

4
Or what bar there is may not
apply to Vet. Research Officers.

But I think the point should
be cleared up

Subject at, I agree.

W.O.B.

27.7.37

since

I can find no legal bar as to qualifications
affecting veterinary surgeons or research
officers in Kenya: nor can I find any legal
bar. The only definition I can trace is
in No 2 of the Rules made under
Diseases of Animals Ord'ce (Cap 157)

"The term Veterinary Surgeon means
a Fellow or member of the Royal College
of Veterinary Surgeons as defined by
the V.S. Act of 1881, §2, or any
person possessing a veterinary
qualification recognised by such
College as equal to its own."

As the R.C.V.S. does not recognise
any qualification as equal to
its own (see 7A in Gen 7958/35)
Mr. Hutson, ^{if appointed} would appear to be
disqualified from functioning
under these Rules.

? But as he is to be a Vet. Research
Officer, the point does not seem
important.

By §26 (7) of the Drugs & Poisons Ord'ce

"qualified veterinary surgeons"
are exempted from certain
restrictions; for this exemption Mr. Hutson
who appears to be eligible.

? Mr. Hutson may now have
his offer.

Thompson will
29.7.

Kenya's habit of not replying to Dep. has not made it any easier to get to the bottom of this. On p. 4 of the memo. at 7A on 7958/35 Gen. it was said that, in reply to the circ. of 15/30, Kenya had promised to make provision for the recognition of Dominion ^{veterinary} special qualifications.

This seems to have been a mistake, as I have looked through all the files & registers from 70556/30 to 7958/35, & cannot find any reply from Kenya to that circ. In the course of this search, however, I came across No. 4 in 12082/33 in wh. Kenya was asked to amend the rule under the Diseases of Animals Act, mentioned by Mr. Redington underleaf. They do not reply to that Dep., but after a search through all the amending rules, Mr. Thompson has found a 1934 amendment, wh. adds to the definition of "veterinary surgeon":

"(c) any person possessing a veterinary qualification recognized by the Gov-in-Council".

p. 136 of vol. R.W.

This is I think good enough. ^{Conceded}
So far as the Drugs & Poisons Dept. is concerned, it does not seem to be specified what a "qualified veterinary surgeon" is; but clearly, ~~the amendment of the Diseases of Animals Rules, they will have no objection to doing whatever might be necessary under the Drugs & Poisons Act.~~

I think therefore that we can go ahead; but, in order to avoid any hitch, it will be as well, when informing Kenya of this selection, to say that, in the S. G. P.'s view, Mr. Hutson's qualification is one wh. may properly be recognized by the Gov-in-Council under the Rule mentioned.

Note made on
of Hutson to this
effect.

J. J. Pascoe
30/7

Yes. Kenya can be told to recognize him under the 1934 rule (Rule of 26 Jan 1934) if that is necessary.
The Dept.

J. E. O. Hunt
307 above

4650/1934
No. 4
Amendment.

There is just one point here. In his despatch of the 17th Oct. the Gov. of Kenya gave us a list of the posts to which he proposes that the new standard Veterinary scales should apply. This list included in the last group of the "Veterinary" five scales the post of Veterinary Officer - but not the post of Veterinary Research Officer. Both posts are however on the same scale at present & I think it is clear that for both should

to on the same scale as under the new
scheme and that that scale should be the lower
grade of the ordinary time scale. We are
proposing this in a draft which is now under
consideration in draft, but I am

The old scale was £600 - 30 - £700. The
new scale is £500, £550, £550, £550, £600, £600, £650.
I think that this latter scale can be easily offered
in this case without further consultation with the Gov.

A. P. H. 1/8

Mr L. R. Hutson (Hinds) offered
vacancy for Veterinary Research Officer
see Mr. H. M. S. C. 1/11/37.

- declined.

Mr D. Slavin apptd Vet Research Officer.

GOV. KENYA.....380.....19.7.37.
Trs. certain recommendations with regard to salaries and
personnel for senior posts of Veterinary Dept.

5
GOV'S DEPUTY.....437.....6.8.37.
Gives assurance that Dr. J. Anderson will continue his
work at the Naivasha Livestock Research Station.

UNDER STATUTE

Mr. Acheson

The Gov. proposes now that the way is clear by
the retirement of Mr. Brassey Edwards

- 1) To appoint Mr. Dumbrey Director of Veterinary
Services. This has been agreed to all over the
place.
- 2) To have two Deputy Directors - one field work one
laboratory work.

He proposes to give the Director £1200 a year & the Deputies
£1000 a year each.

These proposals seem satisfactory though they are
not in accordance with Sir A. Pin who did not advise
the two Deputies. But they are clearly necessary if the
Dept. is to work soundly & we may say so in remarking
that it isn't quite Pin.

The proposal to reduce the Director of Agriculture to
£1,450 will come up later. We need only refer to it.

As to the personnel I think they select themselves.
The whole idea was to get Mr. Dumbrey in control. Mr.
Mulligan is first rate on the field work & Mr. Anderson has
glowing reports on research.

If you agree please pass to D. Temporary & Mr. Lloyd
in case they have shown re the personnel.

J. S. O. H. 1/8

I agree autosalami.
A. P. H. 1/8

Lagos

H. J. Cunningham
L. 4. 37

The only question is whether
Dr Carmichael of Uganda
ought not to be considered
for the research post for
which Mr Hudson is
recommended. Dr Carmichael
is senior in the Colonial
Veterinary Service to Mr
Hudson, has ^{equally} ~~excellent~~
good reports, & has applied
& been recommended for
the post. I find it
difficult to resist the
conclusion that Dr
Carmichael really ought
to be selected, though
this would be hard luck
for Mr Hudson.

J. Jeffries
7. 7. 37.

6. Yours. dep. 504 60/2 2. 9. 37. 7
Indicates probable scope of operations of the
Dept. & any changes in establishment of higher
grade staff which may be expected during next
five years.

We must first of all get 4 & 5 out of the way.
(5) needs no action but (4) does.

The appt. of Mr Denton as Chief Veterinary Officer
is a foregone conclusion.

I think the idea of the two Deputies is sound.
Mr Mulligan selects himself for the field one. He is the
obvious man.

The salaries £1,200 for the C.V.O. & £1,000 for the
Deputies seem about right.

The only difficulty is over the ^{Deputy} Director for Research
because Dr Carmichael of Uganda is a possibility. He is
3 years older than Mr Hudson & was appointed first in 1923 in
Uganda as against Mr Hudson's 1926 in Kenya. He asked to be
considered for such posts in Kenya. His ability is not in
doubt - nor is Mr Hudson's.

But it wouldn't be worth his while. He gets
£840 in Uganda plus £100 (non-pensionable) as Educational
officer (£940 in all) and it would not pay him to go up
to Nairobi for £1,000 even though that is pensionable.
He will almost certainly soon be raised to £920 in
Uganda.

That being so I am disposed to let Kenya consume
its own smoke & appoint Mr Hudson (who is on £840)
explaining to Dr Carmichael if thought fit.

Now as regards vacancies. If these proposals are
approved, there will be a vacancy for a Veterinary
officer ~~under Mr Mulligan~~ The other vacancy ~~which~~
has been filled by Mr Hudson, or Mr Mulligan
there will be no vacancy vice Mr Mulligan has

his post is to be abolished. They asked for one Veterinary
Officer in January & we doubted its necessity in view of
economy. (No 2 on 38067/37). Then they asked for him
by telegram & Mr Mac Owen has been selected.

The second vacancy is vice D^r Anderson but
para 2 of No 2 on this file says his transfer to
Research will not make a vacancy. They will
however be one short of the eleven on the books.
We must ask about this.

Then in the Research work they have got four
Vet. Research Officers plus one extra (No 3 on this
file) If Mr Hudson is promoted there will be two
vacancies. One of these may be filled by Mr Hutton
from the Leewards, if he accepts. That leaves one. Then
they want a temporary one for pleuro-pneumonia work.

At present there aren't any so we can
say so and ask about the point of the vacancy vice
D^r Anderson, and say we'll try to get men.

But first of all.

? Approve the proposals in No 4. and say
a separate dep. will follow on this.

J.S.W. How 8.9.

D^r Carmichael would no
doubt feel that it was for him
to judge whether or not it would
be worth his while to accept
the Kenya post.

There is so little in it
that I can't press him
against Mr Hudson, but if

I agree
why

This is being done
on 17.9.37
J.S.W.
12.10.37

Mr Hudson is selected I think
that something more than the
usual "other arrangements made"
should be said to D^r Carmichael.

C.F. J. J. J.
10.9.37

Secretary of State

Apologies for the fact that
Mr. Darbury's promotion to C.P.O.
needs higher approval than mine
I think you will wish to see Sir R.
Kwode. Potkin's instructions for
the Veterinary Dept.

On the question of Mr Hudson
or D^r Carmichael, I annex
a copy of a letter which I have
had from Sir P. Mitchell
suggesting D^r Carmichael as
Principal of the new Hochschule. There
will of course be many others to
choose from, but it is unusual
reason for not looking him to
Kenya.

? Approve as per A's report.

C.F. J. J. J.
11.9.37

W.S. 14.9.37

W.S. 15

To. CA.

7.10.37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

No. Kenya 872 - 4 Annul - 7 OCT 1937

M^r. R. R. Nelson has declined the offer of appt. of Veterinary Research Officer Kenya (See No. 18 on 50610 CR)

Promotions Branch have no other candidates to put forward for this post.

Remit V.H. (No 3A) to Apprs Dept.

Shugold

1 check E.A.D. - Impaired 4.20.37

12/10/37

27/10/37

Taken 9.10.37
27066/8/37
Apprs.

RR 13/10

CA Debt: We don't want this at the moment. The orig. of file is regd on an abt file & goes regarding future arrangements for vet recruitment generally (i.e. not only in Kenya) will of course be pursued on that file. So any further action in regard to the Kenya Debt. can now be proceed with. (uly 18) X/37

9 No. Kenya 958. 6 Annul - 3 NOV 1937

To. CA.

15. 11. 37.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

No. Kenya 1106

1 DEC 1937

12 No. Kenya 1067

16 DEC 1937 (Regd on 27066/8/37)

13. Gov. Kenya 715 25. 11. 37

(9 Annul) Request steps be taken to appoint Vet. Officer vice B. J. Anderson as appropriate financial position has been made in draft Estimates for 1938.

14. Note regarding Establishment of Kenya Veterinary Dept

No 14.

M: Jeffries.

Sir F. Stoddard spoke to me about this just before his departure for Malaya, but the pp. were not then available. I understood however that he was not contemplating making representations to Kenya - isolation, but that you were proposing to review the post in regard to Colonial Veterinary Service as a whole, & that any representations to Kenya (at 2 other places) ~~was~~ ^{was} be considered in light of your review.

Remit to E.A. Dept for No 13.

J.J. Panni 13/10

We have completed our review, and I shall be pleased to discuss at any time. There is no doubt that Kenya is the black spot of the C.V.S.

C.J. Jeffries 13/11.37

v.f. placed on
Abils 27066/38
(No. 7)

Jan. 18/238

~~Dr. J. G. G. G. G. G.~~
Mr. J. G. G. G. G.
app'd Vet Office

see p/5588: 10

No. 13

V.F. submitted.

Claryville 1942

Mr. Jeffries

as Mr. Daubney ^{has now arrived} ~~is~~ ^{absolutely} ~~necessary~~ on leave, it will probably be best to ~~discuss~~ ^{discuss} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~question~~ ^{question} of the ~~of~~ ^{of} increasing the higher grade establishment of the ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Kenya~~ ^{Kenya} Veterinary Dept. ~~with~~ ^{with} the ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~address~~ ^{address} of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Kenya~~ ^{Kenya} Veterinary ~~Dept.~~ ^{Dept.} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Kenya~~ ^{Kenya} ~~Hotel~~ ^{Hotel} ~~Road~~ ^{Road}, Southampton.

If you agree, a note should be made on Mr. Daubney's P.O. for this paper to be brought up on his arrival.

J. J. G. G.
22/3

Perhaps Mr. Edwards will arrange for a discussion. I ~~should~~ ^{should} be linked up with the action on the Nigeria officers' letter to the Veterinary Record.

C. J. Jeffries
22/3/38

Mr. Parkin & I had a talk with Mr. Daubney today. Apart from the difficulty of filling vacancies, he is faced with the prospect of a series of resignations, beginning with that of Mr. McClure (31058/EA). These are due mainly to dissatisfaction with the opportunities of promotion.

(v. No 15)

The question of what measures can be taken to restore the flow of recruitment for the C.V.S. generally is being considered a Personnel App with Sir F. Stockdale. Meanwhile, both as a contribution to general 'appeasement' and as a means of preventing the disintegration of its own Veterinary Dept., it seems essential that Kenya should proceed without delay to fix a reasonable establishment of J.V.O. posts on the £880 to £1000 scale, and

allow some of the Veterinary
Officers who are now stuck
at £840 to go on
to these posts with reasonable
conversion terms. [I am not
sure that the general conversion
scheme will quite fit this
special case].

I am inclined to
think that a despatch might
be sent to Kenya on this
file referring to the general
difficulties which are under
consideration & requesting that
this question of the higher
grade may be taken up
urgently.

C. J. Jeffries
4. 5. 38

I agree with the action proposed by
Mr. Jeffries above. The two Deputy posts in
Kenya should be above the time scale & there
should be at least three, if not four,
of the time scale posts in the higher
grade - with the salary scale £850-1000

The whole question of salaries in the C. V. S. will
have to be considered afresh as it is now
impossible to recruit candidates at the salary
scales offered. I propose to discuss this with
Mr. Jeffries sometime next week

J. A. Whitdale
5/5

J. J. Pascoe
6/5

at meeting

Accepted on — 1/88

W. Whitmore

24/5/38

1311 (6/5)
2 of No. 310.0

Copy.

orig. on 31058 EA.

of T.B. McBlane
8, Church Road,

Tunbridge Wells.

19th April, 1938.

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Sir,

I wish to resign from the Colonial Service as
Veterinary Officer, Kenya Colony for the following
reasons:-

1. Ninety-five per cent of the work performed by
Veterinary Officers in Native Reserves could be done by
Stock Inspectors - in fact in my own case during my last
tour I took over from a Stock Inspector and handed over
the district to the same unqualified man who is at
present in charge of the Samburu Reserve.
2. Whilst I was in charge of the Samburu Reserve
there was not a sufficient amount of work to keep me
usefully employed in as much as I had only two days work
per week wherein I could satisfy my conscience that I
had earned my salary during those days.
3. The Government transport provided by the
Department was in such a poor state of repair that if
one fell ill during a long safari the chance of coming
out alive was a possibility rather than a probability.
4. I came to the conclusion during the latter part of
my last tour that the more inefficient you were the
greater were your chances of a busy and healthy station,
in that the "duds" had to be near Head quarters for
supervision

supervision and guidance, whilst the officers who could be relied upon to run their districts were buried alive in such places as the Samburu Reserve.

It was mooted by the Director of Veterinary Services that I should return to the Samburu Reserve for my next tour of three years and I assure you, Sir, I would infinitely prefer to work at home for nothing than contemplate returning to such a district and work.

5. I have no axe to grind in giving the above views of veterinary work in Kenya Colony and have no grudge against anyone in the department and can only say in conclusion that to ask qualified professional veterinary surgeons to perform the work as detailed to be done in Kenya Colony is demoralizing and retrograding to any conscientious man.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Sgd.) F.B. McClure.

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orig. on 31058 EA.

Mf. of T.B. McBlane
8, Church Road,

Tunbridge Wells.

19th April, 1938.

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

400 383171-7

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19th April, 1938.

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

for 38317/2

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Veterinary Officers in Native Reserves could be done by
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I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Sgd.) T.B. McClure.

4

↙

14

NOTE regarding the establishment of the Kenya
Veterinary Department.

In a despatch to Kenya dated the 15th September (46507/2/37 No.19), on the subject of salary revision, the Secretary of State included in a schedule of posts to which the new scales of salary would be applied the post of Senior Veterinary Officer in Kenya, which it was proposed to allocate to the higher grade of the new veterinary time scale, viz £880-£1,000. In reply the Governor of Kenya telegraphed (No.27 on the same file) that the post of Senior Veterinary Officer should be deleted from the schedule, as it has been abolished, and he referred to the Secretary of State's despatch No.872 of the 7th October - No.8 on 38317/37.

On this Sir F. Stockdale minuted as follows-

"I would like to have the opportunity of discussing the Kenya veterinary service with you. There is great difficulty in obtaining veterinary officers and I feel very strongly that there should be a few of the veterinary posts in Kenya in the "higher grade" of the long time scale. The two Deputy posts will not suffice and there is sure to be dissatisfaction if stagnation is to be the general rule in the Kenya service. Kenya must have a good and satisfied vet. service and the state of affairs in that Department has a great influence on the recruiting position".

It has been agreed with Mr. Paskin that this question should be pursued on the Kenya Veterinary staff papers.

Approved
5/11/12

PRESENT STAFF

after reorganisation

Director of Vety Services

£ 1,200

Two Deputy Directors (Field Senior) and (Laboratory Senior)

£ 1,000

Eleven Vety Officers and

~~Six~~ Vety Research Officers (one temporary)

£ 600 x 30 - 720 x 30 - 870

(New scale)

£ 500, £ 500, £ 550 - £ 225 - £ 600 - £ 120
- £ 840.

PREVIOUS

Chief Vety Officer

£ 1,200

Chief Vety Research Officer

£ 1,100

Assistant Chief Vety Research Officer

£ 1,000

Two Senior Vety Officers

£ 720 x 30 - 870

Eleven Vety Officers and

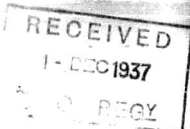
Four Vety Research Officers

£ 600 x 30 - 720 x 30 - 870

KENYA.
No. 715



13
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.



25 November, 1937.

Sir,

9
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 953 of the 3rd November on the subject of the staff of the Veterinary Department in this Colony.

2. With regard to the point raised in the second paragraph of your despatch, I shall be glad if steps may now be taken to fill the vacancy of Veterinary Officer vice Dr. J. Anderson, transferred to the post of Veterinary Research Officer, appropriate financial provision having been made in the draft Estimates for 1938.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

B. Brooke-Polham

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL,

G O V E R N O R .

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
W. CRMSBY-GORE, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON S.W.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL (7)

17
12
Downing Street,

16. December, 1957.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No. 1106 of the 16th of December on the subject of vacancies for Veterinary Research Officers, and to inform you that the candidate mentioned in my despatch of the 11th of September Mr. D.E. Balcombe Brown, B.A., B.M., B.Ch., (Oxon), B.Sc. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.V.S., has now returned to the United Kingdom, but is taking the Diploma in Bacteriology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at his own expense and will not therefore be available for an appointment until July. Mr. Balcombe Brown was awarded a Colonial Veterinary Scholarship in 1951 and was allowed, at his own request, to work for medical qualifications also. Unfortunately the strain of the protracted study which this involved appeared at one time to have brought him to the verge of a nervous breakdown, but I understand that he has now recovered his health as a result of a recuperative trip to his home in New Zealand. In the event, however, of his being selected for an appointment in the Colonial Veterinary Service the Consulting Physician would be informed of this past history and would be invited to give special attention to the condition of his nerves.

2. The authorities at the London School think very highly of Mr. Balcombe Brown's ability and capacity for research and I shall be grateful if you will inform me whether you will have any objection to one of the three

vacancies

vacancies in question being reserved for him if, by the end of January, three equally suitable candidates whose services would be available earlier have not been found.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant.

(Signed) W. CHAMBERLAIN