International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology
Subcommittee on Enteric Phage Typing
(International Federation of Enteric Phage Typing)

Minutes of the Meeting, 9 September 1986, Manchester, England

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chairman, E. S. Anderson, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Members present were: E. S. Anderson (Chairman, London), J. Casal (Spain), J. J. Farmer III (U.S.A.), F. Hickman-Brenner (U.S.A.), R. Khakhira (Canada), C. Martin-Bourgon (Spain), A. Nakamura (Japan), J. Papavassiliou (Greece), M. M. Peel (Australia for J. Taplin), W. Thiel (Austria), M. A. Usera (Spain), N. van Leeuwen (The Netherlands), V. Vaz Pato (Portugal), L. R. Ward (London), and R. Wollin (Sweden).

Minute 3. Apologies were received from J. F. Vieu (retiring secretary).

Minute 4. Resignations. The Chairman stated that J. F. Vieu had resigned as secretary for family reasons and that L. Ward had been elected secretary at the closed meeting of the Executive Council on 6 September 1986.

E. S. Anderson wished to resign as Chairman as he had been a member of the International Federation of Enteric Phage Typing (IFEPT) since 1954 and its Chairman since 1962. He was prepared to act as Chairman until the end of the Congress.

Minute 5. The Chairman reported with sadness that Pierre Nicolle had died in 1984 at the age of 86 years. He was the son of Charles Nicolle, the Nobel Prize winner, who had founded the Institut Pasteur, Tunis. Pierre Nicolle had made a great contribution to phage typing and had been secretary of the Federation for many years and Honorary Secretary until his death. He had worked for years after his retirement, and his research interests had included cholera and plague.

Minute 6. The reports for the last four years, 1982 to 1985, were presented. The report on the geographical distribution of Salmonella typhi and Salmonella paratyphi A and B for 1982 to 1985 had been compiled by the secretary (J. F. Vieu) and was composed of reports from 43 members of IFEPT and included 47 countries. Over 31,000 strains of S. typhi had been examined during the 4-year period. Almost 4,000 strains of S. paratyphi B and 718 strains of S. paratyphi A were included.

A supplement giving the distribution of 1,122 drug-resistant strains of S. typhi in 12 countries for the years 1982 to 1985 was included. Of particular interest were the strains from India, where 880 resistant strains had been isolated. In addition, there was a supplement for the 1982 IFEPT report giving the distribution of drug-resistant S. typhi strains for the years 1974 to 1981.

It was decided to continue producing the drug resistance supplements.

Minute 7. The report of the International Reference Laboratory (IRL) was presented. The total number of Vi-phage types of S. typhi is now 106. The IRL had examined 1,148 strains of S. typhi submitted from 25 countries during the period 1981 to 1985. In addition, 24 drug-resistant strains of S. typhi from six countries had been examined.

During 1983 there had been an outbreak of S. typhi associated with European holiday-makers visiting the Greek island of Kos. The infecting strain was a degraded Vi-strain, designated degraded Vi-strain 22. Cases were known to have occurred in Greece, Finland, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Australia, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The investigation of this outbreak was a good example of close cooperation between the national laboratories involved.

During the period 1981 to 1985 the IRL also examined 122 strains of S. paratyphi B from 14 countries and 2,228 strains of Salmonella typhimurium from 34 countries.

The IRL reported on the dramatic rise in the number of Salmonella enteritidis strains isolated in the United Kingdom. This rise may be due partly to the number of infections acquired abroad, particularly from Spain, Portugal, the Canary Islands, and the Balearic Islands. In Spain and Portugal, S. enteritidis is the most common Salmonella serotype isolated.

Minute 8. Other methods of differentiation were then discussed. R. Khakhira stated that they used the Gershman phages in Canada, where about 70% of the Salmonella serotypes were typable, but they preferred to use more specific typing phages. There was the possibility of expanding into other fields, and J. J. Farmer felt that laboratories should be free to follow their own interests.

Minute 9. J. Farmer then asked the secretary to read to the meeting the closing motion at the Executive Council Meeting on 6 September, when J. Farmer thanked E. S. Anderson, the retiring Chairman, for many, many years of invaluable service as Chairman to IFEPT, and he proposed that E. S. Anderson should become Honorary Chairman for the rest of his lifetime. This was enthusiastically approved by the members of the meeting.

Minute 10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

L. R. Ward, Secretary