NEWS AND NOTES

C. Y. Chow, an AMCA member and contributor, has written to several of us from China. His address is: "Taiwan Malaria Research Institute, P. O. Box 182, Taipeh, Taiwan." It is of interest to note that an airmail letter from Taiwan (Formosa) costs as much as 1/20 of Dr. Chow's monthly salary. He had to leave his library in Nanking when he departed by plane, so he will welcome any reprints which AMCA members send him. Excerpts from his letter, dated March 26, follow:

"From Caracas I went down to Maracay, i.e. to Dr. Gabaldon's laboratory. They have been doing very good work on big scale malaria control—using both engineering and DDT spraying methods. After staying one week, I flew over to Bogotá, Colombia. Dr. Marston Bates' laboratory is situated at Villavicencio, a small town about one hour's flying from Bogotá. I worked with him on the chemical contents of water in relation to the egg laying habit of *Anopheles darlingi*, the chief malaria vector of his place. * * * In Los Angeles, I visited Hollywood, but did not see any actors or actresses. A couple of days were spent in Professor Herms' lab at Berkeley, and the U. S. P. H. S. Plague lab at San Francisco. On August 31, I took SS President Cleveland to sail to China. I arrived in Shanghai in the middle of last September. Unfortunately, because of the war, we moved our lab from Nanking to Taiwan last December. We have several field stations on this island. * * * In north Taiwan we use the automatic siphon gates to control *A. minimus*. In the south, we use both DDT larvicide and adulticide for controlling *A. hyrcanus sinensis*. We use a local product, Camphor oil, as solvent for DDT emulsion. We test DDT residual spraying on 100 mg. per sq. ft. Also, continuing on the test of Paludrine and Hetrazan for oriental peoples. * * * With best wishes to all of you."

Sincerely,
C. Y. Chow

Information has just been received, as we go to press, that Dr. W. B. Herms, of Berkeley, California, died suddenly May 9, of a heart attack. This is a great loss, both to those who respected Dr. Herms as a scientist and to those who loved him as a teacher and fine man. The sympathy of the entire American Mosquito Control Association is extended to Mrs. Herms and other members of his family. H. L. T.

Mr. W. H. W. Komp left May 4 for Guatemala, where he expects to remain for about one month before going to British Honduras. There he will stay for another month with Belize Estates Co., Ltd., at Belize; and from there he will return to Guatemala for a short period. He hopes to be back at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda by August 1. His address is c/o Major C. G. Dobrovolny, Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana, Apartado No. 383, Guatemala. His project, as usual, will be the hunting of mosquitoes and appraisal of the malaria situations.

Ralph J. VanDerwerker, Chief Sanitary Engineer with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, has written the following from São Paulo, Brazil, under date of March 27:

"This trip is one of my most interesting journeys up to the present time and I find it very enjoyable.

"Dr. A. Ayroza Galvão took me up to Araraguara yesterday where he is connected with a demonstration health center. He is in charge of their malaria control work.

"This malaria program involves spraying approximately 2500 rural homes with DDT emulsion spray 2 or 3 times a year in the malarious areas. *A. darlingi* is their most feared vector and, as you know, has most irregular outbreaks. So far in 2 years of the work, no new infections have developed but they are waiting to see if it is a lull in prevalence of *darlingi* or the DDT before predicting that the problem is solved.

"The State of São Paulo is treating about 30,000 rural homes in malarious areas with the same results. They, too, are cautious about predictions but feel very happy and pleased with the results so far.

"The National Malaria Service of Brazil in 1948 applied 1,000,000 treatments and hope to triple that in 1949. Dr. Pinotti, chief of this service, is very enthusiastic about the results and feels that this is the answer to stopping malaria. They have an emulsion mixing plant producing 2000 gals./hr. to supply their crews."

Dr. F. C. Bishopp attended the National Agricultural Aviation Conference held April 21 and 22 in Kansas City, Missouri; and he spoke on, "Aircraft in the war against insects." Dr. Bishopp says that mosquitoes received some attention at these meetings, but that the main consideration was of strictly agricultural uses, such as crop treatment with insecticides, fungicides, weed killers, hormones, and fertilizers, also seeding crop transport, etc. H. L. T.

PYRETHRIN-LIKE MATERIAL SYNTHESIZED. The war on mosquitoes will be aided by the synthesis in the chemical laboratories of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at Beltsville, Md. of potent insecticides almost identical with pyrethrins derived from plants.

This discovery announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in March 1949 was the culmination of 18 years of intensive investigations of pyrethrum by Dr. F. B. LaForge. He found several insecticidal elements to occur in pyrethrum flowers in addition to pyrethrins I and II. The true chemical make-up of the

pyrethrins was determined, and finally Schechter, LaForge and Green devised a way of making in the laboratory compounds very similar to the pyrethrins.

One of these compounds tested against house flies by W. A. Gersdorff was found to be about six times as toxic as pyrethrum extract. It is more stable than the pyrethrins and will probbly have the same low toxicity to higher animals. The material is still in an early experimental stage but industry is much interested in it and there appears to be no reason why it should not be available for commercial use in about a year.

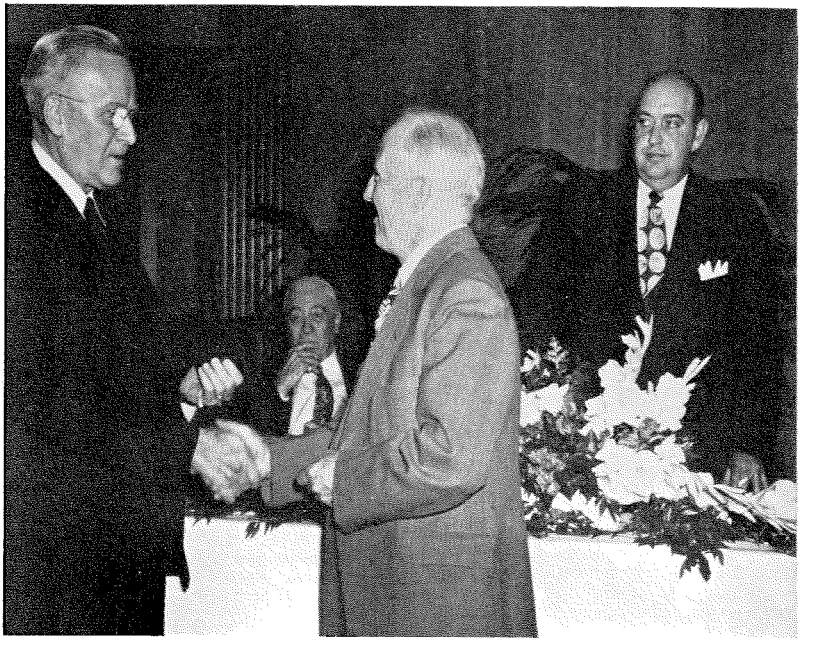
Details of the method of synthesis are soon to be published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society. F. C. BISHOPP

A banquet climaxing the 3-day Annual Convention of the N. J. Mosquito Extermination Association in Atlantic City, was held Thursday night, March 24, and approximately 110 persons attended. Members were on hand from all over the United States. They heard Harold F. Gray, President of the AMCA pay tribute to the industry and loyalty of Dr. Robert D. Glasgow, retiring Editor-in-Chief of "Mosquito News." They watched as Mr. Gray, on behalf of the AMCA, presented Dr. Glasgow with an appropriately-inscribed Elgin watch in a velvet case. They listened intently as Dr. Glasgow accepted the gift and replied in his quietly modest way. It was a memorable occasion, full of meaning for the good Doctor's friends and co-workers. Tommy Mulhern's camera recorded some of the action; the accompanying picture shows Dr. Glasgow receiving the watch and hearty congratulations from President Gray.

H. L. T.

Harry Stage, Assistant Chief, Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals, USDA, is preparing—as this issue goes to press—to spend approximately 2 months in Africa, British East and West, enjoying a few days in London en route. He will travel under the auspices of the Economic Cooperative Administration, and will critically review certain research now under way on malaria and trypanosomiasis. The date of departure, about May 1; return, perhaps July 1, 1949. Lucky Africans! H. L. T.

It is another Spring, and another one of AMCA'S fairer members has decided to promenade down that middle-aisle. Louise Goode, my erstwhile associate in the laboratory at Bethesda, who has contributed abstracts to "Mosquito News," assisted at meetings, and appeared in one of the photographs in the December number of the "News," plans to become Mrs. John Scoggins on June 11. The place, her home, Blacksburg, S. C. Dry those tears boys, and congratulate the groom and wish Louise the best of everything for the future. H. L. T.



MAYOR DOROTHY MCCULLOUGH LEE HONORED. The many mosquito fighters who had the pleasure

of meeting Mrs. Dorothy McCullough Lee and hearing her address at mosquito meetings in the last few years were pleased to learn that the Women's National Press Club has chosen her as one of seven to receive from President Truman on May 14, 1949, the Club's annual award to outstanding women of the Country.

Without doubt her effective campaign against mosquitoes led to her election as Commissioner of Public Utilities in Portland, Oregon, a few years ago and last year to her election as mayor, the first woman to become head of a city with a population of over a half million. Our congratulations, Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee.

F. C. BISHOPP

SOUTH JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS, JOINS THE RAPIDLY GROWING RANKS OF MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS. At the invitation of the South Jefferson County, Texas, Mosquito Control Committee, Thomas D. Mulhern, of New Brunswick, N. J., secretary of the American Mosquito Control Committee, made a five-day mosquito survey of this county in April.

Mulhern, employed by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, made a tentative report at the conclusion of his survey of the Gulf Coast County but will make a more detailed and comprehensive report after analyzing and studying all the data and information he assimilated. He emphasized that the mosquito problem facing Jefferson County is in many respects almost an exact duplicate of that which New Jersey has so adequately dealt with during the last forty years. The salt marsh mosquito is the crux of the problem both in New Jersey and in the Jefferson County region, with house mosquitoes also contributing to the annoyance. The extensive rice fields in the area are at times an additional source of mosquitoes of a different type.

The mosquito nuisance, long a plague in Jefferson County, has been reluctantly endured to the point where citizens had almost given it up as a "necessary evil." Taking the lead in a movement to do something decisive about the vexatious problem, the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce Public Health Committee, Dr. Paul Meyer, chairman, decided that action was imperative.

Meetings and conferences were held. Help of the Navy was secured in demonstrating the effectiveness of DDT airplane spraying. County and city officials cooperated with DDT spraying of ditches and low-lying areas. Temporary comfort resulted from the reduction of pest mosquitoes.

Thus encouraged, the Chamber Health Committee broadened its scope of activities into formation of a South County Mosquito Control Committee. Dr. Meyer was also elected chairman of this group. A campaign to solicit voluntary contributions for a mosquito-control fund was initiated and Roy Harrington, secretary of the local Oil Workers Union, was chairman of the drive for funds.

Primary objective of the funding campaign was to finance the salary and expenses of a mosquito-control manager for the county for two years, while surveys were being made and the program was beginning. All money donated which exceeded $10,000, was to be used to finance actual mosquito-control measures to be recommended by the manager.

Cooperation of civic clubs was corralled and the campaign was geared for action. Preceded by avalanches of radio and newspaper publicity, solicitors made house-to-house contacts in Port Arthur for contributions. A minimum of $5.00 per family unit was requested. Similar campaigns were conducted in neighboring communities near Port Arthur. Over $10,000 was collected.

What next? State legislators from this region suggested introduction of a bill proposing creation of a mosquito-control district for Jefferson County. While studying the proposition, local mosquito-control officials wrote reams of information-inquiring letters to cities, counties and states asking how they had proceeded against mosquitoes. It was during this phase of the project that Mr. Mulhern was consulted. His helpful replies, as well as those from Florida and California mosquito districts, convinced the committee that the only solution to financing a broad and effective mosquito program was through formation of a tax-supported mosquito control district. The bill proposing creation of a Jefferson County mosquito district was duly introduced in the Texas Legislature and passed without a dissenting vote. It was amended to give other counties local option to also form mosquito-control districts.

The bill provides a tax not to exceed 5 cents on a $100 valuation. Before becoming county law, the bill stipulates that a majority of the county voters, all county tax paying voters must also ballot in favor of it. The county court, which will be in charge of forming the mosquito district, plans to submit to the voters the question of creation of a county mosquito district on May 21.

To say that local backers of the bill wish for passage of the legislation is an understatement. The problem of combating mosquitoes in Jefferson County hangs in the balance on the balloting on the county mosquito control bill.

Mulhern appeared optimistic over possibilities of reducing the county mosquito menace providing the program is launched on a broad and well conceived plan.

During his five-day survey of this region, he made aerial and ground inspections, and conferred with county drainage and agricultural officials, who furnished a tremendous amount of valuable information, and the U. S. Public Health Service has since furnished him with accurate sample counts of mosquitoes taken in Beaumont, Port Acres, Port Arthur and Orangefield during the past several years, in cooperation with the Texas State Health Department.

Speaking tentatively of survey results, Mulhern pointed out that the initial problem is to get rid of standing water, and marsh ditching for

drainage or circulation of tide water appears to be the permanent improvements indicated.

Control work should be aimed at immediate relief by temporary means, but at the same time, the program should take into account permanent preventive measures that will eventually decrease the amount of temporary relief work necessary, he said.

Best possible control for the salt marsh mosquito will probably be by providing circulation of marsh water in order that minnows be allowed free access to pools, since they eat the mosquito larvae and thus are a potent control measure in themselves. Such control measures are relatively simple where tide fluctuations are greatest, he said. In the Gulf area, tidal fluctuations are not large and therefore considerable carefully planned ditching work would be necessary.

These opinions were tentative, Mulhern stated, and they will be outlined in detail in a compilation and study of all the data he garnered on his survey of the entire county.

When installed, the program will be under the jurisdiction of the Jefferson County Court: including James Kirkland, County Judge and Commissioners—Gail Hatch, T. B. Ellison, Dick Scurlock and Frank Helmke.

Members of Port Arthur, Texas, City Commission are cooperating, including Dr. James W. Long, Mayor and Commissioners—J. E. Pullen, Al Jenkins, J. P. Logan, Howard Carter, H. A. Tanner and Dan Johnson.

PORT ARTHUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Port Arthur, Texas

AL TIEMPO QUE LA MALARIA DISMINUYE LA DIVISIÓN DE MALARIOLOGÍA AUMENTA.—Aunque esta noticia parezca paradójica, lo cierto es que la Div. de Malariología, de Venezuela, dependencia que desde 1936 se ocupaba únicamente de todos los problemas relacionados con la malaria. Debido al fuerte descenso que ha sufrido la enfermedad en los últimos dos años y a la introducción del DDT como arma de lucha contra los anofeles y otros artrópodos ha sido encargada de otras actividades sanitarias tales como la represión de huéspedes de enfermedades metaxénicas y en consecuencia de ahora en adelante tendrá que combatir también los trasmisores de fiebre amarilla, enfermedad de chagas y controlar roedores y otras alimañas. Por este motivo el edificio que alberga sus oficinas y laboratorios centrales en Maracay, Edo. Aragua está siendo ampliado como lo muestra la foto.

Even if this news sounds peculiar, the fact is that the Division of Malariology of Venezuela in charge of malaria problems since 1936, owing to the vertical decrease of these problems and the appearance of DDT in the field of sanitation, will have from now on the control of insect carriers of other diseases such as yellow fever mosquitoes. A rodent control program will also be carried out. In order to furnish room for the new activities, the headquarters building in Maracay, Aragua, is being enlarged.

FÍN DEL V CURSO INTERNACIONAL DE MALARIOLOGÍA.—El 18 de Diciembre del año pasado se dió termino al V Curso Internacional de Malariología ofrecido para Médicos e Ingenieros por la División de Malariología, Dirección de Salubridad Pública del Ministerio de Sanidad y Asistencia Social en su sede, la ciudad de Maracay, 100 kilómetros al Oeste de Caracas.

Este Curso dirigido por el Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon, Jefe de la nombrada División de Malariología, tiene una duración de cuatro meses y medio y consta de una etapa teórico-práctica en las aulas y laboratorios del Edificio Central de la División y una segunda etapa de entrenamiento práctico durante los dos últimos meses que se dedican a trabajos de campo llevados a cabo en las diferentes dependencias de la División, diseminadas en todo el país.

Las materias y profesores para este Curso fueron los siguientes:

Hematología, Dr. Antonio Gómez Marcano; Entomología, Dr. Pablo Cova Garcia; Protozoología, Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon y Sr. José Antonio López, Anatomía Patológica, Dr. Antonio Gómez Marcano; Sintomatología de la Malaria, Dr. Carlos Zozaya; Terapéutica de la Malaria, Dr. Antonio Gómez Marcano; Epidemiología de la Malaria, Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon; Ingeniería Antimalárica, Dr. Arturo Luis Berti; Dr. Salvador José Carrillo, Dr. John Maier, Dr. Domenico Filippone; Organización Antimalárica, Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon, Dr. Antonio Gómez Marcano y Dr. Arturo Luis Berti; Legislación Antimalárica, Dr. Pablo Cova Garcia y Enfermedades Metaxénicas, Dr. Carlos Zozaya.

Dos nuevas materias, Anatomía Patológica y Enfermedades Metaxénicas fueron introducidas para este V Curso al q. asistieron los siguientes estudiantes:

Virgilio Polastri de Ecuador; J. Víctor Avila R., de Guatemala; Gustavo Garcia, de México; José Leão Costa, de Brasil; Alejandro Robleto Pérez, de Nicaragua; Julio Heriberto Torres, de Bolivia; Jorge Salinas Cáceres, de Perú; Aurelio Antonio López, de Panamá; Víctor Lara Ponce, de Bolivia; Julián Adalberto Rodriguez, de El Salvador; Angelo Cozzani, de Italia y Rubén Henríquez Garcia, Ismael Silva Landaeta, Eladio Russián Vasquez y Ezequiel Sutil O., de Venezuela.

ARTURO LUIS BERTI, Maracay, Venezuela

The fifth International Malaria Course given by the Malaria Division, Direction of Public Health, Ministry of Health, at Maracay, 100 kilometers west from Caracas, ended on December 18, 1948.

This course, directed by Doctor Arnoldo Gabaldon, Chief of said Division, lasted 18 weeks. The first 10 weeks were devoted to lectures and laboratory; the last 8 weeks to field work on different malaria stations and projects conducted by the Division throughout the country.

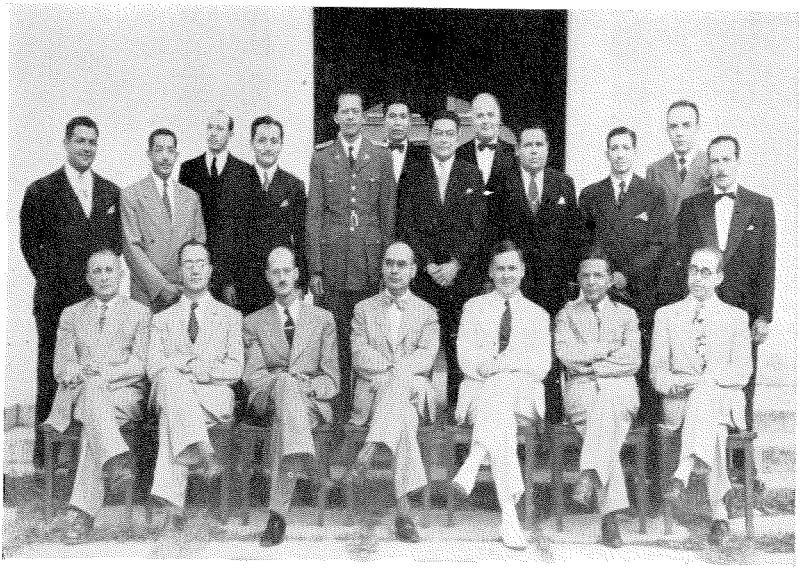
Subjects and professors were as follows:

Hematology, Dr. Antonio Gómez Marcano; Entomology, Dr. Pablo Cova Garcia; Protozoology, Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon and Mr. José Antonio López; Malaria Pathology, Dr. Antonio Gómez Marcano; Malaria Symptomatology, Dr. Carlos Zozaya; Malaria Therapeutics, Dr. Antonio Gómez Marcano; Malaria Epidemiology, Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon; Antimalaria Engineering, Doctors Arturo Luis Berti, Salvador José Carrillo, John Maier and Domenico Filippone; Antimalaria Organization, Doctors Arnoldo Gabaldon, Antonio Gómez Marcano y Arturo Luis Berti; Antimalaria Legislation, Dr. Pablo Cova Garcia; Metaxenic Diseases, Dr. Carlos Zozaya.

Two new subjects, Malaria Pathology and Metaxenic Diseases were introduced on this fifth course.

The following students attended the course: Virgilio Polastri, Ecuador; J. Víctor Avila R., Guatemala; Gustavo Garcia, México; José Leão Costa, Brasil; Alejandro Robleto Pérez, Nicaragua; Julio Heriberto Torres, Bolivia; Jorge Salinas Cáceres, Perú; Aurelio Antonio López, Panamá; Víctor Lora Ponce, Bolivia; Julián Adalberto Rodriguez, El Salvador; Angelo Cozzani, Italia; Ruben Henríquez Garcia, Ismael Silva Landaeta, Eladio Russián Vázquez, and Ezequiel R. Sutil O, Venezuela.

ARTURO LUIS BERTI, Maracay, Venezuela



Professors (seated) l. to r.: J. A. López, A. L. Berti, S. Carrillo, A. Gabaldon, J. Maier, P. Cova García, C. Zozaya. Background: students.

CORRECTION

In the paper on "The Operation and Physical Evaluation of Routine Applications of DDT Larvicides by Airplane" by H. Stierli and W. R. Schmitz in the March 1949 (Vol. 9 No. 1) issue of MOSQUITO NEWS, the legends of Figure 1 and Figure 2 on page 3 were transposed. The legend under Figure 1 as printed should appear under Figure 2, and the legend under Figure 2 as printed should appear under Figure 1.