Books and Reports

All reviews are prepared on invitation. Unsolicited reviews cannot be accepted.


This is the publication on which the 1953 University of London Heath Clark Lectures were based. When Dr. Russell was invited to give this series, he first prepared the manuscript of what he hoped would be a book, after which he condensed each of its five sections into lecture presentations. This departure from the usual custom of expanding lectures into a book seems to have worked well for the author. He has produced a unified, coherent volume of what he insists is not a history of malaria—though it is undoubtedly historical in its treatment of individual items. Dr. Russell prefers to think of it as something more of a selective retrospect with reference to certain personalities, concepts, developments, and events which have highlighted the evolution of knowledge about malaria. These particularities are examined carefully under Dr. Russell's high-power lens, and his description of what he has found in his literary researches will be enlightening to many who have felt that they possessed competent knowledge in this field.

The special objects of consideration are grouped into sections. The first deals with the cause and transmission of malaria, the second with malaria therapy, the third with various approaches to the prevention of the disease, and the fourth is concerned with certain international aspects of paludism and its control. The selected facets of these subjects are treated with historical thoroughness and detail. Wherever possible, the author has gone to original sources for his information, and this has resulted in the disclosure of many interesting and significant circumstances not previously published.

The fifth section is perhaps more introspective than retrospective for it is concerned with malaria and society, specifically the effects of malaria prophylaxis—now assuming world-wide dimensions in impact and extent—and population pressures, especially in the Far East. In it the author thoughtfully considers the dire portents and accusations of "neo-Malthusians" regarding large-scale disease control and prevention, differential rates of natality and mortality, and world food supplies. The author admits the problem but denies that it is a dilemma. In forceful language he states his assessment of the situation, defends his conviction that good public health practice and preventive medicine are not incompatible with restrained population growth, and expresses his ideas of what should be done to effectuate the latter. It makes good reading.

Paul Farr Russell is uniquely fitted to write this book. He is a well known malarialogist; indeed he has probably observed and studied malaria from more diverse vantage points than anyone else now living. During the mid-twenties he was actively associated with the Leesburg (Georgia) Station for Malaria Field Studies, a pioneering enterprise established by the Rockefeller Foundation under the leadership of Dr. Samuel Taylor Darling. Most of Dr. Russell's professional career has been spent as a member of the field staff of the foundation in malaria research in various parts of the world, principally the Orient. During World War II, he
held a colonel's commission in the Medical Department of the Army, and served with distinction both in Washington, in the Office of the Surgeon General, and overseas in North Africa, Italy, and elsewhere. During the last two years he has been attached to the Division of Medicine and Public Health in the World Health Organization in Geneva and has visited many of its field operations in a consultant capacity. Thus he has achieved a truly worldwide perspective of malaria.

His book contains 20 illustrations, some of them reproductions of rare museum pieces. It has an excellent set of references, an index of persons, and a general index. It constitutes an outstanding contribution to the literature of malaria, but will be of intrinsic interest to medical historians, certain social scientists, and many lay readers as well.

JUSTIN M. ANDREWS


The principles and suggestions in this volume of fewer than 200 pages are designed to help in making the social organization's annual meeting a positive asset instead of an unproductive chore. Purpose, plan, and program are fully described with numerous illustrations of programs suited to objectives. Three types of tools are fully described. They are oral presentations in the form of speakers, panel, symposium, forum, quiz, etc.; discussion groups; and dramatization and visual tools.

There are chapters on how one works through committees, how a meeting is promoted, and finally the need and method for evaluating the annual meeting's significance.

Appendixes include a check list of things to remember, a work schedule about which the author says, "Every moment of the annual meeting must be anticipated and provided for in a detailed time table," and a bibliography.

The volume, with illustrations that raise a chuckle, is directed to agencies and organizations in local community settings, but it has relevance also to regional and national groups. If thoroughly understood and imaginatively applied, an annual meeting "where everyone knows where he is going and what he is doing without the usual confusion of great meetings" should be the result. This was the heartfelt tribute of an elevator operator who was curious about the behind-the-scenes effective activity that must have gone into what he saw at a recent annual meeting of a national organization.

MARTHA LUGINBUHL


These are the published presentations made at the above mentioned symposium held in Rome, October 26-30, 1953. They consist of 21 papers by 27 recognized authorities in the general field of insect control. They represent Canada, Corsica, Italy, United States, Spain, Morocco, Greece, Brazil, Israel, and Egypt.