

Advancement of Science and is jointly sponsored by the American Society of Tropical Medicine, the National Malaria Committee and the American Society of Parasitologists. It represents an encyclopedic coverage of the subject of human malaria as the disease exists in the United States and the regions surrounding the Caribbean. A total of 42 papers has been prepared by outstanding authorities, and the titles are grouped under the following headings: (1) Introduction and Parasitology, (2) Anopheline Vectors, (3) Epidemiology, (4) The Human Infection, Symptomatology, (5) Pathology, (6) Therapy, (7) Control and Eradication.

The desirability of reviewing the present-day knowledge of this disease in the aforesaid manner was emphasized some three years ago when reports of the presence of a severe epidemic of malaria in Brazil were made known. The epidemic had appeared subsequent to the introduction of the mosquito *Anopheles gambiae* from Africa to endemic areas in South America. It was apparent to those familiar with the situation that the same tragedy might take place in the United States since malaria is not only indigenous in 36 of the 48 states but deaths have occurred as a result of the infection in practically every state in the Union. On the basis of the experiences in Brazil the sole requirement for its duplication here was the presence of a good transmitter (anopheline mosquito) which might enter accidentally in the ordinary course of airplane transportation. Accordingly an organization committee was appointed by the Executive Committee of the Association to investigate the problem, and the symposium will mark the culmination of two years of active planning by this group.

Investigators in this country have not been callous to the menace of this malady, which is often believed by the laity to be confined to the tropics. From the day when malaria was first recognized as a serious, disabling and frequently fatal disease in the Western Hemisphere, attempts have been made to combat it, and there is some indication that the most malarious areas in the United States are gradually coming under control. Research workers from the various disciplines have been extremely active in contributing to fundamental discoveries in this field; nevertheless, it is recognized that serious gaps exist in our present knowledge of the disease. Even though the causative agent, a microscopic protozoan, was seen and recognized in human red blood cells over 60 years ago, the germ has not as yet been cultured satisfactorily and at will on artificial media; thus, little is known of its food requirements or by-products of growth. Again, the lack of a suitable laboratory animal susceptible to the human parasite is an additional handicap limiting experimental work to studies in man. The present unsettled conditions in the Far East have jeopardized

the shipments of the antimalarial drug, quinine. The limited supply of this substance on hand has stimulated a feverish search for a satisfactory substitute. These are some of the urgent problems which will be covered in Philadelphia. It is hoped that the contributions to the symposium will be suitable for publication in monograph form by the association and thus serve as a guide for immediate as well as for future thought and research on this most important disease.

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#### THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE 1941 meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its affiliated societies will be held at Pasadena, Calif., from June 16 to 21. The host institutions on this occasion will be the California Institute of Technology, the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery and the Mt. Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

A preliminary announcement descriptive of the general features of the program will be distributed to members of the Pacific Division early in March.

It is hoped that this meeting will be widely attended not only by members resident on the Pacific Coast, but also by members of the association resident elsewhere in the country.

Members desirous of presenting papers are advised to communicate with the secretary of the society before which the paper will be presented, and to submit titles of communications not later than April 25. Brief abstracts are also requested.

#### THE COLD SPRING HARBOR BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Long Island Biological Association the resignation of Dr. Eric Ponder, for the past five years director of the Biological Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor, was received and accepted with expression of appreciation of his services.

When the laboratory was suddenly bereft of Dr. R. G. Harris's services, Dr. Ponder assumed charge and carried forward the multifarious activities of the laboratory without interruption. He organized and carried through the five symposia on excitation phenomena, internal secretions, the protein molecule, biological oxidations and permeability, the results of which, so far as published, have met with unstinted praise.

Dr. Millislav Demerec, of the Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, was elected director of the laboratory for the year 1941. Dr. Kenneth S. Cole, of the College of Physicians and