

The 20th Meeting of the Work Group on Medical Entomology and Pest Control attached to the Society for Protection against Diseases in the German Democratic Republic

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its foundation the 20th meeting of the Work Group on Medical Entomology and Pest Control was held in Leipzig on November 4 and 5, 1970. Associating primarily medical parasitologists from institutes of hygiene of individual districts, this Group helps the Ministry of Health of the German Democratic Republic and its sections to solve the problems of health protection and control of infections. It elaborates various recommendations for them, deals with problems of infestation control, planning and realization of sanitation, research methods, prophylaxis, etc., and sees to it that the results of scientific research are applied in practice.

The meeting was held with a motto "Principles of prognosis of medical entomology and pest control, and consequent tasks in coordination and cooperation". On the first day Dr. Černý presented a paper on the status and perspectives of medical arachnoentomology in Czechoslovakia. Dr. L. Britz delivered a survey of the work done hitherto by the Group and on trends of all its meetings in the last five years. Dr. P. Müller evaluated an inquiry aiming to establish the distribution of the most frequent parasites and pests in various regions of the G.D.R. and showed their importance. It has become apparent that it will be necessary to draw the maximum of attention to cockroaches, rats, flies, mosquitoes, and to the ant *Monomorium pharaonis*. Dr. Britz dealt with theoretical and

practical problems of long-termed prognosis and with its main principles. Both Dr. Matzer's and F. Niemze's papers were devoted to the problems of organizing the education of pest control workers as well as the problem of the rising average age of workers in this profession. Some problems of sanitary protection of population were discussed by Dr. Britz.

The second day of the meeting was opened by Dr. Černý's report on WHO programme of mapping the distribution of *Ixodes ricinus*, while Dr. Britz informed the participants about the Vth National Congress of the German Society for Hygiene. Dr. Müller dealt with urgent tasks the medical arachnoentomology is facing from the aspect of health in the G.D.R. Dr. G. Ockert spoke about the results of nine years' investigations of mosquito fauna in the district of Halle; possibilities of microbe dissemination by cockroaches were discussed by V. Dix.

All papers aroused lively discussions among participants. The meeting showed wide range of urgent problems in the field of medical arachnoentomology, as well as the ways of their solution and research perspectives. The large and fruitful activities of the Work Group during the first ten years of its existence allow to assume it will considerably contribute to the health of population and to the pest control in the future, too. We wish our German colleagues every success in this field.

Dr. Vladimír Černý, C.Sc.