

Final address

Autor(en): **Bloch, H.**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Acta Tropica**

Band (Jahr): **23 (1966)**

Heft (9): **Thérapeutique nouvelle de la Bilharziose et de l'amibiase :
Symposium de Lisbonne 2 au 4 Juin 1965**

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-311393>

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FINAL ADDRESS

H. BLOCH

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, being the last speaker on the programme of a three-day meeting, I am fully aware of the implications of Dr. SADUN's formula, which is especially valid in the case of final speakers. Therefore I shall be very brief. It is always exciting when a drug which has been developed in the laboratory, comes out in the field and is given to humans for the first time. In this particular case, it has been especially exciting because—owing to a number of fortunate circumstances—the work proceeded very quickly and the results were very encouraging. Thanks to this meeting, we have been able to review the situation, to see where we stand, and to decide on further action. This, of course, was only possible because of the splendid co-operation we received from all of you. When the time comes for the pharmacologists, the parasitologists, the chemists and the biochemists to leave the new drug in the hands of the clinical investigator, they have to sit back and wait for the results, every once in a while perhaps offering helpful advice and an exchange of information. From then on, however, progress is chiefly due to the clinician who has sufficient curiosity and courage to use a new compound for the first time in man. As we saw this morning, the experience has been positive and most encouraging. The last questions which came up in this discussion: prophylactic use and so forth are, I am afraid, beyond the scope of what a small group such as ours can do. We have reached the point where we need to engage the help of much larger organisations, e.g. governmental organisations and international organisations. We can give what little help we can but this is not much in comparison to the magnitude of the task. Our job consists, I think, in developing the drug to a point where it can safely be given to patients. From then on, it must rest with others to develop it beyond the scope of the first therapeutic trials. I would therefore like to thank all of you very much for your wonderful co-operation and for the enormous help we have received. My special thanks go to Professor CRUZ FERREIRA and his staff who provided the very

pleasant and most efficient facilities for this meeting, and although Dr. SADUN, this morning, commented a little sadly on the barrier between the audience and the chair, I think you will agree with me that from the more modest vantage point of the audience there were no feelings of inhibition whatsoever. I would like to thank our friends from CIBA Lisbon who provided us with all the amenities that preceded and followed these meetings. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for taking the trouble to come here, especially as many of you, I know, have come from very far away. By agreeing to write up your results and by actively participating in the discussions, you have played a major part in making the meeting a success. I really mean it when I say that we are deeply grateful to all of you. I would also like to apologise to our French-speaking friends for speaking English now, but the only other alternatives would be to speak Portuguese, which unfortunately I cannot do, or to shut up, which is what I am going to do. Thank you.