

## REVIEW

## MALARIOLOGY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MALAYA

By A.A. Sandosham, (Pp. XIX + 327, 19 plates (11 in colour), 38 text figures).

London: Oxford University Press for University of Malaya Press, 1959, Price £1 15s.

The terrain of Malaya is eminently suited for the propagation of vectors of malaria parasites. The incidence of malaria in this country has for many decades been a determinant in her economic development. Since Ross' discovery of the vector transmission of a species of *Plasmodium*, much research both in regard to the disease and in regard to its control have been carried out in Malaya. Professor Sandosham in his book "Malariology" acknowledges the very great contribution made by Watson and other local workers. It is a curious fact that, in spite of malaria being so rampant, and in spite of the numerous original research papers and governmental reports, no one thought it worth while to write a text book on the subject, condensing and presenting in a coherent and understandable manner, the principles of the management and control of malaria, so important to a country such as ours.

The Japanese, who during the war years suffered great loss of efficiency in their fighting strength through the disease, initiated a course for medical and para-medical personnel and thought it possible for a text book of this nature to be published. Professor Sandosham, an outstanding and distinguished graduate of the King Edward VII College of Medicine, undertook the task, largely to occupy his mind during a trying period in more rewarding work, of giving something to the future generation and produced his work entitled "Malaria in Malai" which summarised our knowledge regarding this disease up to 1939 in Malaya.

Twenty years have passed since and the present volume, which in the reviewer's opinion should in fact be regarded as the second edition of its predecessor, enlarges the scope and brings up-to-date our knowledge regarding malaria. Among the many beautifully coloured plates, figures and diagrams it is refreshing to note with appreciation Figs. 12 and 13 which give the general course of *falciparum* and *vivax* malaria and of Fig. 18 which graphically illus-

trates the distribution and abundance of vectors in different ecologic zones of Malaya.

His approach to the subject is both simple and direct and his emphasis properly not so much on the clinical aspect or on the biology of mosquitoes and of malaria parasites as on the control and indeed the eradication of the disease from the country, if not throughout the world. Throughout the text, it is not possible to avoid the impression of urgency, that action must be taken immediately to rid ourselves of malaria and that delay or dilatoriness might lay in store calamitous consequences. The Federation of Malaya, with the assistance of W.H.O., is now to undertake a campaign of eradication of the disease from her territory. The appearance of Professor Sandosham's book is therefore opportune and should be of invaluable assistance to experts from overseas, to health officers and to all para-medical personnel engaged in combating malaria in Malaya.

The newer approach towards the conquest of malaria is well exemplified. The considerable use of newer methods for eradication of malaria in other countries has not, however, deterred him from laying emphasis on the value of time-honoured methods of larval control, particularly in the Malayan context, and at the same time advocating the testing locally of the efficacy of residual insecticides on adult vectors.

Other reviewers have already expressed the view that Professor Sandosham's book will be of interest also to overseas readers with which I agree wholeheartedly. His book has considerable literary merit and presents fairly the problems that may be encountered in this country. No health officer, health inspector, sanitary personnel and even persons interested in the academics of mosquitoes and malaria can afford not to have it for study and reference.

M. Doraisingham