

**THE 1979 LECTURER**  
**J. D. GILLETT, O.B.E. Ph.D.,**  
**D.Sc.**



The 1979 AMCA Memorial Lecturer is a British scientist and scholar with a long and distinguished record of contributions in health related entomological research.

His career began in the early thirties with a six-year apprenticeship with the famous insect physiologist, Professor Sir Vincent Wigglesworth. He then went to east Africa, where he studied the bionomics of *Anopheles* mosquitoes, and as an entomologist for the Uganda Medical Department worked on plague, malaria and sleeping sickness.

Between 1945 and 1949, he completed his studies at the University of London. He received his Ph.D. in 1952, while working with the East African Virus Research Institute at Entebbe, Uganda, and the D.Sc. in 1960, for the quantity and quality of his published work.

He collaborated with the Rockefeller Foun-

dation's Yellow Fever research in 1941, and took part in the fieldwork that led to the first isolation of yellow fever virus in east Africa from both a human case and the mosquito *Aedes simpsoni*. Later he collaborated with the renowned A. J. Haddow over a period of twenty years during which time they worked out the forest monkey cycle of yellow fever in Africa and established the importance of circadian rhythms in the biting cycle of mosquitoes. During this time, Dr. Gillett worked in both the field and the laboratory and was among the first to work on some of the genetics aspects of behavior of mosquitoes.

Dr. Gillett is no stranger to the United States. He was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship in 1955-56, and spent a year working with W. C. Reeves, in California, Roy Chamberlain, in Alabama, L. E. Rozeboom, in Baltimore, and Loring Whitman, in New York. He has also travelled widely in Asia and elsewhere as a WHO consultant.

He left Africa in 1962, and has since enjoyed a prestigious academic career. He became the first Professor of Biology, and head of the Department of Applied Biology, in the newly created Brunel University in London. Later he became the first Dean of the School of Biological Sciences and Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University.

He served as president of the Royal Entomological Society during the period 1977-79.

Dr. Gillett has recently retired, but has a research grant from the Medical Research Council and has gone back to the London School of Tropical Medicine where he first began 49 years ago.

During his illustrious career of fifty years, Dr. Gillett has authored nearly 100 scientific papers, mostly on mosquitoes, and two books, "The Mosquito" in 1971 (a classic on general information), and in 1972, "Common African Mosquitoes and their Medical Importance."

The O.B.E. after his name stands for "Officer of the Order of the British Empire," an honor which he received for his pioneering achievements in our understanding of the epidemiology of yellow fever and other mosquito-borne diseases.