Dear Doctor Hammon:

In this summer many troubles occurred to perform Jap B studies. As you know, I had no special fund to carry on it but I was free to study any virus and rickettsial diseases. Fortunately Lt. Col. Tigertt made possible the work what I wanted in the field work. I don’t know what Dr. Ando did in this season. I am deeply grateful to report you my results obtained up to date.

In this year there were surely encephalitis cases among human beings but few most both in Kochi and Kagawa prefectures, Shikoku Island according to official report. On the other hand a relative large epidemic among horses appeared throughout the country. More than thousand horses suffered from encephalitis and about a half of them died or were killed. The epidemic among horses first appeared in the beginning of July and has almost gone at the end of Oct. 1947. And Japanese Veterinary Surgeon diagnosed it as a sunstroke or parasite (Setaria equi) in brain in the beginning of epidemic. Some Veterinary surgeons diagnosed as a Borna disease or as an equineencephalomyelitis western type according to the late Dr. Emoto in 1935, at the end of August 1947, because the sick horse came out one after another in the similar cerebral symptom.

We were able to isolate two strains from the brains of the sick horse. The isolation of virus from mosquitoes collected in nature in April, May, June, July August Sept 1947 in Tokyo area is still negative. One strain was isolated from blood of the bird in Tokyo Zoo. In the last autumn we found that some migrate birds showed a virasmia 4-5 days long after intraperitoneal injection with the infected mouse brain emulsion. There would be a possibility for some migrate birds to carry a virus from endemic area to non-endemic area.

The histological section of the ill horse brain showed an encephalitis findings, glia nodule, perivascular infiltrate and so on. Sera from the encephalitis case, the ill horse and the so-called normal horse in infected area showed positive complement fixation test against Jap B.E. virus but not against normal mouse brain, St. Louis Encephalitis virus, Equine Encephalomyelitis eastern and western types viruses, West Nile strain virus and Russian Spring Summer Encephalitis east and west types viruses. I have never seen a positive complement fixation test with sera from normal persons in infected area. The same results were obtained by Major Burns and Dr. Matumoto, the 406 Med.Gen.Lab. Dr. Kobayashi and Dr. Ando have still a contrary opinion against our mosquito theory. In 1935 the late Dr. Kii had not the good co-workers in the encephalitis study and proposed to cooperate with me. And a virus which was immunologically not different from the virus of human case was isolated by me. He was surprised and did not believe my results. He had
no courage to publish it. In the next year a large epidemic appeared among horses again. He tried to isolate a causative agent from the ill horse with his own assistants and go the same result to me. However the Japanese Veterinary surgeon does not still agree with our opinion that the horse encephalitis is caused by the same virus to the human being. I am glad to hear that Col. Dixon said that the Japanese horse encephalitis virus is the similar to the human encephalitis virus and that Spray DDT is necessary. I hope that the Japanese Veterinary Surgeon changes his mind to control the horse encephalitis by the vaccination and the spray DDT in the next year.

The studies on both the trans-ovary infection of mosquito and the reservoir for J.B.E. virus were undertaken in this summer and are still in progress.

Now we are planning the study on polio in the next year even if it might be impossible to get the monkey in Japan. We are doing the neutralization test with Sera from the Japanese child and adult and the mode of transmission by the fly and the mosquito by the use of "Lansing" strain.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

With kindest personal regards and best wishes,

Yours truly,

/As/

Dr. Masami Kitaoka
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