REPORT OF THE LEPTOSPIRA SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT STOCKHOLM ON AUGUST 8, 1958

Those present were:

Prof. J.W. Wolff (Chairman)
Dr. J.C. Broom (Secretary)
Mrs. M. Gordon Ball
Dr. C. Borg-Petersen
Prof. J. van der Hoeden
Prof. K.F. Meyer
Prof. J. van Riel
Prof. R.D. Stuart
Prof. P.H. van Thiel
Dr. E. Wiesmann
Dr. I.M. Mackerras (as alternate for Dr. E.H. Derrick)
Dr. J.H. Steele (as alternate for Mrs. M.M. Galton)
Dr. E.A. Eichhorn (Observer from F.A.O.)
Dr. M.M. Kaplan (Observer from W.H.O.)

The following members had either resigned or had failed to express willingness to continue to serve on the Subcommittee:

Prof. A. Bessemans	Dr. J. Muniz
Dr. A. Gordon Davis	Dr. E. Savino
Dr. V.O. Guida	Prof. H. Schlossberger

Prof. P. H. van Thiel suggested that the spirochaetes should be regarded as a "group of transition" on the borderline between protozoa and bacteria; however, related more closely to the former. He appreciated that practical considerations make it desirable that spirochaetes be included with the bacteria for the reason that zoological differentiation depends on morphology. There are no morphological differences which could be used to subdivide the genus Leptospira, and this would seem to apply also to Treponema if not to Borrelia. Dr. I. M. Mackerras pointed out that if the genus Leptospira Noguchi 1917 were transferred to the protozoa, the generic name would have to be changed because Leptospira was used by Swanson in 1840 as the name of a genus of molluscs, hence Leptospira Noguchi 1917 would no longer be available. It was agreed that since the entire

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Order Spirochaetales was involved, the subject could only be discussed satisfactorily in collaboration with those interested in other genera.

Agreement was reached on the following points:

1. To recommend retaining the present 10% limit as the criterion for differentiating serotypes by reciprocal agglutinin-absorption tests,
2. To postpone defining "serogroup" more rigidly,
3. To discontinue the use of "complete," "incomplete," and capital letters in the designation of serotypes and subserotypes,
4. Not to Latinize the names of all serotypes,
5. That biochemical differences required further study before their value in taxonomy could be assessed,
6. That a list of serotypes, of which the serological characteristics had been fully published, should be prepared and kept up to date,
7. That further studies were required before an opinion could be expressed on the value of complement-fixation and haemolytic tests, and also on the possibility of a numerical method for designating antigenic fractions,
8. That an international study of the global occurrence of various serotypes in wild and in domestic animals would be of value.

At the request of the Permanent Secretary of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, the Chairman and Secretary of the Subcommittee proposed that the large membership of the Subcommittee be reorganized as follows: 10 members, 2 officers (Chairman and Secretary) and a further, unrestricted number of Associate Members who would be available for consultation and, by virtue of their wide distribution, would be an advantage in the field of leptospirosis. This proposal was accepted unanimously.

J. W. Wolff,
Chairman

J. C. Broom,
Secretary