

## OPERATIONAL NOTES

P. BRUCE BROCKWAY, JR.

[Editor's Note: In the hope of stimulating other managers and field workers to submit similar short notes of a helpful and constructive nature, Mr. Brockway submits the following. These are examples of accounts of simple devices which in many instances the designer or builder or user has accepted as routine, without thought of writing about them. However, it may be just such a piece of equipment or "gadget" that may help someone else, or suggest an improvement in some other shop or laboratory. In the meantime, it is expected that one or more longer papers, solicited by Mr. Buzicky and Mr. Mulhern will be ready for the December number.—D. L. C.]

THE TOLEDO AREA SANITARY DISTRICT CONSTRUCTED ITS LABORATORY IN 1948. THE MICROSCOPE TABLE WAS A PERMANENT BENCH 36" high and so constructed that the technicians could put their legs under the bench. There were times that this was rather unhandy, especially if there were two people using the microscopes. Perhaps one technician would be using two microscopes and these were of different eye heights. Needless to say, this height and scope positioning hindered the efficiency in the lab. This last spring we endeavored to find a lab table that was easily raised and lowered. After considering various methods, we located a hospital bedside table which has a crank and worm gear mechanism that can raise and lower the top of the bench. This has been in operation for a few months, and the Toledo Area Sanitary District technician is quite pleased with her table. Not only can she change positions with minimum trouble, but she can switch from one microscope to another and change the eye level with minimum effort. In this way, comfort and efficiency were both satisfied by this laboratory improvement.

If other mosquito control districts are interested in further details, please feel free to contact the Toledo Area Sanitary District and we will be glad to forward the details.

RECENTLY, THE TOLEDO AREA SANITARY DISTRICT HAS MADE AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE RUBBER SLEEVE CONNECTIONS USED ON THE FLOATING PIPE OF OUR DREDGE. The District uses the chain and clamp grips on each side of the sleeve. This chain and clamp is made by Black Brothers and is constructed of chain, a worm screw, a grab plate and the handle. During the years, we have found that vandals would use the handles that are on these chain clamps to unlock the chains themselves and we would lose the clamp. To overcome this problem, one of our mechanics devised a tool that can be used either to tighten or loosen the chain clamp and we can, therefore, take off all the handles that are a fabricated part of the clamping system. The tightening head swivels and it can be used as a right-hand or left-hand threading device.

THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE OF THE ILLINOIS MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION is making plans for an operational equipment training session. This is for field personnel or maintenance personnel because it will include instruction for special pieces of equipment. A survey of mosquito control districts was made a few weeks ago and the results of this survey showed a great interest in this different type of program.

If you have any opinions or suggestions, please write to P. Bruce Brockway, Jr. of the Toledo Area Sanitary District and you can be assured that these suggestions will be given all possible consideration. More detailed information related to this program will be published in this same section in the December issue of *Mosquito News*.

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