

ceptions comparable to that embodied in the passage from determinism to complementarity. But just as the laws of quantal phenomena and their complementarity relationships cannot be formulated without essentially making use of the deterministic laws of classical physics, likewise complementarity will necessarily form the

basis of new conceptions which will transcend it. In generalising determinism, complementarity does not destroy it; it rather makes it more fruitful and firmer by assigning it its proper limits. Likewise the future theory will reinforce complementarity by fixing its place within a still wider synthesis.

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PEST INFESTATION RESEARCH AT SLOUGH

Pest Infestation Research, 1952, published recently* describes current research at the Pest Infestation Laboratory, D.S.I.R., at Slough. The laboratory is concerned mainly with the control of those insect pests which still destroy enormous quantities of the world's supply of cereal and other foodstuffs in store after harvest.

A new technique has been developed for assessing the potency of pyrethrins compared with a standard. It had been noted several years ago that flour beetles lost weight when treated with pyrethrins. This fact has now been put to use. Simply weighing a batch of beetles before and after exposure gives an accurate measure of the pyrethrin under test. The

method saves time, and eliminates the tedious work of examining and classifying each insect in a batch, as was necessary formerly. It is possible that the method will also work for other insecticides.

In the biochemistry section of the Report, special attention is given to the radioactive tracer techniques for the study of the mode of action of insecticides, in other words, how insecticides work inside the insect. Such knowledge is of the greatest importance when insects become resistant to insecticides, as house flies are becoming resistant to DDT in many parts of the world. It has been possible to show, for example, that resistant flies are able to decompose DDT in their bodies to a harmless form, an ability not shared by ordinary susceptible flies.

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