

INTRODUCTION

It may be useful to the reader of the reports which follow to consider them from a somewhat broader perspective than is provided by the reports themselves. This introduction will describe the present status of each project from which the reports are drawn.

Four fairly distinct areas of study are continuing in the Japanese encephalitis project. The collection and study of vector species in the Chiangmai area has continued to the present time and should go on to the end of this calendar year. Serologic surveillance of the families in the study villages is being maintained. Followup of clinically overt cases of Japanese encephalitis will continue through September of this year. The project has generated a host of technical and methodological questions which are presently being addressed in the laboratories of the Department of Virology, and at least some of that work is apt to continue indefinitely. At this writing there has been a renewed interest in the pathophysiology of dengue and a major study in that area is now under way. In this publication we report for the first time data from studies of hepatitis-associated antigen in Thailand. This interest has now been expanded to include epidemiologic studies of suburban and rural populations as well as antigenic variability. No major departure from our routine system of surveillance of rabies is anticipated.

The investigation of the role that Vibrio parahaemolyticus plays in diarrheal diseases in this part of the world is projected for at least another year. Presently, epidemiologic studies of venereal diseases are under way with particular emphasis on gonorrhea and non-leuetic soft chancre. Studies of intestinal parasites of Northeast Thailand have been suspended. While a modest effort in the study of gnathostomes and E. histolytica is in progress, the weight of our in-house parasitological effort is placed upon human malaria.

Of necessity, surveillance of health problems within our animal colony is a continuing effort. In particular we have maintained an interest in the gibbon. The attention of those interested in metabolic diseases of man and in human behavior is largely focused upon problems related to drug abuse. Our studies of drug resistant malaria in Thailand have led to the establishment of five field study sites, three in central Thailand and two to the South. It is intended that these field stations will be the site of long-range studies of the ecology of drug resistant malaria and of various control measures.

We trust that the reader will find information contained within this volume to be useful, and we hope that subsequent reports will reflect an increased production of useful observations in the areas mentioned above.



LESLIE B. ALTSTATT, M.D.
COL, MC
Director

The opinions and findings in this report are not to be construed as an official Department of the Army position unless so designated by other authorized documents.

THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
of the
SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH
LABORATORY

Edited and published by the United States Army Medical
Component* of the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory

*The United States Army Medical Component is a special overseas activity of the Walter Reed Army
Institute of Research, Washington, D.C.