

## NEWS AND NOTES

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT reports that no larvae of the formerly important salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes squamiger*, had been found in the East Bay marshes, and it is felt that this species reduction can be directly attributed to the steadily maintained control program of the past 24 years. The main attack is now being directed at *Aedes dorsalis*, which has so begun to show a marked reduction, accompanied in some cases by a substitution of species *Culiseta inornata*, which does not aggressively attack man and has a relatively short flight range.

JOHN A. ROWE, of the U. S. Public Health Service, Water Projects Unit, writes to give notice at his station has been transferred to Logan, Utah. He adds: "It seems to me that relatively few AMCA members are familiar with the work going on at this station and the mosquito data . . . being obtained. I'm sure that much of this information would be of interest to many mosquito control organizations and professional workers. Research papers will be written on the basis of these reports but, as you know, it will take some time before these come out. . . ."

"We have tried to provide distribution of reports to those agencies who know the least about our problem. We usually reproduce from 300 to 500 copies of each report and make prompt distribution to the Agricultural Experiment Stations and State Health Departments in the 17 Western States, to the Bureau of Reclamation and US Offices and to about 32 libraries in the country. In addition we have about 30 professional workers on our mailing list. Sometimes we have a few copies (100 or so) which are in reserve which might be sent to mosquito-control organizations or to individual workers.

"As you probably know, the primary purposes of our station include:

- (1) Research on the bionomics of encephalitis vectors and principal noxious species associated with Western water resources development, especially irrigation.
- (2) Research on the factors responsible for mosquito problems on new and existing irrigation developments.
- (3) Research on ways and means of controlling these factors on new projects and existing irrigated areas.

"The information obtained by this station is for the edification of all who are interested and engaged in the control of these problems." The station's new address is P.O. Box 334, Logan, Utah.

GEORGE BURTON writes that in his malaria control work in Liberia for F.O.A., they have sprayed about 4,000 dwellings and hoped to have finished by the end of March. The houses ranged in size from single room mud huts to mansions, many of them having more than 25 rooms, and the

average being about 8. WHO teams in the Central Province have found DDT to remain effective on celotex and mud walls for as long as 6 months, but the F.O.A. teams in Monrovia and the Coast have found it to last only about 1 month. Dieldrin is holding up well. Observations have showed that adults rest for 35 to 55 minutes on dieldrin-sprayed surfaces, then make a number of quicker changes of position, followed by knock-down and death in about 3 hours. In order to avoid developing dieldrin resistance more rapidly than necessary, larviciding is still being confined to DDT, and there is definite evidence that constant larviciding has resulted in a relatively low parasite rate (about 20 per cent) in children up to 9 years.

THE DADE COUNTY ANTI-MOSQUITO DISTRICT, in its nineteenth annual report, for 1953, records that the use of shallow ditches in salt marsh drainage work, which was intended to prevent undue salting of the adjacent lands, has proved to be a correct procedure inasmuch as land which had previously been given up as too salty has recently been placed in production. The report adds, resignedly, that the recipients of these benefits have now turned around and plowed over the ditches, obliterating them and creating a new problem. It is also reported that while resistance to DDT has been observed in flies, none has been found in mosquitoes so far.

"ACCORDING TO ONE OF OUR ALASKAN CUSTOMERS," writes the Ward's Natural Science Establishment, in its January Bulletin, sent in by Franklin C. Wray, "Sourdough Charlie had prospected the Alaskan Wilderness for years with little success. Late last spring he started out hoping to make an early find that would enable him to buy the Geiger counter he longed for. After he had been a week in the bush, he suddenly spied an immense pigeon-blood ruby crystal in the bank of a stream.

"Anticipating a quick profit, he immediately cached his meager supplies and started back to the nearest town with his prize. But he didn't take into consideration the hordes of ravenous mosquitoes that descended on his first night's camp. When he awoke in the morning, he opened his pack to see if the fabulous stone were still there. He could hardly believe his eyes, for all that he had was a piece of pale rose quartz quite thoroughly perforated with holes."

HERMAN L. FELLTON, consulting sanitary engineer, has been elected president and chairman of the Board of Directors of Getz Exterminators, Inc., following his acquisition of controlling ownership of the corporation. The company, organized in 1888 and operating in 15 states, is located at 600 N. Highland Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

THE DEATH OF STUART M. GIBSON is reported in the *Sheeter*, of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association. Mr. Gibson suffered a heart attack on 7 April 1954 and died shortly after arriving at the hospital. Norman S. Beaton writes, "Surely mosquito control has had in him a great exponent of the cause and to him goes a large portion of the credit for the growth of mosquito control on the Peninsula [of Norfolk]. Those of us who were associated with him in mosquito control work will greatly miss Mr. Gibson for the sound advice and guidance which he so willingly gave."

DR. A. W. A. BROWN will be visiting in California during the last week of June and into early July, with headquarters at the Vector Control Station in Fresno. Following a review of the programs of field studies being conducted within a radius of some fifty miles from Fresno, a short tour will be made of other control areas in the state. It is planned to observe field use of a number of items of equipment, including both commercial types and those devised by local control units in Alaska, Merced County and other West Coast districts.

DR. LEWIS WENDELL HACKETT, an honorary member of the American Mosquito Control Association and known to many members, was presented with the Walter Reed Medal for 1953, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine which was held on the 13th and 14th of November at Louisville, Ky. The medal, which may be given to an individual or an institution for outstanding work in the field of tropical medicine, was awarded to Dr. Hackett by the unanimous choice of the Board and was presented by Brigadier General James S. Simmons. The medal has been awarded annually since 1936.

THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH on April 7 sponsored a Mosquito Control Clinic at the Crab Orchard Sportsman's Association Headquarters near Carbondale, Illinois, under the direction of Mr. J. D. Williams and Mr. R. E. Favreau, state sanitary engineers, and Mr. Arthur E. Kaye, Training Officer USPHS. The morning program included discussions on the identification, habits, and biology of mosquitoes as applied to mosquito abatement by Professor F. Earle Lyman, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University; the principles involved in the use of larvicides and adulticides for mosquito control by Professor William R. Horsfall, Department of Entomology, University of Illinois; the devices and methods used for collecting mosquitoes by Sanitary Engineer J. D. Williams. The United States Public Health Service film, "Larviciding With DDT," was shown, and the morning session ended with a question and answer period and a talk on safety precautions by Mr. R. K. Gibson, Sanitary Engineer, Alexander-Pulaski Bi-County Health Department. During the afternoon various

types of equipment were demonstrated including mist sprayers, thermal aerosol dispensers, and larviciding equipment. Methods of testing the distribution of insecticides by the several kinds of equipment were demonstrated for the group. The care and maintenance of equipment also was discussed.

About 50 persons attended the meeting and in addition to personnel from many mosquito abatement districts in Illinois, representatives of state parks and recreational areas and drive-in theaters were present. Pertinent information on mosquito control was distributed and Mr. J. J. Williams pointed out the advantages of membership in the American Mosquito Control Association.

It is hoped that following this initial get-together an annual state meeting will be held each spring and possibly a permanent association of those interested in mosquito abatement in Illinois can be formed so that all will benefit by exchange of ideas and by discussion of problems associated with modern methods of mosquito control. F. Earle Lyman.

JACK E. DENT, of the Norfolk City Mosquito Control Commission, transmits a report from C. R. McPherrin on an apparent instance of viable eggs being laid by female *Culex pipiens* which had received no nourishment of any kind.

"The larvae were taken from the shallow flooding basement on Granby Street," he writes, "and apparently were *Culex pipiens*. They remained in the original pint bottle until pupation.

"My attention was primarily engaged on the work but I did transfer with pipette 5 or 6 pupae to a jar of tap water with a cloth cover, to mature. The jar was dry and clean but not sterilized. The matured insects were *Culex*, apparently *pipiens*, as I had surmised, some males and some females. They remained undisturbed in the cloth-covered jar containing tap water simply because I neglected to throw them out.

"Some time later it came to my attention that there were first instar larvae in the water contained in the jar. Most of the larvae were dead since there was no nourishment in the tap water. A few were alive but soon died."

GEORGE F. CRAWFORD AND HENRY B. BIELEB, employees of the DesPlanes Valley Mosquito Abatement District, Lyone, Illinois, retired on December 31, 1953, after twenty-three years service with the District. They are the first employees to retire under the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. They were the District's oldest employees, both in age and in years of service, serving most of the time as foremen of the spraying and ditching crews. They were efficient, conscientious workmen and had a complete knowledge of the District, writes Franklin C. Wray, Technical Director of the District.

HARRY H. STAGE has recently accompanied a group of malaria control specialists from India

China on a trip to Japan. While he was there, he visited some of the famous views of Japan, including Nikko, the temple city, Lake Hakone at the foot of Mt. Fuji, and Kyoto, famed cultural center and repository of much of the most famous antiquities of Buddhism in Japan, China, Korea and other Far Eastern lands. At Hakone, Harry viewed the malaria control program, one of the few active ones in Japan, where malaria was largely wiped out up to the time of the Korean war. Harry returns to Saigon about May 27.

BETTINA ROSAY OF THE CALIFORNIA VECTOR CONTROL FIELD STATION at Fresno, California, writes in to give an interesting note on the longevity of *Aedes* eggs:

"A sample of soil (about 1 quart) was collected in November 1950, from the Coachella valley of California. The sample was stored in

a tightly-closed gallon jar. By use of a mechanically-rotated microscope stage (Husbands, *Mosquito News* 12:145-150, 1952) three *Aedes* eggs were recovered in May of 1954. Flooding would not cause the quiescent eggs to hatch, but dechlorination (Mortenson, *Mosquito News* 10:211-212, 1950) revealed fully developed, live embryos within the shells."

THE ARKANSAS - WHITE - RED BASINS INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Travis E. McNeel, Chairman of Work Group on Mosquito Control and Allied Problems, for past contributions in laying the groundwork for completion of these tasks. Mr. McNeel leaves this assignment to accept one in the Republic of the Philippines where he will be Chief, Malaria Control Operations for that country, and with him go our congratulations and best wishes in that work.

### AMCA FALL MEETING AT TOLEDO, OHIO

The American Mosquito Control Association announces a fall meeting to be held in Toledo, Ohio on September 29, 30 and October 1, 1954. Mr. Otto McFeeley, Director of the North-Central Region, is acting as General Chairman and the Toledo Area Sanitary District will be hosts. The Commodore Perry Hotel in Toledo will be headquarters. Reservations at the hotel should be made early as a large attendance is expected.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday and to terminate at noon on Friday. The program will deal entirely with "The Use of Fogs and Mists for Adult Mosquito Control." Every phase of maintenance and of equipment operation and evaluation of results will be discussed. A field trip to the District's shop and offices has been scheduled and demonstrations of the most modern equipment will be made by exhibitors.