

Medical Entomology Centenary. *Symposium Proceedings, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London 1978, 144 pp. Price £ 6.*

After Patrick Manson found out in November 1877 during his studies in China that helminths causing filariasis in man develop in mosquitoes, this discovery has become a historical milestone marking the origin of medical entomology proper. Thirty years later this prominent scientist founded the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and became its first President. The centenary of Manson's discovery served therefore as a suitable opportunity to point out the achievements made until now in the field of medical entomology and to ponder over problems awaiting us in the future. These problems were dealt with at the symposium organized on 23—25 November 1977 by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and dedicated to the entomologist and parasitologist Sir Richard Christophers, attended by over 170 specialists. The reviewed publication contains the materials presented at this symposium.

The opening contribution dealt with the life and work of Patrick Manson. The subsequent 16 papers were devoted to different problems of medical entomology, each provided with a list of literature cited at the end, the overwhelming majority written by English-speaking authors. Of the wide range of problems only some were discussed: story of bancroftian filariasis, mosqui-

to-borne filariasis, history of anopheline control, mosquito-borne viruses, entomological research and human trypanosomiasis, tick-borne diseases of man, changes in methods of control of ectoparasites since 1877, ecology and control of urban mosquito populations, control of onchocerciasis, tsetse control, triatomine bugs and household ecology, phlebotomine sandfly research, entomological parameters in the epidemiology and control of vector-borne diseases, future of insecticidal and genetic control for medically important insects, cost of vector-borne disease control programmes. In these comprehensive reports the reader will find many valuable data from the past or present entomological research presented here to a greater or smaller extent, and information about some future trends as well. Under the title Entomological Demonstrations the main papers are followed by 30 notes on the results of laboratory and field investigations focused primarily on different groups of hematophagous Diptera. These notes also contain interesting information.

On the whole it may be concluded that this book, edited with great care, is a valuable and important contribution to the field of medical entomology.

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