

EDITORIAL SECTION

MOSQUITO CONTROL

It is unnecessary in the pages of this journal to emphasize the importance of mosquitoes and other blood-sucking flies to the health and welfare of man and to the well-being and productive capacity of his livestock. The necessity or desirability of controlling them is fully recognized by members of the A.M.C.A. The effective control of these insects, however, is not simple, easy, nor as inexpensive as many people apparently believe. On the contrary, mosquito control in many areas is, in fact, a complex, difficult problem the satisfactory solution of which requires the application of knowledge in biology, chemistry, and associated sciences and of engineering and other skills, supported by adequate funds and organization.

The main objective of the American Mosquito Control Association, as set forth in the Bylaws of the Association (*MOSQUITO NEWS*, 10:220-227, 1950) is to disseminate information about mosquitoes and their control and to work for the highest standards of efficiency in such work, and to encourage further research toward this end. The Association's journal, *MOSQUITO NEWS*, has contributed very materially to the realization of these objectives. Another activity of the Association that is making important contributions is the publication of a series of bulletins designed to provide complete, up-to-date information on the methods, materials, and equipment used in mosquito control. Two of these bulletins have been published and widely disseminated. No. 1, issued in March, 1948, dealt with "The Use of Aircraft in the Control of Mosquitoes"; No. 2, published in March, 1952, has to do with "Ground Equipment and Insecticides for Mosquito Control." No. 3, which deals with "Mosquito Rearing Techniques," is under preparation.

The sale of Bulletin No. 2 appears to be initially rather slow, probably because

it has not been sufficiently publicized. However, it is anticipated that there will be an increasing demand for it as it becomes more widely known. This bulletin is well written, usefully illustrated, up-to-date and authoritative, and reflects great credit on Mr. Robert L. Vannote and the members of his Miscellaneous Publications Committee who prepared it, and on the editor, Dr. E. F. Knipling. It is a mine of information essential to all concerned with the control of mosquitoes and other biting flies, and should also prove valuable in the general field of insecticide application. In the words of Dr. Knipling: "unless the bulletin has been studied . . . I am sure those who are actively engaged in control work will not realize the amount of information it does contain which may be of help to them. Therefore, I feel . . . that members of organized control districts should have copies. . . . The publications committee were hopeful that many of the control organizations would purchase copies for their employees. Local health departments in cities and towns should be advised of the availability of this publication, for it should prove a very useful reference and guide for emergency insect problems which constantly arise. The publication was edited with the thought in mind that it would be useful not only to workers in our countries, but to mosquito control workers in any part of the world. I believe that it would be worthwhile to make the publication known to control agencies outside of the United States and Canada."

Members of the Association are urged to make a special effort to bring this fine bulletin to the attention of interested organizations and individuals with a view to increasing and speeding up its sale and distribution. This would be both a public service and a help to the Association.—
C. R. TWINN.