

BACTERIOLOGY

Chairman: DONA GAYLOR GRAAM, Terre Haute

Dr. C. G. Culbertson, Indiana State Board of Health, was elected chairman of the Section for 1941.

ABSTRACTS

Malaria in Indiana. C. G. CULBERTSON, Indiana State Board of Health.—After a considerable period of time during which the state has been relatively free from malaria, there are indications of a gradual increase in various places over the state. While in general the endemic cases previously found in small numbers have been of the tertian variety, in the last few years estivoautumnal malaria has made its appearance. During the past summer routine examinations of blood clots made from patients clinically suspected of having typhoid or undulant fever has revealed about twenty cases in which plasmodia were demonstrated where the presence of the disease was at least not suspected from the information given on the specimen card. The thick smear method was employed in these determinations and three cases of estivoautumnal malaria were found among this group of twenty positive smears.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever. C. G. CULBERTSON and VERN K. HARVEY, Indiana State Board of Health.—This disease, due to a virus known as Rickettsia which is spread by wood ticks common throughout the state of Indiana has shown an increase each summer since 1926, until the summer of 1940 when there was a rather pronounced drop in its incidence over previous years. At first the cases were localized to the southern half of the state, being prevalent in Ripley and Dearborn counties. The first cases appeared in the middle western part of the state in Vigo and Montgomery counties. In the last two years cases have appeared in many scattered areas extending to the extreme northern part of the state. There is a universal history of exposure or bites of wood ticks in all cases. Measures for prevention of the disease must be directed toward protection of the individual by clothing, immunization, and daily inspection for the presence of ticks on the body. So far in Indiana the mortality from the disease has been about 50 per cent. No specific remedies are known.

Practical method in the control of malaria at Terre Haute. W. P. ALLYN, Indiana State Teachers College.—Studies were made of the breeding sites of mosquitoes within and about the city. The prevalence of the Culex and Anopholes groups of mosquitoes and their respective habitats were noted. Control was directed at the breeding sites of the mosquitoes. Shallow, swampy areas were sprayed periodically with a petroleum distillate. Ornamental pools, fish spawning areas, and the like were treated with a special larvicide, prepared with water-clear kerosene and

pyrethum extract emulsified in water with soap and dupinol in the presence of a defoamer. Cooperation of the citizens in the care of their own premises was solicited through the schools, Boy Scouts, radio, newspapers, civic organizations, and by direct contacts.