

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

BILL REEVES, ONE OF OUR MORE PERIPATETIC MEMBERS, RECENTLY TOOK OFF IN A DIRECTION DIFFERENT FROM HIS MORE ACCUSTOMED ONES and spent September attending the Sixth International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria, at Lisbon, Portugal, where he presented a paper, and in visiting a number of places en route. Going over, he went by way of England, and visited the London School of Tropical Medicine and the Regional Virus Laboratory at Leeds, where he saw Dr. Barry Marmion, the director, with whom Bill had spent some time in 1952 in Australia, working on the Murray Valley encephalitis project. At the Lisbon Congress there were over 100 papers given in 10 days and some 600 or more members attended, including AMCA's Ralph Bunn and Roy Fritz of (more or less) the U.S.A. and Harold Trapido, now of Poona, India. Bill said that Harold got to Poona just in time to fall into the boiling middle of a variant of Russian Spring-Summer Encephalitis, a fever called Kyasanur Forest Disease, which is carried by *Haemaphysalis* ticks, kills monkeys like yellow fever and causes haemorrhagic fever in man.

Bill met, or re-met, over 20 persons from other countries who had visited the Bakersfield (California) Field Station, and a Russian delegation of 16 persons who participated freely in the meetings and demonstrated again that science easily surmounts language and ideological differences, when it is permitted to do so. During two half-day sessions, called by WHO, and of which Bill was elected Chairman, discussions centered on Arthropod-borne Viruses, and Bill says, "It is astounding how this field has developed with interest and research projects in almost all temperate and tropical areas of the world. There are now 79 viruses recognized in this group, of which 50 were discovered in the past five years."

In Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Bill had a chance to visit the Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory, where they made him think for a minute he was back in Kern County (California), by taking him out into an orange grove to catch birds. He said, however, "Their problems make ours look simple, with over 100 species of mosquitoes to worry about." This was also his first taste of the American Tropics and he says he almost went crazy trying to get good Kodachromes of bromeliads to illustrate *Anopheles bellator* source problems. "They have a mere 81 isolations of unidentified viruses from this one island," he adds.

His last stop was in some ways the most exciting, when he called at the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in Panama to see Pedro Galindo. They went on a three-day visit to the jungle field station in Darien Province on the Colombian

border. By Cessna 180 to El Real, then dugout canoe for seven hours up the Tuira River to its junction with the Playa. "Unfortunately, time limits and an impending revolution didn't permit going into their upper jungle camp, another day's trip each way." (1)

Panama City greeted him on his return with an outbreak of eastern equine encephalomyelitis in horses, which began to give Bill the creepy feeling that this was where he had come in, having been on the ground before when an outbreak began popping. He was in Trinidad where St. Louis virus reared its head. (We think this is good arranging on somebody's part!) Bill also visited the new Middle American Virus Research Unit in the Canal Zone, a cooperative endeavor by the National Institutes of Health and the Armed Forces, a study which is planned to be extended to several Latin American countries. Bill wrote us about all this in a plane en route from Miami, where the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene held its meetings from the 4th to the 8th of November and Bill presented a paper *there*, too.

A. W. A. BROWN IS ANOTHER TEACHER WHO DOES IT WALKING AROUND OVER THE GLOBE. He has now returned to his post as Professor of Zoology at the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario, much to their relief and pleasure, we imagine. From June 1956 to July of this year, "Tony" had been Biologist to the World Health Organization, headquartered at Geneva, with the task of promoting WHO's part in the coordination of information and the encouragement of research on the resistance problem. During the period of his "loan" to WHO, he had the opportunity of meeting about 300 entomologists throughout the world in their own laboratories. He encountered a considerable awareness of AMCA and of *Mosquito News* and where this was lacking he, characteristically, "tried to remedy it." WHO published this year his monograph on *Insecticide Resistance in Arthropods*, which consists of 240 pages and contains over 600 references in its bibliography. Also characteristically, "Tony" says merely that this is an indication of the magnitude of the problem, rather than an indication of the magnitude of his industriousness.

DON JOHNSON, ANOTHER GADABOUT WENT "AROUND THE WORLD IN 60 DAYS" EARLY THIS LAST SUMMER and finally had time to drop us a note about it. He stopped briefly in Japan to see Maynard Johnson and recruit him away from the Army and into ICA. (We call this proselytizing, Don, not "recruiting") for Laos. Then on to

Taiwan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, India, Pakistan, Geneva and home. Besides his own reunions in Indonesia, he brought news to the Vietnamese of their old friend HARRY STAGE, saw AMCA members too numerous to mention and found malaria control programs going forward at a rapid pace everywhere. Afterward, he visited the ICA—Pan-American Sanitary Bureau Malaria Eradication Training Center, which was started this year at Kingston, Jamaica. Don allows us how it is "fast becoming the place for the training of 'malaria eradicators' in English language in the Western Hemisphere."

DON ALSO REMINDED US OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN HIS "STATE OF THE UNION" MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS EARLY THIS YEAR in which he said, "Another kind of work of peace is co-operation on projects of human welfare. For example, we now have it within our power to eradicate from the face of the earth that age-old scourge of mankind: malaria. We are embarking with other nations in an all-out five-year campaign to blot out this curse forever. We invite the Soviets to join with us in this great work of humanity."

THESE ARE FINE BRAVE WORDS THAT WE ALL ARE PROUD TO HEAR even though we know that, as FRANCISCO BAIAS reports from Manila, "eradication does not appear too easy, now." He points out that the slow, hard work of wiping out foci in out-of-the-way places, in the Philippines especially among the "wild or semi-wild non-Christian tribes," is yet to be done.

TRAVIS MCNEEL GAVE US A WORD OR TWO BY TELEPHONE, when he was briefly in this country, about the similar program and problem in Mexico. There, they have been spraying mud walls in twenty towns in three areas, coastal, jungle and plateau, using a variety of muds and sometimes constructing special walls of special muds in the houses of certain villages. In these tests dieldrin has been holding up very well for 300 days or more at fairly low dosages and thus giving the eradication teams considerable encouragement in their hopes for success before resistance blocks them.

THE PROBLEM OF RESISTANCE WAS GIVEN A REVERSE CURVE BY "TONY" BROWN RECENTLY in a short talk he gave before the sessions of the military entomologists gathered from all of the U. S. areas at home and overseas and representing also the Canadian Naval and Army entomologists. The occasion was a symposium on resistance as encountered by these military entomologists, given at a meeting of the Armed Forces Pest Control Board in Washington, D. C., a journey of Dr. Brown's we forgot to include earlier. As he pointed out, the military men (both uniformed and civilian) probably represented as inclusive a

world report as one would be likely to get, and the general consensus was that resistance, while severe in some cases, is also a spotty phenomenon, highly irregular in occurrence and requiring close vigilance if we are not simply to aggravate it unnecessarily. Anyway, Dr. Brown's reverse slant on resistance was to comment on the findings of research workers in England and in Japan who have hit upon a phenomenon where certain resistance is inextricably linked in the chromosomes with a susceptibility to other, sometimes quite ordinary, chemicals. This may lead, wild as it may sound, to our being some day able to slug mosquitoes with an insecticide or a common household cleaning agent and know that one or the other is inevitably fatal to them! Well, maybe it won't be quite that simple, but it does open up new vistas, which are already being explored as you may have noted from HELEN SOLLERS' list of References to literature in our September issue.

WHICH REMINDS US THAT MAJORS TED BLAKESLEE AND BOB STAPP, together with Lt. Laurence Johnston, all of the Army Environmental Health Laboratory, in June issued a bibliographic list giving 56 references to publications on resistance to insecticides. These were analysed to show alphabetically the genera and species of insects of medical importance in which resistance has developed, together with the insecticide to which it developed. Also listed were the countries from which resistance has been reported, giving the species concerned, the insecticide and the reference. The lists included only those instances in which resistance appears to be well substantiated by laboratory data.

GEORGE THOMPSON OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY (TEXAS) MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, has sent in an Operational Note, which appears elsewhere in this issue and contains the interesting observation that by increasing the concentration of his insecticide and then expanding the width *between swaths*, he actually improved his results with airplane spraying. George, whose motto is, "Remember the mosquito will bite the hand that breeds it," had been having some trouble with invasions of adult mosquitoes from the Sabine marshes. (You've got to hand it to Texas. They even have overtones of Caesar's Commentaries in their mosquito control!)

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HAD SIX MONTHS OF HIGHER-THAN-NORMAL TEMPERATURES BOTH LES BRUMBAUGH AND CHET ROBINSON reported that mosquito populations continued well under control and the major popular outcries were concerned with household breeders. Both are carrying ahead ambitious programs of source reduction and report good results in achieving public cooperation in these projects. JOHN BRAWLEY, who had had the disquieting experience of en-

countering parathion resistance in some fields earlier in the summer, reported that the resistance remained spotty and did not spread laterally from the original fields. Eventually, he was able to bat 'em down with a mixture of methyl and ethyl parathions and *hopes* his luck will last into next season. (Maybe we'll be spraying 'em with vinegar by then, John,—or Cobalt.) Elsewhere, other Districts reported that malathion resistance which had previously appeared seemed to be halted when the dosage was raised and so maybe there are a few bright rays in the dark clouds, after all.

ROLLIE DORER REPORTS VIA THE VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S *Skeeter*, that the outdoor drama entitled, *The Confederacy*, which was presented in an outdoor bowl at Virginia Beach this summer, was a testament to successful mosquito control. The newspaper report of the gala opening even commented that, "It was a beautiful night with a cool breeze, bright moonlight and no mosquitoes." As with the similar outdoor drama at Williamsburg, source reduction and hard legwork by the abatement districts, coupled with judicious spot-fogging, have made ALL THE DIFFERENCE. Rollie also reports that the VMCA's film on mosquito control is approaching its final stage, whew. And he includes the snappy note that, "The New York Times states, 'Mosquitoes prefer to bite blonds dressed in black rather than brunettes dressed in white.' It might be inferred from this statement that a bereaved blond is more luscious than a happy brunette; but perhaps *you* might like to bite a blond sometime, just to check. . . ."

DICK PETERS REMINDS US THAT THE CMCA MEETINGS FOR 1959 WILL BE HELD AT MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, and will be open to all. The dates are the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of February and the place is a beautiful and spankingly new motel entitled, *The Mark Thomas Inn*. This is located right across the main highway from the old Del Monte Hotel, now the Navy Postgraduate School, for the benefit of out-of-staters who, we hope, will come this way.

RALPH BARR IS ANOTHER WHO ATTENDED THE MIAMI MEETINGS of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Afterward he was scheduled to swing by the Vero Beach laboratory and then up to the Communicable Disease Center laboratory at Savannah, Georgia. Miighty nice.

DON GRANT AND TOM LAURET ARE SWINGING INTO HIGH GEAR IN RESEARCHES ON *LEPTOCONOPS*, the wee devil of a biting gnat which inhabits California's adobe soils and comes up only to make things unbearable for humans. DON and TOM have been joined by Harold E.

Munsterman, another biologist, now working on his Master's at Stanford.

EDMUND STANSFIELD HAS MADE A PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF HIS FINDINGS IN THE GREATER WINNIPEG MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT and his light traps showed him a satisfying degree of control but also a sobering potential for invasion by mosquitoes from outside. Fortunately resistance has as yet presented him with no problem and pretreatments were found to be quite effective, as evidenced by numerous newly-hatched larvae found dead in the water after the early rains. Interesting results were also obtained with tests of detergents, which killed larvae in concentrations as low as 25 ppm. Shall we *wash* our troubles away, do you think?

ALLAN RALPH BARR, who, we told you recently, is now with the California State Bureau of Vector Control, leads our Who's Who list this time, and we learn from *American Men of Science* that he was born in Ft. Worth, Texas, in 1926. This teaches us that you can never tell when you will be running into a Texan and we had better stop making with all these cracks. He received his BS from Southern Methodist and his ScD from Johns Hopkins. Just before that he had given the Navy two years just before the close of the war (W.W. II, that is) and since he didn't elucidate, we can't either. He was instructor in entomology and parasitology at the University of Minnesota for three years, where he began to make a name for himself, and went on to the University of Kansas in 1955 where he furthered that undertaking. We mentioned elsewhere that he is now, as we write, jaunting about Florida and in no position to deny anything we might choose to write but we'll stick to the facts, ma'am. The BVC is mighty happy to have him now with them. He is a member of the Entomological Society of America, the Society of Systematic Zoologists, Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and has been an AMCA'er for five years now.

GEORGE BURTON WAS BORN IN NEW YORK CITY in 1919 and received his BS and MS from CCNY, moving over to New York University for his Ph.D. in 1946. In between he had been a high school biology teacher and a draftsman for the Navy Department Hydrographic Office, as well as seeing active Navy duty as an entomologist with malaria control units. Returning from that for the aforementioned Ph.D. and some time with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania State Teacher's College, he then shifted to the Army and saw some more active duty in Germany and Italy as Commanding Officer of the 448th Preventive Medicine Survey Detachment. He settled down momentarily after that with the Engineer Research and Development Laboratories but the old wanderlust had bitten deep into him

by now and he started on those journeys for ICA from which he has sent us so many interesting Notes from All Over. He is now (we think) in India, but we'll probably get a letter telling us differently as soon as the galley proof has been run.

EARL MORTENSON was born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1923 and attended Colorado State University. After receiving his degree he came to California to the Graduate School of the University of California at Berkeley and in 1949 went to work with the Bureau of Vector Control. He was with the late, well-remembered Deed C. Thurman, Jr., in the original work on the biology of *Aedes nigromaculis* studies on irrigated pasture breeding, when this major enemy first exploded into our scene, and he remembers that period as the year of the 20-hour days. Their Turlock laboratory was home-made tables and scrounged dishes, then. (We forgot to say that Earl saw his active Army duty with the 1st Infantry Division (Field Artillery) in the European Theatre of Operations in France, and no doubt his Army experience made this process of working with nothing but what you can rassel up for yourself a familiar one for him.) Things are different now, and Earl's headquarters is the BVC's mighty fine lab at Fresno. He is married, and has two sons, eight and five, so his other hobbies of fishing and tennis will have to wait a bit while he grows them up a little.

LESTER W. SMITH IS A CHARTER MEMBER OF AMCA AND ONE WHOM WE'D ALL KNOW because of his activity in the organization even if he weren't the guy to'm we all send that little old annual contribution. He is also the Executive Secretary of the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission and has been for some 37 years. In order to achieve this, Lester thoughtfully got himself born in 1901 in Brooklyn, N. Y. It was only a step across Manhattan to New Jersey and he took this fatal step in time to attend high school in Metuchen and then go on to Mt. Hermon Prep School and Pace College. He was married in 1928 and has two children, one of whom made Lester a granddaddy about four years ago. His son, after finishing at Rollins, has gone into the Navy. It is, of course, no secret to any of us that the work in New Jersey pioneered much of the territory into which most of the rest of us plunged at various times thereafter and Lester has therefore varied his homework with special assignments with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and assisting in organizing the mosquito

control work in a number of states. He is a past president of his Rotary Club and a Past Master of his Masonic Lodge, as well as past-President of the Metuchen Golf and Country Club. That last makes it pretty plain, we guess, that his mosquito control has satisfied the customers.

ONE OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS IS CORNELIO M. URBINO WHO IS, HOWEVER, NO NEWCOMER TO MOSQUITO CONTROL. He was born in 1899 of poor parents in the village of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan Province, Philippines, and lost his father, who was a "Katipunero" or fighter for independence against the Spaniards and later against the invading Americans. Cornelio worked his way up through school, however, finishing at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture, at Los Baños, south of Manila. He joined the Malaria Control section of the Department of Health in 1927, as Assistant Entomologist, and began studies of mosquito bionomics, which were continued until 1938. In 1938-1940 he was on the island of Mindoro, which is an incredibly fertile, mountainous land lying almost in the doorway of Manila Bay, but virtually uninhabitable because of malaria until recent control campaigns have unlocked the portals. His work on Mindoro incriminated *Anopheles mangyanus* as a vector, which has been confirmed by later WHO workers; this species, like *A. minimus flavirostris*, the principal Philippine vector, breeds in flowing streams, though of a somewhat different type. During the Japanese Occupation, Mr. Urbino worked on malaria control on Bataan and after the war was with the American 8th Army malaria control units, principally the 423rd Medical Composite. In 1945, about the time that the Philippines became an independent nation, he rejoined the Malaria Division of the Department of Health which was being resurrected under the capable direction of Dr. Antonio Ejercito, another member of AMCA and known to many both from their visits to him in Manila and his visits to us, here. In 1946, 1947, and 1948, AMCA's Ejercito, Urbino and Baisas aided and sustained the American army malaria control efforts in many ways, not the least of which was by arising at dawn to apply sprays and dusts from low flying planes and fogs from many varieties of home-made and commercially-made fog generators, with suitable population counts before and after, in an effort to find a method of penetrating the heavy growths of wild grasses and rice paddies gone wild, which concealed and protected the breeding places of the several local anophelines. (Found it, too! *Mosquito News* 12(2):110).