SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The head Louse *Pediculus humanus capitis* is an obligatory ectoparasite of man that is found on the hair and scalp. It causes irritation, discomfort and blood loss, apart from psychological and social distress. In addition the louse may be a carrier of diseases and through its bite or excretion may transmit an infectious diseases as epidemic typhus, epidemic relapsing fever and trench fever. Pediculosis remains a health problem in both developed and underdeveloped countries.

The present work was carried out to evaluate ovicidal activity and killing times of six *pediculicides* using viable eggs and freshly collected head lice from infested patients. Lice were continuously exposed to the products until death, and killing times were recorded. Eggs were immersed for ten minutes then rinsed and dried. Then, incubated at 30 °C with relative high humidity for 14 days. The tested eggs were reexamined after 14 days under the microscope to determine the hitched one and evaluate the ovicidal activity of each drug.

The recorded results were statistically analysed and the following data were obtained:

Malathion 0.5% was the quickest killing drug, killed all lice in 6 minutes with 93% ovicidal activity. Kerosene
came next to malathion killed all lice in 14 minutes with ovicidal activity of 80%.

Pyrethroid compounds "Licid" full and half concentrations killed lice in 16 and 40 minutes respectively and showed ovicidal activity of 70% and 55% respectively. Crotamiton and benzyl benzoat killed lice in 14 and 22 minutes respectively and showed ovicidal activity of 55% and 60% respectively. Gamma benzene hexachloride 1% was the slowest acting one, required 120 minutes to kill all lice with ovicidal activity of 65%. The control lice were alive and active three hours after the end of the work, even up to 13 hours. Where none survived after this time.

From the previous data it is concluded that a single treatment which is safe, fast acting and effective against both adults, immature stages and completely ovicidal is not yet available.