

# SCIENCE

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## RESEARCH IN SOME ASPECTS OF DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FIELDS OF ZOOLOGY, ENTOMOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

IN no other domain of medical science has such progress been accomplished within the past two decades as in that of medical zoology, entomology and parasitology, and it is significant that the great majority of the discoveries upon which this progress is based have been made in connection with the elucidation of the etiology and methods of transmission of the tropical infectious diseases. For, the abolition and prevention of a number of these diseases, obviously based upon such discoveries, has constituted one of the great triumphs of the science of medicine. Discoveries of the relation of insects to disease have in some instances revolutionized our attempts to prevent and control some of the most devastating infections. In fact, it is very largely through the discoveries of the cause and methods of spread of the serious epidemic diseases that preventive medicine has progressed from a blundering art of forty years ago to its present important position among the medical sciences.

However, while very great progress of this nature had been made in earlier years by the recognition of the value of vaccination against smallpox by Jenner in 1796, and of the discovery of the causative organisms of tuberculosis, typhoid fever and Asiatic cholera from 1880-1883, scientific advances of an entomological nature in connection with disease materialized only later and did not begin to be made for nearly another decade. Thus, although man in his conquest and discovery of new territory made through various explorations both by sea and land during the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries gradually acquired through his conflict with devastating disease consider-

<sup>1</sup> Read at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, December, 1922.

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