

REVIEWS

MALARIOLOGY by A. Sandosham

Second impression, University of Malaya Press, 1965. Page 349. Price \$10/-

Professor Sandosham's "Malariology, with special reference to Malaya" was rapidly accepted as the standard book for those interested in the epidemiology and control of malaria in Malaya. It provides basic information on parasitological and entomological aspects and gives details of the control measures that have been so successful in many parts of Malaya and Singapore. These methods have stood the test of time and it is essential that expertise in them is not lost. They are sure to remain the mainstay of anti-malarial effort in the urban areas of both countries. In rural areas the position is not so clear. The second impression of this book comes, appropriately, at a time when increasing attention is being paid to the problem of rural malaria.

Professor Sandosham has not incorporated the recent advances in malariology relevant to his subject into the text of the book but has put them together into a 22 page chapter entitled "Recent Developments". The subjects covered are all important and are discussed clearly and fairly.

The status of *Anopheles barbirostris* and *A. leucosphyrus* has been clarified, following the work of Reid and Colless. There have been advances in the knowledge of simian malaria and its possible effect on the control of human malaria. The residual insecticides are widely used both as larvicides and imagocides; more is known about their toxicity and about anopheline resistance to them. Perhaps even more worrying is the resistance of malaria parasites to drugs, especially that of *Plasmodium falciparum* to chloroquine in northern Malaya. But probably the most important development of all has been the concept of malaria eradication "ardently sponsored" by the World Health Organization.

The question being asked by all interested in the problem of malaria in Malaya and Singapore is whether the disease can be eradicated

from the rural areas of Malaya by the spraying of the insides of houses with D.D.T. Some have thought that the Ministry of Health has been slow to accept this method immediately but the disappointing progress of some Malaria Eradication Campaigns in the region certainly justifies a careful appraisal of the situation, especially in the difficult epidemiological conditions that exist in rural Malaya.

All these recent developments have been discussed by Professor Sandosham and it is difficult not to agree with his cautious approach to malaria eradication.

The second impression of his book has appeared just as the malaria eradication pilot project in Selangor has been completed. One hopes that in the next edition it will be possible to report that the Government has considered that the results of the project have justified the extension of the campaign on a nation-wide basis and that rural Malaya is being freed of malaria. One also hopes that the whole process will be subjected to the type of fair but rigorous appraisal that we expect from the author of this book.

Perhaps Professor Sandosham will include in the next edition a critical appraisal of the progress of the malaria eradication campaigns in Sarawak and Sabah. The results in the latter state are of particular importance, now that *Anopheles balabacensis* on the mainland is proving difficult to control. Indeed such an appraisal seems of sufficient importance to precede the next edition of this book.

In conclusion it can be said that this book remains the standard textbook for all interested in malaria in and around Malaya; those who profited by the first edition should bring themselves up to date by reading at least the chapter on "Recent Developments".

M. J. Colbourne

MEDICINE IN BRITAIN

A Guide for Overseas Doctors by C. Allan Birch. Price 35s. Ballière, Tindall & Cassell Ltd.

This book has been written to try to help doctors from overseas working in the United Kingdom (or who intend to work in the National Health Service hospitals).

It deals lucidly and compactly with a very large number of topics, including the structure of the National Health Service and British Medical practice, *e.g.*, ethics. There is also a useful chapter on "General Information", which amongst other things gives advice on medico-legal aspects, certification and cremation.

There is a great deal to interest everyone in these pages and certain chapters may be of

particular interest to some, *e.g.*, the section on Historical Information which deals with the Royal Colleges and early medical history in Britain, medical memorials in Britain and histories of some hospitals.

In the special sections on Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, an attempt is made to give guidance. There are valuable tips but some of the remarks are meant for inexperienced doctors who have not been adequately trained.

Lee Yong Kiat

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Journals received:

Journal of the American Medical Association.

Journal of the Psychosomatic Research.

The Medicine and Surgery.



Marmite in isoniazid therapy

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