This volume, like the other volumes in the series so far, shows careful editing. There are practically no typographical errors and very little overlap of the material actually presented in the chapters. Most of the chapters are advanced presentations and require a substantial background in physiology and biochemistry to obtain the most from them. They are, for the most part, well written with clear figures and useful tables and bibliographies.

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THE CONTROL OF LICE AND LOUSE-BORNE DISEASES.

Human lice, lousiness, catastrophic outbreaks of epidemic typhus, and louse-associated diseases in general are mainly regarded as events that indicated the course of human history from ancient times through the recent past. Present-day entomologists, epidemiologists, and sanitarians often think of these as situations of the past—that lice are pretty much a dead issue. This review of human lice and louse-borne diseases shows that the problems are still significant on a worldwide basis.

The contributions in this publication were offered in a symposium held under the auspices of PAHO to review the past, to remind those in attendance that present socio-economic conditions continue to maintain louse-associated problems, and to warn that considerable effort must be continued to prevent the recurrence of major disease outbreaks. To help understand the enemy there are discussions on louse bionomics and behavior, the epidemiology of louse-associated diseases, louse control, and control of louse-borne pathogenic diseases.

Basically, few truly new ideas are presented. But the literature on Pediculus humanus is scattered and the contributions on biology and behavior have done a fine job of assembling the essential facts. Of particular interest are papers by G. A. Walton on the ecology of louse-borne infections, and J. R. Busvine on the bionomics of lice. There are a number of good reviews on presently available practical and experimental techniques for louse control. The possibility of extrahuman reservoirs of epidemic typhus is quite thoroughly discounted by a number of investigators, and hopefully efforts will be directed toward more urgent problems.

The expert opinions collected in this volume can be recommended as an up-to-date review of this persistent set of public health problems. These proceedings should serve as a relevant reference for many years to come.

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This book is based on papers presented at an International Symposium on Recent Advances with Pyrethrum the Natural Insecticide which was held at the Silver Anniversary meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences in Minneapolis in 1972. The symposium was sponsored by the McLaughlin Gormley King Co., of Minneapolis and the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya.

The editor, John E. Casida, wrote one of the chapters of the book in addition to collecting and editing the papers making up the volume. The titles of the 17 chapters indicate the scope of the work. Each chapter has a list of references.

Chapter 1. "History of Pyrethrum," by George A. McLaughlin.


Pyrethrum is the accepted common name for the dried flowers of the daisy-like plant, Chrysanthemum cinerariae-florum. The insecticidally active ingredients, which occur in the achenes, are called pyrethrins. The plants are extensively cultivated in Eastern Africa and to a lesser extent in other areas of the world. The use of this product of nature as an insecticide goes back into folk entomology. Refined and standardized by modern chemical and entomological procedures, pyrethrum is widely recognized for its safety in use as a pesticide. The well documented chapters of this book bring up-to-date information to anyone interested, pro or con, in matters relating to insecticides. Dr. Casida is to be congratulated for the good editing evident in this volume.

This reviewer has one criticism. The common names, house fly and bed bug, are set solid, that is, as single words. This is contrary to long recognized rules and approved common names of the Entomological Society of America. Tsetse fly, black fly, and horn fly were noted as being properly set as two words.

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