The Ramanagaram Family Health Survey has reached the stage of preparation of the report; the accumulated data is being processed, and WHO has made a grant to help with this and with the production of the report.

Following the recommendations of a WHO consultant, the Malaria Institute of India has continued research on genetic factors in the development of resistance to insecticides on the part of mosquitoes. Mosquito colonies have been raised; markers for genetic studies have been isolated; cross-breeding experiments with a view to linking up the marker genes with resistant genes are in progress. It is proposed to send a member of the Institute on a WHO fellowship to carry out further work on the subject. There are also plans to assist the Institute in the development of studies on the biochemical aspects of resistance by assigning a short-term consultant.

Experimental studies on the resistance of bed-bugs are in progress in the Malaria Organization Laboratory, Poona (Bombay State). Colonies of resistant and non-resistant bugs have been raised for this purpose; a grant of £1,000 was made by WHO.

One of the practical problems in the consolidation phase of malaria eradication programmes is the determination of surveillance procedures by which the maximum number of parasite carriers can be uncovered before they give rise to secondary cases. In order to solve this problem under field conditions, WHO has set up two surveillance study teams in Ceylon and in India (Mysore), and preliminary survey work is in progress.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, in the plan of operations for malaria eradication in Indonesia signed early in 1959, provision is made for four study teams to carry out field research on topics that have a direct bearing on the eradication programme. These field studies are to be undertaken in collaboration with the ICA. In view of the development of resistance of some of the vectors and the complexity of the problems in Indonesia, it is essential that field research should keep pace with the developing programme so that timely action can be taken to modify the methods to suit local conditions.

The Regional Office has, during the year, continued its scheme for fostering the exchange of information among research institutes in South-East Asia (see page 24, para. 3).

10. TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS, DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCE SERVICES

In 1958/59 the efforts which have been made in the past years to make WHO technical publications better known to the appropriate institutions and health workers in this region have started to bear fruit. In addition to the publicity being carried out by Headquarters, the Regional Office has written reviews and has distributed them, along with catalogues and other information on WHO publications, to an increasingly long list of medical schools, research institutes, and medical associations in South-East Asia. Such information has also been sent to government departments, to government medical and health officers and to other health workers as far down as on the district level. As a result, large numbers of orders have been received.
The greatest number of demands has been for: (1) a special WHO publication - "An Annotated Bibliography of Medical Education", (2) a reprint from the International Digest of Health Legislation on "Notification of Communicable Diseases", and (3) WHO Monograph Series No. 41, on "Nursing Administration".

There is a trend on the part of medical colleges and public health administrations in South-East Asia toward looking on WHO as a sort of clearing house for technical information. Many requests are being received not only for WHO publications or bibliographical material which WHO might be able to supply, but for books, reprints, photocopies and all types of literature issued by private or government publishing houses all over the world. This presents a problem for the Regional Office. Although WHO can and does produce material of its own, both mimeographed and printed, for free distribution and can furnish at special discounts, where applicable, WHO publications issued by Headquarters, it cannot, within its present policies, obtain publications from other sources, either free or against payment except as part of its field projects.

In this connection, it is pointed out that under the Colombo Plan substantial aid in the provision of medical books is now being offered to medical schools in all the countries of the Region that are participating in the Plan.

The scheme of selling WHO publications at concessional rates to selected institutions, medical schools, etc., was continued and, during the year, more widely availed of. These sales are principally handled by the Regional Office. In 1959 this offer was also extended to Indonesia, and is now therefore being applied to all the countries in South-East Asia. Also, to meet the special need for low-cost publications in this region, Headquarters has decided to bring out, as an experiment, cheap editions of selected WHO publications, for distribution by the Regional Office.

In addition to the increase in sales of publications and the free distribution of documents, in answer to a growing number of requests, the Regional Office has also distributed a large number of its own regional publications according to lists maintained for each country in the Region. Such bulk distribution was made, notably, of (1) the Report of the WHO/ILO-sponsored Regional Seminar on Industrial and Occupational Health, (2) the Report of the Third Asian Malaria Conference, (3) the Report of the Conference on Auxiliary Nursing, (4) the Report of the Regional Seminar on Certification and Classification of Mortality and Morbidity, (5) the Regional Director's Tenth Annual Report, (6) a printed booklet entitled "Notes for the Practising Midwife", compiled by a member of the field staff and prepared for printing by the Regional Office, (7) quarterly issues of the Medical Education Bulletin, and (8) seven Technical Circulars on the subjects of public health administration, health education of the public, and vital and health statistics.

During the period under review, 77 reports on WHO field projects were edited, sent to the relevant governments and, in some cases, widely circulated. In addition, a large number of documents were edited and distributed in connection with the regional conferences, seminars, and training courses organized by the Regional Office during the year.
At the end of 1958, a complete list of all documents issued by the Regional Office from 1949 to 1958 was compiled.

About 650 books and pamphlets were added to the Regional Office Library. Some 150 periodicals are regularly received.

In the scheme for fostering the exchange of technical information on medical research, the Regional Office has continued to enlist the aid of the research institutes of several countries in South-East Asia. Copies were obtained of (1) the Review of Activities during the years 1950-57 of the Indian Council of Medical Research, (2) the Asian Medical Journal, Vol. 1, No.1, Tokyo, and (3) the Abstract of Papers Presented at the Scientific Symposia, held on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, and were sent to research institutes outside India. One more issue of the bulletin "Research News" - a list of medical research projects which are in progress in the countries of South-East Asia - was also brought out by the Regional Office during the year. It is hoped to be able to issue this bulletin more frequently in future.