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BOOK REVIEW

VENEZUELAN ENCEPHALITIS. PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP-SYMPOSIUM ON VENEZUELAN ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS. WASHINGTON, D.C., 14–17 SEPTEMBER 1971. Scientific Publication No. 243. Pan American Health Organization, 525 Twenty-Third Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 416 pages. $5.00.

Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) has emerged as the most important mosquito-borne disease in the Western Hemisphere in recent years. The epidemic of 1971 in Texas, the continued endemic presence of the virus in Florida and repetitive extensive outbreaks in horses and man from northern South America into Mexico document the importance of VEE. All workers in mosquito control and mosquito-borne diseases who have need for a knowledge of VEE recognize the need for a summary of the research and literature on this disease.

The Pan American Health Organization, in recognition of the above needs, held a four-day workshop-symposium on VEE and invited 130 scientists and administrators to attend. This publication represents the papers and discussion from that meeting. The contents are divided into eight sections that encompass the history of VEE, antigenic characteristics of the virus, host-virus interaction, epidemic and endemic behavor, a review of the Mexico-Texas outbreak, avian and vector hosts and prevention and control.

Readers of this journal will find this is a definitive reference source to guide them in the event of further epidemics and a ready source of authoritative information. There is adequate consideration of the range of mosquito vectors that become involved in the epidemic and endemic cycles and how they interact with the range of vertebrate hosts and virus strains. The alternative approaches to control, vector abatement and vaccination, are placed in proper perspectives.

The table of contents is detailed, but there is no index, and this means that the reader may have to peruse a number of sections to assure he has a complete understanding of any aspect of the problem. As in all proceedings, there are irregularities in presentations and continuity of considations is not complete. However, the publication is well edited.

This review is highly recommended as the most definitive summary of knowledge and references that is available on VEE, and the Pan American Health Organization is commended for its foresight in organizing the meeting and making the 416-page proceedings available in such a short period.

WILLIAM C. REEVES
Professor of Epidemiology,
School of Public Health,
University of California—Berkeley