

## NEWS AND NOTES

AS EXPLAINED IN OUR JUNE NUMBER, HARRY H. STAGE HAS BEEN "DOING" AFRICA. On June 16, he wrote from Kenya. He had visited Tanganyika and Nyasaland, and was including Uganda, Mauritius, and Cairo in future plans. In his inimitable way, Harry said: "It is a good thing they selected a young man to go on this expedition" . . . "I'm on the go fully 25 hours a day. For example, yesterday, I was in a truck from 7:30 A.M. until 8:30 P.M., covering 200 miles of the most gosh-awful road you can imagine—just like a washboard and full of curves, ups and downs, and me straining every eye to see one more rhino, giraffe, or what have you. I did see them, too, and the tsetse" . . . Harry returned to New York, July 26, on the Queen Mary.

DR. S. P. RAMAKRISHNAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MALARIA INSTITUTE OF INDIA, is visiting the United States under the auspices of the World Health Organization. He is interested in all phases of malaria control and of mosquito transmission of diseases. In July, he visited the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., where he joined the AMCA. During the next 8 months while he is in the United States, Dr. Ramakrishnan may be greeted not only as a fellow AMCA member but as a fellow Rotarian (he belongs to the Coonoor, India, group) by many of our control experts.

H. L. T.

WE DROVE DOWN TO BLACKSBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE WEDDING. Louise (Goode) was a lovely June bride—complete with satin gown, calla lilies, and a tall, handsome groom, John R. Scoggins. A full southern moon shone down so softly on the festivities amidst blossoming magnolias, and the air was so heady with the scent of cape jasmine, that even your Associate Editor became starry-eyed. Not one mosquito appeared.

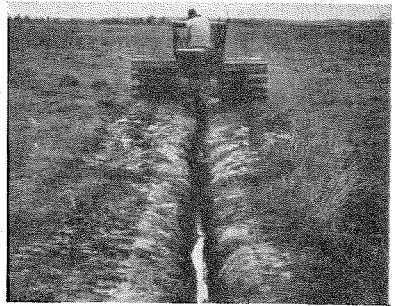
H. L. T.

A NEW WEAPON TO KEEP DOWN MOSQUITO POPULATIONS in shore areas was the featured attraction at a demonstration held in Clinton, Conn. on May 20 for mosquito control men from the Northeast. The weapon is a salt marsh ditch cleaning device, developed by R. C. Botsford, superintendent of the Connecticut State Board of Mosquito Control. The demonstration was sponsored by the American Mosquito Control Association for its members in the Northeast. The machine is compact and light enough for easy handling in small salt meadows and does as efficient a job as the larger type machine in large marshes at less expense and with less breakage.

Mr. Botsford calls his invention a "scavel." The digging part is a single steel welded unit with no moving parts, which is attached to the loading arms of a caterpillar tractor. In construction, it resembles a mouldboard plough with a tongue

which is shaped like the cross-section of a ditch. The tongue scoops the mud and grass from the ditch while fan-shaped skids on the sides force the debris back to the bank. Wooden cleats attached to the regular steel tractor treads for support spread the debris flat along the sides of the ditch.

The scavel can be constructed for \$350; with the tractor, the cost comes to about \$3,000. The type of machine now being used in large marshes costs approximately \$7,000.—Release from Conn. Agric. Expt. Sta., dated May 20, 1949.



Effective clearance shows plainly in the wake of the tractor-driven "plough." Note how tractor treads crush debris flat along the bank, eliminating danger of reclogging. The apparatus cleans ditches 30 times as fast as with hand labor which, up to this year, was used for all salt marsh ditching work in Connecticut.



New salt marsh ditch cleaner, developed by R. C. Botsford, superintendent of the State Board of Mosquito Control, attacks a clogged ditch in a Connecticut marsh which, left uncleared, would make an excellent breeding place for mosquitoes.

PASB ADDS WHO REGIONAL OFFICE DUTIES.—On April 27, 1949, Uruguay became the four-

teenth country in the Western Hemisphere to ratify the Constitution of the World Health Organization. The other countries which have already ratified the Constitution are: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, the United States and Venezuela.

With 14 of its 21 member nations in WHO, the Pan American Sanitary Organization was empowered to authorize a permanent agreement with the World Health Organization to become the Regional Office for WHO in this hemisphere. On May 24, Dr. Brock Chisholm of WHO and Dr. Fred L. Soper of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau signed the agreement for that purpose, thus consolidating two of the most important international organizations for western hemisphere operations in public health. This step brings the operations of these two organizations under one office with Dr. Soper as director in preparation for a concerted attack on public health problems throughout the Americas.

This will be of real interest to many of our members because the Pan American Sanitary Bureau has for several years been especially active in anti-malaria and *Aedes aegypti* eradication programs of the American countries and WHO has adopted as one of its major objectives the promotion of malaria eradication. Extensive programs for the eradication of malaria in the Western Hemisphere are under consideration through these coordinated efforts.

RALPH J. VANDERWERKER

PERRY W. RUTH AND THE AMCA FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN NEWS STORIES IN TWO of Norfolk's leading papers, the "Norfolk Virginian-Pilot," and the "Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch." The "Virginian-Pilot" for May 29 stated:

"Perry W. Ruth, secretary and technical advisor of the Norfolk Mosquito Commission, has been appointed chairman of the Advisory Board of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association and chairman of two program committees that will

arrange for a joint meeting of the association with the American Mosquito Control Association at the Cavalier Hotel, February 23 and 24.

"Announcement of Ruth's advisory appointment came yesterday from Stuart M. Gibson, of Hampton, president of the State association.

"The other members of the board are Rear Adm. Carl A. Broadus, USN, medical officer of the Fifth Naval District; Col. Edward M. Fickett, USA, post commander of Fort Monroe; George W. Price, of Norfolk; Judge Floyd E. Kellam, of Princess Anne County, and James W. Roberts, of Norfolk."  
H. L. T.

"TOMMY" MULHERN, WHO AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS of mosquito control work in New Jersey, is leaving to take over a vector control post in California, was honored August 22 by his associates. A farewell testimonial luncheon was given at the Roger Smith Hotel in New Brunswick. About 50 persons were present as State and County officials expressed appreciation of Mulhern's services.

Harry Stage, commenting on the occasion, said: "Tommy received \$250 in bonds, a plate with mosquitoes and his name in gold, and a gold fountain pen. I was glad to be there."

A. Paul King, Editor of "New Jersey Counties" magazine and toastmaster at the luncheon, paid tribute in the September 1949 issue with an article entitled, "Man with a Mission . . . to Kill Mosquitoes." Mulhern's career is outlined from the time he, as a high school student and pupil of Dr. Thomas J. Headlee, served as an inspector during the summers of 1925, 26, and 27.

Now that he is taking up duties 3,000 miles away in the San Joaquin Valley of California, the entire AMCA adds its wishes to that of King who wrote in his send-off: "Tommy Mulhern carries with him to his new opportunity in California the heartfelt appreciation of hundreds of County officials of the several Boards of Chosen Freeholders from New Jersey as he embarks upon an even greater career in mosquito control."

### CORRECTION!

Refer to the note on "Yellow Fever in Panama" on page 72 in MOSQUITO NEWS, Vol. 9 No. 2 (June 1949) by F. C. Bishopp.

Dr. Bishopp has requested that the last sentence of his note should be amended to read "This was the jungle type of yellow fever and is probably transmitted by some species of *Haemagogus*."

Dr. Bishopp, in his letter requesting this correction, stated that the name *spiegazzini* which appeared in his original source of information, was not checked until Dr. Komp returned from Panama and called attention to the fact that this particular species is rare, if it occurs at all, in the locality where the jungle yellow fever occurred.