

These new districts will concentrate first on Anopheline control but will gradually expand to include pest species.

DON M. REES.

FROM THE CITY OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

A certain ancient adage expresses the general idea that He Whom Fate Smiles Upon Is Beyond The Need of Great Riches.

I have always felt there was nothing that could quite take the place of a goodly sum in the savings bank when it comes to easing the aches and pains of our daily tussle with life but I must also admit that Fate can be a big help if she cares to hand you a lucky deal.

Last winter the temptation was strong on the part of many mosquito men to give way to a feeling of gloom when they tried to look around the corner toward the summer that was inevitably creeping up on their weakened defenses. Manpower and munitions were both scarce and replacements difficult to obtain. The prospects were not encouraging. But our fraternity is made up of fighters — or they would not be mosquito men — and there was no quitting on any front. From last reports the enemy is again taking a licking all along the line.

Such success can spring only from a combination of knowledge, energy and experience but now and then it is helped along a little by Fate — which is as good a name as any other for dry weather — and that is our case here in the Tidewater Virginia area. From late April until the middle of July, Norfolk experienced an unprecedented drought that reduced ground water to a minimum, nearly ruined the farmer and gave our pitifully meager army an even chance against the mosquito. We have accepted our good fortune gratefully and have employed every effort to make the best possible use of it. We intentionally refrain from anything that could be interpreted as bragging, for Fate's sunny smile often turns to a watery frown over night, but we are just as human as if we had office hours from ten to four and our feelings are hurt when we do not receive credit for what we have accomplished.

This situation is aptly covered by another old proverb somewhat to the effect that A Little Bit of Knowledge Is Likely To Make Trouble For Somebody and I wonder how many of us have been caught in the backfire of our own teaching. For years now we have been impressing our good friends with the fact that water is the only known medium in which mosquitoes can breed. After so long a time we realize that this message has begun to strike home. Our work has borne fruit and the truth has been heard. Now some of these same friends, armed with this Bit of Knowledge, eye the parched landscape and openly wonder if we really deserve the soft job we are enjoying during the drought. No water — no mosquitoes. Nothing for us to do but rest comfortably all day!

Dr. William B. Hermes in the latest edition of his Mosquito Control says, "Man by his works presents numerous opportunities for mosquito breeding, of which the mosquitoes take prompt advantage."

With all of us engaged in mosquito abatement, any statement by Dr. Hermes carries the authority of a top ranking expert in his field and it is obviously no coincidence that during the period from May 1 to July 15 our inspectors have brought to our field office no less than 383 individual samples of breeding taken from all over the city. These, of course, do not represent the total number of places treated to eliminate mosquito larvae since the time required to sample each catch basin visited, for instance, would be prohibitive but they do provide an index of the female mosquitoes' egg-laying urge that can be satisfied even when rainfall ceases to be a contributing

factor. They are of course almost exclusively the domestic species and consist largely of *Culex Pipiens* and *Aedes Aegypti*, the latter first appearing here this year in outdoor locations on June 8, rather earlier than usual. As a point of interest, our heaviest percentage of breeding in units inspected occurred in the fast disappearing but still worrisome watering troughs and these were followed by basements and then the garden fish ponds.

No, we cannot blame the layman for assuming that we and the mosquitoes have gone on a vacation during the drought. We have spent a good deal of effort in associating water and mosquitoes in his mind and it is not his fault that he does not know how to look for water that he cannot see. Perhaps for our own vindication and self-preservation we should carry our publicity a little further and get the rest of the story out in the open where it can save our reputation as well as lighten our task. We are working on that now.

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Department of Public Works.

DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION

At the request of the County Commissioners of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Sanitary Engineer (R) Russell W. Gies of the United States Public Health Service, Office of Malaria Control in War areas, has been assigned as Acting Executive Officer of the Delaware County Mosquito Extermination Commission, as well as Director of Mosquito Control work in the City of Philadelphia. Major Gies has been assisting the City of Philadelphia since the beginning of the 1943 mosquito breeding season, working with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Philadelphia Department of Public Works at the request of the Mayor of Philadelphia. His Philadelphia address is Room 616 City Hall Annex, and his Delaware County address is the Court House, Media, Pa.

The Philadelphia-Delaware County area covers the second largest War Industrial area in the United States with a total population of two and one-half million people. The large War Industries have had a considerable reduction in their War production output in past years on account of the excessive number of mosquitoes and it was to help in reducing the number of mosquitoes below the point at which they would adversely affect War production, that this co-operative effort between the Federal Government and the local authorities was undertaken. In addition, considerable numbers of Army and Navy personnel are being returned to Philadelphia for treatment from the tropics many of whom are malaria carriers. The Armed services are cooperating with the mosquito control work under Major Gies' direction by furnishing personnel to assist the inspection personnel of the City of Philadelphia and Delaware County in locating mosquito breeding areas, especially in the vicinity of the service Hospitals in the area. This co-operative effort is also providing an opportunity for field training of the Army and Navy personnel assigned for this co-operative work. The Malaria Control offices of the Philadelphia Naval Hospital especially are taking great interest in the work being carried on under the direct orders of the Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital.

A number of unusual conditions in the Philadelphia-Delaware County area, which will be described more in detail in a later issue of Mosquito News, have contributed toward the large number of mosquitoes in this area. The work which is being carried on is beginning to get good results from most of the area, but considerably better results will be obtained as additional equipment and manpower is made available for doing this work. In Philadelphia Dr. Rufus Reeves, Director of Public Health, is taking much