

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Poultry processing

A consumer expects poultry on sale in shops and supermarkets to be of high quality, safe to eat and, increasingly nowadays, to have been humanely produced. These criteria can only be met if the birds are well treated when alive and their carcasses hygienically processed after they are dead. The responsibility for the birds' welfare while growing lies mainly in the hands of the farmer; once they have left the farm it largely falls upon the poultry processing industry.

A two-day workshop, held in October 1991 at the Department of Meat Animal Science, University of Bristol, brought together a group of experts from England and mainland Europe to discuss the welfare, hygiene and quality aspects of the pre-slaughter handling and processing of poultry. The meeting revolved round a core of fifteen review style papers which have now been issued in an unpaginated clip-bound proceedings volume of some 90, A4 sides. Four of the papers have important animal welfare implications as they deal with the catching, transport, pre-slaughter handling, stunning and sticking of birds.

All the contributions are by authorities in their own particular fields and the whole publication is a most useful collection of relevant and up-to-date information. The Department of Meat Animal Science is to be congratulated on publishing the core material of the workshop - although in a somewhat costly form - and thus making much unique and new material readily available to a wide readership.

Welfare, Hygiene and Quality Aspects of Poultry Processing. Proceedings of a two-day workshop organized by the Meat Technology Service in conjunction with the Department of Trade and Industry. 16-17 October 1991. c 90 pp. Obtainable from Department of Meat Animal Science, University of Bristol, Langford, Bristol BS18 7DY. Price £40 post free within UK; £25 to Meat Technology Service members.

Review of scientific activities

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), founded in 1824, has recently reorganized its staffing and developed its scientific and technical departments to help pursue its objectives in a changing world. A new Science Division, headed by Dr Tony Suckling, incorporating the Farm Animals, Research Animals and Wildlife Departments, has been created to work alongside the Veterinary Department.

The *RSPCA Science Review 1991* highlights the activities of these scientific departments for the year. This is a welcome new departure: previously there have been few published overviews reporting the wide diversity of the RSPCA's scientific and technical work and its importance for animal welfare in general.

RSPCA Science Review 1991. A review of the RSPCA's scientific activities by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (1992). RSPCA: Horsham. 12 pp. Obtainable from the publishers, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG, UK. Free on receipt of an A4 sae.