

EDITORIAL SECTION

It is customary for the orators, essayists and economists of a country to go back to the sayings and writings of the founding fathers for support of policies or theories that they are currently advocating. In these United States it might be to Washington or Franklin if they are speaking in general terms; or to Jefferson if they are Democrats and to Lincoln if they are Republicans.

With such a precedent the Editor may be pardoned if he refers to some writings of the founding fathers of the American Mosquito Control Association as the basis for certain editorial policies which have been followed.

From time to time the question has been voiced by sincerely interested persons as to whether *Mosquito News* should confine itself to the publication of papers on mosquitoes only, or even to papers on mosquito control only. Although it will be apparent to readers, if only from a perusal of the current issue, that the present editor believes in a more liberal interpretation of the function of *Mosquito News*, before referring specifically to certain articles it may be interesting to recall some previous discussions of the matter.

In a letter written in 1940 to Mr. Mulhern, Dr. Glasgow outlined some of his ideas for the new publication, which eventually became *Mosquito News* in its present form, and said, in part, that it should mean a "publication the quality of which would command a wide circulation to paid subscribers *in our own field and in related fields that are likely to be of interest to our particular group.*"

Later, but as early as 1942, in a report of the Publications Committee signed by several members, attention was called to the fact that mosquito control workers were being compelled to interest themselves in and inform themselves on "the whole field of community control of pests other than mosquitoes," and "many other special fields."

It was pointed out still later, in another report, that the membership of the Association comprises personnel from many related fields of public health service, including tropical medicine, medical and veterinary entomology, public health administration, public health engineering, and sanitary engineering in addition to malaria control as such and to pest mosquito control.

In the light of these early statements it is interesting to examine the appropriateness of the inclusion of some of the papers in the present issue.

There is a paper on the analysis of fat and excreta from persons exposed to DDT and handling DDT. This is, of course, of interest to public health workers; it is also especially interesting to mosquito control workers because so many of them not only handle DDT rather constantly themselves, but also because they are constantly having to defend their use of DDT in large scale control projects affecting entire regional populations. Surely, even if mosquitoes are not mentioned in the paper, mosquito control workers will be glad of its availability, and the availability of other toxicological papers, as well as papers on relative toxicities such as the one on benzene hexachloride and other compounds, in their publication.

Then, there are two papers on gnats—one gnat which is taxonomically close to the biting mosquitoes, and a biting species which is taxonomically more remote. Both of these papers describe unusually interesting control procedures and results, and both deal with problems where mosquito control agencies would logically be called in for action. The same is true for the papers on blackflies (*Simuliidae*) which *Mosquito News* has published.

This issue also contains a paper on malaria control in Venezuela. This is of interest not only to our many South American members and members in other Spanish speaking countries, but from the

now well nigh universal acceptance and application of many of the principles involved, to mosquito control workers everywhere.

Lastly, the issue is rounded out by some shorter papers dealing with taxonomy, morphology and distribution. Such papers may often seem of little interest in themselves to many of those who consider themselves only "practical" men—workers on the engineering or broader public health aspects of mosquito control—but it must be admitted by all that it is only through such studies, eventually applied, perhaps, by someone else to the local prob-

lems, that the necessary discrimination between species and habitats has been obtained to permit intelligent development, application, and appraisal of control measures.

It is firmly believed by the editor that only by this catholicity of content can *Mosquito News* continue to interest a sufficiently large circle of readers and subscribers, and continue to be a force in attracting and maintaining a sufficiently large membership in the American Mosquito Control Association, to widen its influence and to encourage continued progress.—D. L. C.