

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Poultry slaughter

The Compassion in World Farming Trust (CIWF Trust; formerly the Athene Trust) has just published a straightforward account and criticism of the slaughter methods currently being used on broiler chickens in the UK. The printed document is backed-up by a four minute video, made by CIWF Trust and the National Society Against Factory Farming, which shows in vivid close-up what happens to chickens from their arrival in the slaughterhouse until they are placed on the supermarket shelf.

The present report and video do not advance our understanding of the problem much beyond the positions stated in the Farm Animal Welfare Council's 1982 *Report on the Welfare of Poultry at the Time of Slaughter* and in the report of the European Community seminar on pre-slaughter stunning held in Brussels some six years ago. They do, however, clearly and firmly point out that in many UK poultry slaughterhouses the stunning current is probably not set high enough to remove the risk of any of the birds regaining consciousness during the ensuing slaughter processes, and that this risk is increased by the common practice of not cutting both carotid arteries when the birds are bled. The CIWF Trust believes that to overcome these considerable welfare problems changes are needed in both slaughterhouse practice and in slaughter legislation.

The Welfare at Slaughter of Broiler Chickens A Compassion in World Farming report by Peter Stevens (1993). CIWF Trust: Petersfield. Paperback. 9pp. Price £2.50 including postage.

Hens to the Slaughter CIWF Trust in association with the National Society Against Factory Farming (1993). Colour VHS 4 minutes. Purchase price £12.50 including postage, or hire charge £12.50 of which £10 is returnable deposit.

Both obtainable from the publishers, Charles House, 5A Charles Street, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3EH, UK.

Advocates for animals

Each year the many animal welfare societies in the UK publish their annual reports. Some of these numerous publications are of more general interest and value than others. The *Annual Pictorial Review* of Advocates for Animals (previously the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection) is one of the better ones.

Although Advocates for Animals is largely a campaigning animal welfare society and is thus, no doubt, tempted to restrict the coverage of its annual report to extreme examples of man's misuse of animals, many of the items covered are discussed at length, given serious treatment and are often referenced as to where further information can be found. One may disagree with some of the report's emphasis and interpretation but the overall impression is of a document of substance and worth.

Annual Pictorial Review 1993 Advocates for Animals - Eighty-First Annual Report for Year Ending 31st December 1992 Produced and published by Advocates for Animals (1993). 72pp. Paperback. Obtainable free of charge from the publishers, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PG, UK.