J. R. Busvine: Disease Transmission by Insects. Its Discovery and 90 Years of Effort to Prevent it. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg 1993, XII+361 pp., 31 Figures, 6 Tables.

Part 2 of the book deals with the control measures pre-DDT. The classical methods of control of insect-transmitted diseases based mostly on disease prevention by elimination of their vectors, are extensively described. The anti-malarial campaigns in different parts of the world, and extensive measures against sleeping sickness, dengue, plague, and many other diseases up to and during the Second World War are discussed in detail. The efficacy of the most frequent measures, which were often surprisingly successful, are evaluated. However, the data from Eastern Europe and Central and Eastern Asia are very scarce. The extensive field studies and anti-malarial, anti-plague and other campaigns in the former U.S.S.R. and South-East Europe are mentioned only briefly, because they were not specifically included in the WHO campaigns, although they were successful and their results were broadly published. Surprisingly, the studies of E. N. Pavlovsky and his theory of the natural foci of infections were also excluded, although they elucidated the epidemiology of many arthropod-borne diseases, contributed to the elaboration of efficient control measures, and influenced the development of medical acarology and entomology in the former U.S.S.R. and Central and Eastern Europe for many years.

Part 3 of the book is dedicated to the impact of the new pesticides on the insect vector occurrence and arthropod-borne diseases epidemiology. The crucial importance of DDT and other synthetic chlorinated insecticides is emphasized, and the role of other anti-cholinesterase insecticides and synthetic pyrethroids is also discussed. Major problems arising from the use of insecticides, such as the insecticide resistance and their toxic hazards, are also mentioned. Advances in the control of various insect-borne diseases are then treated according their insect vectors.

Finally, modern problems and possibilities of arthropod-borne disease control, are dealt with in Part 4 of the book. Non-chemical control measures, using biological means of control and the human civilization factors in vector control are evaluated from the practical point of view. The necessity of international cooperation and the irreplaceable role of the WHO, the UNDP and other inter-governmental organizations and programs in preparation, coordination and financial supporting of arthropod-borne disease control, is sufficiently stressed.

It may be concluded, that the book of Professor James R. Busvine is an excellent work. It recognizes scientific enthusiasm, the thirst for knowledge and immense human victims given to the altar of Science by the past generations. Mainly for this reason, but also for the factographic values and high scientific level, it may be recommended to all, specialists and non-specialists in medical entomology and parasitology of all age, but mostly to the young ones. It is necessary to congratulate the author for writing an excellent book and the editor for publishing it.

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