

Meetings

Radioisotopes in Entomology and Tropical Medicine

Two international symposia were held recently on the uses of atomic energy in medicine and entomology. These were convened and sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These United Nations organizations had as objectives the bringing together of specialists from all over the world to review the present state of research and the current uses of radiation and radioisotopes in medicine and entomology. Other objectives were to focus attention on medical and entomological problems in tropical areas and to stimulate new or additional research in various countries. An important aim was the bringing together of specialists with diverse technical backgrounds to give broad perspective, to introduce new and improved research techniques, and to stress the potential uses of radioisotopes.

At the invitation of the government of India, the International Atomic Energy Agency convened a "Symposium on Radioisotopes and Radiation in Entomology" in Bombay from 5 to

9 December 1960. Member countries of the U.N. were invited to send specialists to present papers and participate in discussions. Participants were sent by France, Germany, the Holy See, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States. Participants from the United States, invited and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation, were B. W. Arthur, L. E. Brownell, J. E. Casida, T. L. Hopkins, and D. E. Weidhaas; D. W. Jenkins, the other U.S. participant, was sponsored by IAEA and WHO.

The symposium included sessions on the behavior of labeled insecticides in plants and animals, insect physiology and biochemistry, radiation effects and insect control, ecological and biological studies, and local problems in agricultural entomology. The present enormous loss due to insect damage to crops and stored grain and other agricultural products and to parasitism in domestic animals was emphasized in relation to the rapid increase in human population. Many outstanding accomplishments involving use of radioisotopes were presented, including elimination of the screw-worm fly in Florida by release of sterile males, development of new in-

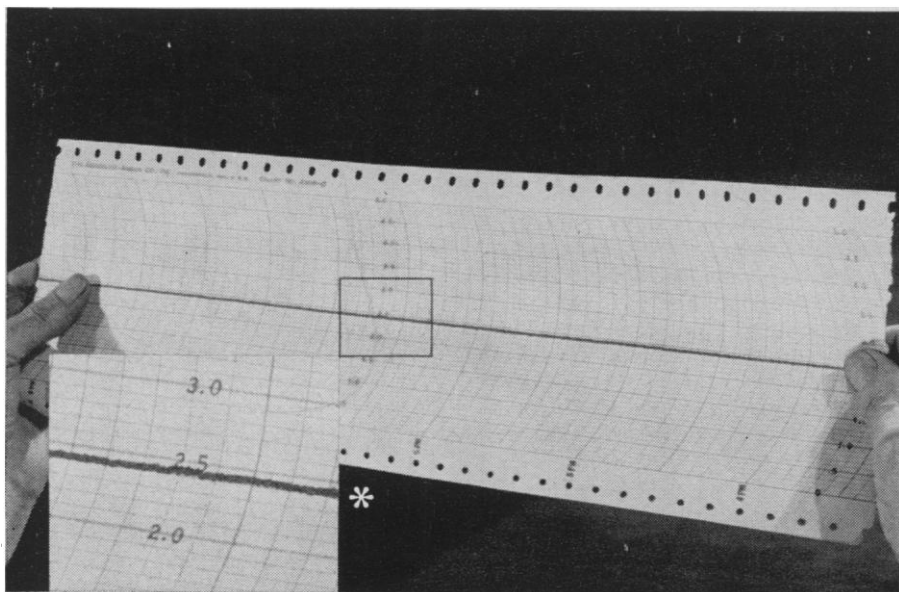
secticides, control of pests in stored products through irradiation, and use of lethal genes for control studies.

A "Symposium on the Use of Radioisotopes in the Study of Endemic and Tropical Diseases" was sponsored jointly by WHO and IAEA. This symposium was held at the invitation of the government of Thailand, in Bangkok, on 12 to 16 December. These United Nations organizations invited selected experts in tropical medicine and in the medical use of radioisotopes to present lectures and participate in discussions. Specialists were invited from Australia, Ceylon, Nationalist China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Sweden, Thailand, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela, and Vietnam. The invited speakers from the United States were H. H. Anderson, D. W. Jenkins, and J. B. Stanbury. The symposium was organized by joint scientific secretaries from WHO and IAEA. The scientific sessions were on nutrition, anemias, endemic goiter, electrolytes, entomology, and parasitology. In each session discussion of the major problems by a specialist was followed by papers on the use and potential use of radioisotopes and radiation. In active discussion, emphasis was placed on close relationships between areas such as nutrition, parasitism, and disease and on the need for broad and coordinated research programs. The continuing and urgent need for research to improve the health of people in the tropics was stressed. Atomic energy was shown to be of great value in medical and biological research in tropical areas, and outstanding accomplishments are expected.

The proceedings of the two symposia will be published by the IAEA and will be available from that organization in the near future.

DALE W. JENKINS

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Forthcoming Events

July

1-3. Astronomical League, Detroit, Mich. (W. A. Cherup, 4 Klopfer St., Millvale, Pittsburgh 9, Pa.)

2-7. American Physical Therapy Assoc., Chicago, Ill. (Miss L. Blair, Executive Director, APTA, 1790 Broadway, New York 19)

2-9. Rural Medicine, 1st intern. congr., Tours, France. (Prof. Vacher, Secrétaire General, c/o Institut National de Médecine, Agricole, Ecole de Médecine, Tours)

3-6. Clay Minerals, colloquium on genesis and synthesis of, intern., Paris, France. (Prof. Hocart, Faculté des Sciences, Université de Paris à la Sorbonne, 47 rue des Ecoles, Paris 5)

3-8. Treatment of High Level Radio-