
PREFACE

The rapid adoption of intensive poultry keeping methods has given rise to many disease problems in developing countries. For presumptive diagnosis and emergency treatment of these diseases, developing countries generally have to depend on sub-professional staff. Experience has shown that the lack of easily understandable technical literature is a major constraint in field diagnosis and the development of the poultry industry.

It is hoped that this handbook will prove useful to field staff and poultry farmers in need of concise and readily accessible information on some common poultry diseases. To help on-the-spot preliminary diagnosis and early treatment, particular emphasis has been placed on clinical signs and post-mortem observations. For confirmatory diagnosis and control of disease, appropriate veterinary assistance, including the submission of proper specimens to a diagnostic laboratory are usually necessary. To assist field staff and poultry farmers in doing this, guidance has been provided on specimens required for diagnosis, as there is no clear information on the subject in published literature.

In writing this handbook every effort has been made to ensure that the language is simple and within the understanding of field staff and poultry farmers as judged by readership tests conducted in Zambian colleges. However, the use of some scientific terminology is unavoidable. It is not intended as a substitute for standard comprehensive textbooks and other published literature on avian diseases and a bibliography has been included for those desirous of further reading.

This handbook has been prepared by Dr. R.N. Sharma, CFTC Poultry Pathologist assigned to the Government of Zambia, and published by the Food Production and Rural Development Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.