OPEN DISCUSSION

Moderator: Dr. Elisberg

**Dr. Busvine:** May I ask Dr. Grothaus two questions? First, how are the compounds chosen for screening in the program you described? Second, I presume you are aware of the World Health Organization’s program for screening vector control chemicals, especially those that might be used to control anopheline mosquitoes. Is there any liaison between these two programs, which obviously have so much in common?

**Dr. Grothaus:** Mr. Cole and Dr. Weidhaas’s group do the initial screening at Gainesville, Florida, and then the compounds are selected by mutual agreement based on such things as their toxicity. I believe that the Gainesville laboratory also cooperates with WHO in screening new compounds.

**Dr. Weidhaas:** May I comment on both points? The body louse screening that was mentioned essentially serves two functions, one the development of louse powders and the other as a general biologic screen for insecticidal activities. The compounds are sent to us from many sources—industry, universities, the Government—in large numbers and generally are of unknown biologic activity, for which they are screened.

**Dr. Gerberg:** Dr. Grothaus, at what temperature and humidity do you test the compounds?

**Dr. Grothaus:** The sleeve test is the only one that we conduct at Camp Lejeune. We try to run two tests a year when the climatic conditions are favorable, normally in the colder season when the ambient temperature is between 5° and 10°C. We work in the natural environment because this is a simulated field study. Our test rooms are maintained at 29°C with a relative humidity of 60 per cent.

**Dr. Makara:** These measures may be well suited for delousing military personnel, but I doubt that they would be of much use in the face of a spreading typhus epidemic among civilians because powders like DDT act too slowly and cannot kill nits on the body. We need to disinfect persons instantly and completely on the spot, which these methods cannot seem to do.