

## Editorial

**I**T is recommended that all those interested in the welfare of the poultry industry should read with care the review articles on the control of Marek's disease published in this issue of the journal. It was recognised in the early years of the century that disease was one



Professor Marek

of the limiting factors in the expansion and prosperity of poultry production throughout the world (e.g. the devastation caused by pullorum disease in the 1930s) and for many years it has been known that Marek's disease is one of the major causes of loss.

We are fortunate that these excellent review articles have been contributed by two of the leading workers in the field of avian tumour viruses. That the causal agent of Marek's disease is a herpesvirus was established almost simultaneously in 1967 by Biggs and his co-workers at the Houghton Poultry Research Station and by

Burmester and his colleagues at the Regional Poultry Research Laboratory East Lansing, USA.

In 1969 it was shown at Houghton that a chicken strain of the herpesvirus when attenuated by serial passage through chick kidney cells produced an efficient vaccine. In field trials and subsequent commercial use this vaccine gave protection almost beyond expectation, but it presented certain problems in commercial production and distribution.

In 1970 the East Lansing workers showed that a herpesvirus originating from turkeys offered equally good protection when used as a vaccine and Purchase was largely responsible for the associated field trials.

It is fitting that both workers, Biggs with his co-worker Payne in 1964 and Purchase with his co-worker Okazaki in 1972, have received the Tom Newman International Award for work in the Marek's disease field. The close contact maintained between the two institutes mentioned, including the exchange of workers, programmes and prepublication results, has been most fruitful and an outstanding example of scientific collaboration at its best. Much, however, remains to be elucidated with regard to the epizootiology, immunology and genetics of the disease in order to achieve a better understanding of control by husbandry or breeding measures.—R.F.G.

---

## **PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Arrangements have been made for Miss M. C. French to act as Production Manager for the time being. Miss French is the Administrative Secretary of the U.K. Branch of the Association; she was a colleague of the late Dr. W. P. Blount (Past Vice-President of the W.P.S.A.) for over 20 years and has been a member of the W.P.S.A. over that period.

Material for the Production Manager should now be sent to Miss M. C. French, B.O.C.M. Silcock Ltd., Poultry Development Farm, Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville, AYLESBURY, Bucks, England. Papers submitted for publication should, as before, be sent to the Editor at Houghton Poultry Research Station, Houghton, Huntingdon, England.