Between The Years 1930-1939

In the second decade of its existence "Hachaklait" has continued to grow and develop, in light of the increase and improvement of dairy cattle farming in the country. Veterinary activities varied and at a later stage, we will present a segment from one of the yearly reports of the veterinary services of "Hachaklait".

“The organization had taken good care of its members and made sure that the job is done economically, without preventing expenses necessary to improve its services. In 1931, telephones were installed in most of the vets’ households. Gradually vets made the transition from horse riding to motorbikes and automobiles”.

The Relationship between "Hachaklait" and “Shomroniya Company”

Like "Hachaklait", “Shomroniya Company” was engaged in livestock insurance and veterinary assistance in the Samaria Valley. There was a principal agreement between the two companies to operate each in its territory without intrusion. With the development and expansion of the cattle industry in Israel, boundaries got blurred, more and more settlements from the Samaria Valley expressed their desire to join "Hachaklait".

In a discussion held at "Hachaklait" it was quoted:

“After it was made clear to us that the settlements Karkur, Ein Shemer, Ein Iron, Ovdey Adama and Pardes Hanna were determined not to return to “Shomroniya”, despite our opposition in both oral and written form, to their demands to join "Hachaklait", we are considering their demands, brought forward by the Jewish agency, the agricultural center and the farm organization to enable these settlements to join our company. We here by agree to make the necessary steps for welcoming said settlements as our clients, in order to prevent them from resorting to foreign companies for services. ”

A lengthy discussion was held with representatives of “Shomroniya” were concluded as follows:

1. Settlers of the Samaria area requesting to join "Hachaklait" will only be accepted after clearing with “Shomroniya”.
2. Settlements from said area with outstanding debts to “Shomroniya” will not be accepted.
3. We ordered our vets not to engage in propaganda or solicitation of new members.

Expansion of Veterinary Services

As already mentioned, budget for veterinary assistance was determined separately for each region. Several facts were considered such as: the number of cattle insured, the vet’s salary, and number of cows registered for veterinary assistance and the distance between the various settlements in that area. All these were taken into account when deciding on the budget for that area, and this data determined the premium the farm owners paid.
As a result, the differences in the paid premium could range anywhere between 1.25% in the crowded areas with large number of cattle (Izrael valley) to a 2.5% in the more distant, low numbered in cows areas (Judea).
In 1932, 9 vets were employed by "Hachaklait". This year a collective agreement on working conditions and wages was signed, and the rights and duties of the vets were determined. Among other things in this agreement it was stated:

“It is a doctors’ duty to devote all their time to their work at "Hachaklait", and under no condition should they engage in any side jobs or private practice”.

Only four years later, "Hachaklait" had already employed 18 vets. Even at this early stage in the company’s development it was very clear, that the veterinary services offered by "Hachaklait" have reached a professional level equivalent to veterinary professional achievements overseas.

"Hachaklait" Veterinary services report from 1937 (1.10.1936-30.9.1937)
We believe the reader will find it interesting to have a peek at a yearly report of "Hachaklait", as it was published. Dr. Rosen was in charge of preparing the report as part of his duties as the head of veterinary activities at "Hachaklait". This report was extremely detailed and we hereby present its main data:

"Hachaklait" offers its veterinary services to:
- Cattle insured, as well as cattle that is not insured staying on farms with insurance.
- Cattle that is not insured under special agreement with the farm.
- Veterinary aid was given this year to 13,636 large animals and to 7000 small ruminants.

20,133 cases of diseases were treated:
- Artiodactyla order 2004 cases which were 10% of all cases treated.
- Cattle 17,445 cases which were 86.5% of all cases treated.
- Sheep 684 cases which were 3.5% of all cases treated.

Total number of examinations: 21,813 cases of which:
- Pregnancy tests 9,108
- Genital tests 6,981
- Post Mortem 407

Special activities:
- Anthrax vaccination 17,125
- Tuberculin Injections 3,059
- Blood works 899
- Artificial insemination 334 (in farms with genital diseases)

Non infective diseases registered: 18,669 cases divided as follows:
- Surgical diseases 3,624
- Internal diseases 5,290
- Dermatological diseases 620
- Eye diseases 722
- Mastitis 1,943
- Genital diseases 2,847
Sterility 3,160
Dystocia 463

*Infected diseases*: 1,464 cases registered, divided as follows:

- Anthrax 42
- Foot and Mouth Disease 578
- Epizootic Lymphangitis 131
- Tuberculosis 54
- Abortion 56
- Anaplasma Marginalis 137
- Babesiosis 149
- Theileriosis 268
- Bovine ephemeral fever 11
- Mange 20
- Rabies 3
- Other 15

The following are the 17 regions where "Hachaklait" has provided with veterinary services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name of Doc.</th>
<th>Place of residence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Upper Galilee</td>
<td>Dr. Malchin Michael</td>
<td>Rosh Pina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Lower Galilee</td>
<td>Dr. Rosen Gdaliya</td>
<td>Tiberius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Izrael Valley A</td>
<td>Dr. Shturman Menachem</td>
<td>Ein Harod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Izrael Valley A</td>
<td>Dr. Trainin David</td>
<td>Kfar Yehezkel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Izrael Valley B</td>
<td>Dr. Gilmovski Zerach</td>
<td>Afula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Zevulun Valley</td>
<td>Dr. Tabersky Joseph</td>
<td>Haifa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Samaria A</td>
<td>Dr. Rodolphson Amos</td>
<td>Hadera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Samaria B</td>
<td>Dr. Ben Yoseph Avraham</td>
<td>Karkur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Hefer Valley</td>
<td>Dr. Ashkenazi Eliezer</td>
<td>Kfar Vitkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Hasharon A</td>
<td>Dr. Beksht Michael</td>
<td>Tel Mond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Hasharon B</td>
<td>Dr. Vilensky Menachem</td>
<td>Behadraga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Hasharon C</td>
<td>Dr. Draiyfus Shemuel</td>
<td>Herzelia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Hasharon D</td>
<td>Dr. Neria Jacob</td>
<td>Kfar Malal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Tel Aviv</td>
<td>Dr. Freund Shlomo</td>
<td>Tel Aviv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Rehovot</td>
<td>Dr. Krumholtz Dov</td>
<td>Rehovot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Be’er Tuvia</td>
<td>Dr. Freundlich Walter</td>
<td>Be’er Tuvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Jerusalem</td>
<td>Dr. Kahana Yehoshua</td>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Substitute vets on leave</td>
<td>Dr. Shapora Aharon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Between The Years 1940-1948

One of the things that characterized "Hachaklait" was a combination of all of the settlement movement under one company. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of "Hachaklait" here are the words of Yitzhak Ben-Yaakov, one of the founders of the settlement Degania A:

“In "Hachaklait" I have found what no other company possesses–mutual hardship between the various settlements. As different as they are from one another they are all part of this establishment. In the 20 years this establishment exists not once did I hear complaints on misconduct or unfair judgment based on political discrimination. This is such a valuable asset in our lives that I ponder at times as to which I should appreciate more: the mutual help or the living proof that mutual labor is possible and can include all settlements, from the youngest to the oldest”.

Veterinary Service

In 1941 "Hachaklait" vets attended to 23,000 calls, performed 12,000 pregnancy tests, 10,000 genital examinations, 5,000 microscopic tests and 400 post mortem. In addition, 23,000 Anthrax vaccinations were administrated as well as 3,000 Tuberculin tests to diagnose tuberculosis. A total of 92,000 medical procedures.

It was determined that professional meetings will be scheduled periodically. It was decided to hold three general meetings a year (instead of one assembly), to avoid prolonged absence of doctors from their regions. The number of physicians at "Hachaklait" in the beginning of the decade reaches 22.

Jokingly said Dr. Freund:

“When we at “Hachaklait” had few doctors we had few diseases. As the number of doctors grew so did the number of diseases!” And on a more serious note he added: “the number of diseases really grew and many of them did not exist 20 years ago”.

The Relationship with the Government

The nature of the relationship with the government was very ambivalent. They were influenced by the course of the relationship between the government and the Jewish community in the country, and of course the daily relationship with the veterinary department of the government. In his report to the management of "Hachaklait" Haim Zimmerman states:

“Criticism of Government for not responding to agricultural demands or our request for promoting its development is right and just. The Government and the Ministry of Finance have accumulated millions of Jewish tax money, yet, they are reluctant to aid Jewish farmers with even a friction of those taxes stored in Government treasury”.

However, we will not be ungrateful, and would like to thank the Veterinary Department for standing by the settlements, for its goodwill and cooperation. The department played a major role in helping us fight the spreading of brucellosis by
allowing us the use of their laboratories, which until the year of 1938 were located in Jaffa and from this year on moved the Jewish experts to Tel Aviv due to the riots spread in Jaffa, took an extremely important role.

Our community of farmers well appreciates not only what had been done by the Governmental veterinary department but also its desire and willingness to always act in favor of agriculture if only the Government did not censure its actions.

Dr. Aharon Shapiro added:
“It would not be just to define the attitude of the Veterinary Services of the Mandate Government as hostile to the Jewish agriculture. The managers of these services brought the traditional colonial organization, and despite their goodwill could not shake off their frigidity nor act against the powerful political policy conductors. On the other hand, they put great effort in maintaining the delicate balance between Jewish and Arab agriculture”.

The Chief Veterinarian and the Veterinary Department
Already in 1926, “Hachaklait” appointed one of its doctors for a position of the company’s “organizer of veterinary activities”. The essence of his duty focused on gathering veterinary statistics and preparing the yearly report. This position was fulfilled by Dr. Rosen from 1926 until his unfortunate death in a car accident in 1941. "Hachaklait" appointed Dr. Freund to take his place, who for the purpose of fulfilling this duty moved his place of residence from Tel Aviv to Haifa, which was the location of “Hachaklait”’s main office. Dr. Freund continued his duties as a field veterinarian parallel to his position as “Chief Veterinarian”.

The position of “Chief Veterinarian” as well as the status of the veterinary department was highly regarded by all the doctors thus many discussions were held regarding its essence. In 1941, Dr. Shturman had submitted a document, in the name of all "Hachaklait" vets, concerning the veterinary department of "Hachaklait", stating the following:

“Each year, "Hachaklait" expands and develops. Every year increasing number of farms, cattle and veterinarians join our midst. It is only natural that when our work load grows so do the challenges we face. These facts oblige us to maintain professionalism and organizational skills of the highest standards. Districts are getting more work related. Success of one region can benefit another, and failure of one region can prove to be harmful to its neighbor. The relationship between doctors became crucial, and the efficiency of this relationship will improve if there is one uniting point where all practitioners meet - the "veterinary assistance coordinator – The Chief Veterinarian”.

Interesting to note that even then the desire to maintain the independence of the individual vet in his area was expressed clearly as seen in the following statement:

“The doctors of the Association depend mostly on themselves. Mutual assistance between the regions is scarce. This provides great motivation for the doctors to make an effort, to seek, to strive, to take an interest and try to be helpful, because they have great responsibility on their shoulders. This must be the main reason that the average level of practitioner’s expertise is so satisfactory.”
If we recognize this as positive, then we should aspire to keep this position. The doctors' independence should be maintained and encouraged. The Chief Veterinarian does not need to be in any way a comptroller or monitor, but mainly engage in advice and help. If this goal is achieved, it should raise the fruitfulness of the work as well as the satisfaction of physicians, company friends and society in general."

Later, in 1945, the responsibilities of the Chief Vet expanded to include a wider context defined as the "autonomy within the framework of the "Hachaklait". It also included the establishment of the "Medical Committee" which has more strength and influence in company matters and decisions.

Keep in mind that at the times we are talking about "Hachaklait" had no choice but to provide services that should have been given to the farmers by the Governmental Veterinary Service. "Hachaklait" and her vets saw themselves as responsible for all the needs expressed by the farms in Israel. The chief veterinarian of "Hachaklait" was definitely perceived as the chief veterinarian of the entire farming community.

The Duties of the Chief Veterinarian
The following are the duties of the chief veterinarian as they were formed through the years:

1. The chief veterinarian is chosen by the Board of "Hachaklait" in agreement with the vets union.
2. The chief veterinarian will gather all professional material obtained from doctors and their districts, reviewing death certificates and process all professional material.
3. The chief veterinarian will visit all serviced farms, be acquainted with all problems of the regions, the needs of the doctors as far as equipment and be informed as to the hygienic condition of the farms.
4. The chief veterinarian shall visit and consult upon request of the regional vets, especially in cases where an epidemic occurs, whether known or unknown.
5. The chief veterinarian shall be in charge of purchase of pharmaceuticals, be knowledgeable as to their use and possible affects and to further enquire as to the results of any treatment.
6. The chief veterinarian should be the link between professional issues and management, between the doctors and medical institutions.
7. The chief veterinarian shall issue a periodical notice delivered to vets pertaining information about the situation in the various regions throughout the country, the appearance of particular diseases/epidemics and deliver instructions from the authorities and the Association.
8. The chief veterinarian will lead all professional and organizational meetings of doctors, advanced courses, regional meetings, demonstrations etc.
9. The chief veterinarian will receive new applicants. "Hachaklait" cannot accept a vet that was not approved by the professional medical committee.
10. The chief veterinarian will lead any and all negotiations with the authorities on veterinarian issues conducted in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Medical Committee.
Major medical concerns during this period in time

Infertility
One of the serious problems "Hachaklait" doctors faced in the twenties and thirties, was the problem of infertility or as we call it now non-conception. Already in the thirties treatment of conception disorders was the most significant part of the work done by the field vets. Losses from infertility were large with only partial success in treatment.

As Dr. Froind writes:

"Many theories as to the causes of infertility in cattle were suggested in the country. We used methods approved abroad, but it was clear to me that in many ways we were in the dark. Standard treatment was based on the assumption that the disturbances in conception are the result of infection in the womb. So we needed a means to disinfect the uterus, or provoke it to defend itself from infection. The common material used for this purpose was based on iodine. Hormone therapy was introduced only in the mid-thirties, often without any theoretical basis. The relatively high financial value of the cattle and the need to ensure yearly pregnancy, justified the farmers' claim to determine pregnancy as soon as possible. The farmer's need pressured the doctors to train in early pregnancy detection. They started checks two months following insemination, and recently even thirty days after insemination. Early pregnancy diagnosis turned into a real artwork in the country. An unannounced competition began between the doctors. Field practitioners also engaged in some research, usually in the form of an "amateur-volunteer", as Dr. Freund noted: "There are still phenomena that are unclear. We do not know why in a farm where hygiene and sanitation are the worse we find high percentage of conception while another with ideal conditions has a burst of non-conception "epidemic". In most cases it is not possible to search for the reason and it is attributed mainly to luck. Particularly alarming is the large number of heifers that do not reproduce, and this undoubtedly is where treatment conditions, feeding and maintenance are important factors. Whenever possible, doctors looked for assistance in university science, although they were far from being veterinary experts, they were willing to help in studying the various problems. Among them were Professor Kligler from the Department of Bacteriology and Prof. Tzundak from the Department of Endocrinology"

No doubt the lack of a central scientific institution to address the issue was greatly acknowledged at this point.

Anthrax
"Hachaklait" vets continued vaccination of cattle insured by the company. "Hachaklait" encouraged Dr. Baruch Levine in his efforts to develop a local strain vaccine, and has allocated money in order to buy 30 goats he needed to execute his experiments. After the new experiments have showed positive results, ""Hachaklait"" vaccinated more than ten thousand heads and following the success of the vaccine, vets switched to exclusive use of the locally produced vaccine.
Mastitis
From the words of Dr. Froind:

"Of course we knew about the existence of udder disease, but did not know about the existence inflammation of the udder caused by Streptococcus in the country, which unfortunately constitutes a negative economic factor of the first degree. Today, we are well aware of the disease. We should thank Dr. Landau who introduced the idea of a war against this disease and continues to work successfully in this area, using laboratory inspection as well as isolation of infected cows. Today hardly anyone can doubt the need for this action. As for treating the disease, Dr. Landau presents figures of 60-70% success in treating the disease, results that do not fall from those obtained abroad."

In 1946 "Hachaklait" confirmed conducting the first experimental treatment with penicillin in 100 cows suffering from udder diseases.

Foot and Mouth Disease
From 1937, the disease made a yearly appearance in the country. Following are excerpts from reports made by "Hachaklait" on this issue.
1940: "This disease has become a liability in the country".
1943: "and the land was quiet from the foot and mouth disease."
1944: "The disease re-emerged mainly in the Hadera and Emek Hefer areas."
The years 1945-6 will be remembered as the most difficult years. Dr. Freund reports "foot and mouth disease encompasses almost the entire country." Despite the strict closure restrictions, this time we suffered serious damage, many casualties and enormous losses of milk. The future of the entire industry was in jeopardy. Vaccine purchased in 1945 in Switzerland and in 1946 in the Netherlands made it possible to immunize the country's Jewish herd effectively. Rendition vaccine veterinary recruited all the power in the country including government doctors.

Tick Fever
"Hachaklait" continued to support the research done by Prof. Adler on tick fever, and has also received a small financial support from the Jewish Agency. There were great difficulties in continuing the research of Professor Adler: Cost of calves, difficulties during World War II to import vaccine substance from Algeria for the purpose of the first injection and the cost employees. In areas where a systematic war against the disease continued by vaccines and destroying ticks (households in the Israel Valley and the Jordan Valley) incidences were declining, whereas in places where there was neglect in treating the disease number of incidence was on the rise. In 1941, 600 heifers were vaccinated against theileriosis with a double shot vaccine consisted of an Algerian and an Israeli substance. As was summed up by Dr. Froind in 1944:

"We are approaching a period of overcoming theileriosis Tyler and anaplasma using the vaccine. This preventive action against tick fever is the highlight of the operation of Hachaklait". It shows us the path of our veterinarian practice."
Additional diseases in this period constituted a problem: Leptospirosis - first detected in Israel already as early as 1941; Blackleg against which an effective vaccine already existed; cattle diseases - Diarrhea and Pneumonia as well as great fatality caused by foreign body in cows. During this period I time, apart from tick fever, traumatic endocarditis due to presence of foreign bodies in the feed was the primary cause of death.

Coming in the next chapter........

*Between The Years 1948-1967*