NEWS AND NOTES

THE GALVESTON COUNTY MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION was organized at a meeting attended by about 60 representatives of city and county health agencies, leaders of civic and educational associations and various industries held in Galveston, Texas, July 29, 1953.

Dr. Carl Nau, Chairman of the department of public health and preventive medicine of the University of Texas School of Medicine was elected president and empowered to organize various committees.

The main purpose of the organization is to set up a mosquito control district and bring about more effective mosquito control in Galveston county.

AMCA president, F. C. Bishopp, attended the meeting and discussed advantages to be gained by a properly organized and financed anti-mosquito association and some of the problems to be overcome. Mr. William Cox, mosquito control officer of the City Board of Health, presided at the meeting and also gave Dr. Bishopp opportunity to see some of the mosquito problems with which he has been dealing.

DR. WILLIAM E. BICKLEY TAUGHT A COURSE IN ENTOMOLOGY at the Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia, Mountain Lake, Virginia, during June and July. There were no mosquito problems although several species were collected. A few blackflies were troublesome occasionally and once in a while *Culicoides* were rather annoying. This station is at an elevation of 3800 feet. Several visiting scientists gave lectures. Among those was Dr. Donald L. Augustine, Head of the Department of Comparative Pathology and Tropical Medicine of the Harvard School of Public Health. Having recently served as a consultant, he reported on some public health work at an American jute mill twenty miles south of Calcutta, India, at the town of Ludlow. The malaria vector is *Anopheles sundaicus* which breeds in mangrove salt marshes. A reduction in the large number of malaria cases was brought about through the use of DDT residual sprays and the newer drugs.

HERBERT T. DALMAT RECENTLY RETURNED FROM GUATEMALA where he has been active in research and control work dealing with black flies in relation to the transmission of onchocerciasis, under the auspices of the Public Health Service and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Mr. Dalmat is now on duty at the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, National Micro-biological Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. He is completing a monograph on the Simuliidae of Guatemala.

CAPT. FRANK G. FAVORITE HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN FROM KOREA where he is actively engaged in insect control activities with emphasis on mosquitoes. His address is Capt. Frank G. Favorite 065989, Med. Sec. Hqs. 8th U. S. Army, APO 301 c/o P.M., San Francisco, California.

DR. HERBERT KNUTSON, FORMERLY HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY at the University of Rhode Island, has been named head of the Department of Entomology at Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas. He succeeds Dr. Roger C. Smith who will devote full time to research. Dr. Knutson attended Iowa Wesleyan College and did graduate work at Southern Methodist University and the University of Minnesota. He has been actively engaged in mosquito work for a number of years. As an officer in the Public Health Service Malaria Control in War Areas Organization from 1943 to 1946 he held several important assignments. He was formerly administrator of the Division of Entomology and Plant Industry of the Rhode Island Department of Agriculture and Conservation.

DR. DON PLETSCH HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN TO HARRY STAGE as follows: You might be interested in a brief coverage of our progress to date. Following residual spraying treatment in 1952 of the houses of 156,000 people, the results justified expansion of the 1953 coverage to protect 1,503,000 people. The spraying of our central-western and northern Taiwan areas is completed, with spraying of the east coast starting next week. Operations in the south will start in August. Fortunately the variation in transmission season permits the non-simultaneous operations in the several regions. Our 1954 plans are being made for direct protection of 5,000,000 people, or all of the malarious areas in Taiwan. The 1955 operations will repeat the 1954 coverage. We find ourselves quite busy, but not too busy for surveys of *Aedes aegypti* and *albopictus* in airport and seaport cities, plus non-anopheline collections in many areas. Cordially D. J. Pletsch, The W.H.O. Malaria and Insect Control Team (MSA-China), APO 63, c/o P.M., San Francisco, California.

EXCERPT FROM A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF *Mosquito News* FROM GEORGE J. BURTON: This is quite an experience. I am in a hyperendemic area in which practically every member of the 20,000 population of Monrovia has had malaria, over 80 percent of which is of the *falciparum* kind. The symptoms are quite different from what you find in textbooks, and I have found that the best thing to do here is to throw the books away and base my decisions on what I see before me. Instead of chills and fever, most of the adults have an intense headache, sniffles, perhaps stomach upsets, and general malaise. Many of the white people here have also had malaria, in spite of constant and continued chloroquine therapy, as the parasite breaks through the chloroquine. I have been knee deep and head high in malaria mosquitoes, infected ones at that,

but have not come down with anything. I have been taking Daraprim as well as chloroquine, and have not come down with anything yet. I have awakened in the morning to find engorged female malaria mosquitoes, *Anopheles gambiae* var. *melas* in my room, regardless of screens. These adults vary in size, strangely enough, and I have a hunch some of the smaller ones can squeeze through 18 mesh screening. Will have to investigate the problem further.

There are over 90,000 acres of mangrove swamp, almost all of which is inaccessible, in which the vector is breeding. Gosh knows how many other of the anophelines are vectors also. Filariasis is in the area also, all the vectors not being known, but we believe that the malaria vector is one of the filariasis vectors. Yaws, tropical ulcers, schistosomiasis, leprosy, tuberculosis, trypanosomiasis, etc., are also present. Epidermal fungi drive me nuts at times. Out of a clear sky I begin to itch, and after eliminating the possibility of mites, I apply a fungicide and obtain relief. The temperature is at least 85 most of the time, and the humidity also about 85, so that at times I feel as if I'm living in a tropical greenhouse. My clothes are constantly soaked with perspiration, necessitating a daily change.

We are going to do a spleen index survey, a parasitemia survey, followed by house-to-house residual spraying, using varying dosages of DDT and Dieldrin. We are placing great faith in the Dieldrin, and hope the results will be favorable. There are various kinds of surfaces to spray: reed mat, mud, and cement. The first two are tricky. Former trials with DDT have resulted in oxidation and instability of the chemical, the previous runs being once a month, with poor control of vectors. Well, this experience in the African tropics is the most unusual I have ever had, and wouldn't trade it for any other right now. Sincerely, George J. Burton, TCA Mission to Liberia, American Embassy, Monrovia Liberia, West Africa.

CONCERNING MOSQUITOES FOUND AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES OFF-SHORE from Miami Beach, John Mahony writes as follows to Fred Stutz: On Saturday, June 13, 1953, a party of us went fishing in the Gulf Stream on the cruiser "Coline," Capt. A. M. McWilliams, 7171 S.W. 5th Terrace, Miami. With him was a crew of two, whose names I do not know. The boat is owned by Mr. George Collier, of Cat Cay and Wilmington, Delaware, who was not aboard. Our party consisted of Mr. Robert M. Altemus, 8840 Colony Road, South Miami, his guest; an Eastern Airlines pilot (whose name I have forgotten); Mr. Tom McBroom, Jr., 140 N.E. 1st Avenue, Miami, and myself.

We left the dock in the Miami River about 8:30 A.M. and reached the edge of the Gulf Stream about an hour later, the boat being very fast. Sky clear, sea smooth, weather sultry and a very gentle SE or SSE breeze, so gentle as to be negligible. There were no mosquitoes whatever at the dock or in the Miami River when we left.

Fishing became slow, so we headed further off shore, running at trolling speed. About 11:30 A.M. we noticed what appeared to be a haze over the water extending possibly 3 to 5 miles, in a general N–S direction and approximately 10–12 miles off shore—it may have been 15; anyway, the skyline of Miami Beach was beginning to disappear.

We headed into the haze due E from Miami and found it to be a tremendous flight of mosquitoes, the stupid smudgy kind that bite as soon as they hit. They were very bad. The haze, which we ran through, was approximately one mile wide. As all of us are relatively old-time Florida residents and have had considerable experience in the Gulf Stream, we discussed the phenomenon, particularly in view of the fact that the prevailing wind for several days previously had been gentle to moderate SE. Under the circumstances, it seemed most unlikely that the swarm could have originated either in the Everglades or the Florida Keys, nor, for the same reason, either in Bimini or Cat Cay. To the best of my recollection, we were in the swarm for about 45 minutes before we pulled westward to get out of them.

This was my first experience of this nature, but later, in discussing it at the Rod and Reel Club and with some of the professional fishing guides at Miami Beach, I was informed that, while it is most unusual, nevertheless, it has been known to occur in other years in these waters.

Should you desire verification of this data, you might contact the parties named. I will not let them know about this letter so you can get their own versions. Sincerely, John Mahony (Ring, Mahony and Abner), Miami, Florida.

NEWS FROM THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE: Dr. Edward F. Knipling has succeeded Dr. Bishopp as Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in charge of research. He has been with the Bureau since 1930 and was in charge of the Orlando Laboratory during World War II. Many honors have come his way, among which are the United States of America Typhus Commission Medal and His Majesty's medal for service in the Cause of Freedom awarded by Great Britain. Dr. Knipling is also known to A.M.C.A. members as editor of Bulletin No. 2.

Dr. Arthur W. Lindquist succeeds Dr. Knipling as Head of the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals. He joined the Bureau in 1931 and since 1947 he has been in charge of the Laboratory at Corvallis, Oregon. Some of the pioncer work on DDT residual sprays against mosquitoes was carried out by Dr. Lindquist at the Orlando Laboratory during the war years. Dr. Lindquist was recently honored by his alma mater, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, where he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. He is a frequent contributor to *Mosquito News*.

HARRY H. STAGE left in mid-August to attend the meetings of the Fifth International Congresses of Tropical Medicine and Malaria in Istanbul,

Turkey. He traveled in Italy, France and Turkey and visited mosquito workers in those areas. Mr. Stage was the official delegate of the A.M.C.A. at the International Congresses.

IN ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, Mr. Maximilian M. Stallman retired from the Mosquito Extermination Commission and was succeeded by Mr. Ralph Gates. Word has just been received of the death in July of Mr. George W. Eager who was superintendent of the Commission for many years. Further details will be given in a subsequent number of the *News*.

DR. REECE I. SAILER AND CAPT. ARTHUR REGNIER (Medical Service Corps of the U. S. Army) spent most of June and July in Alaska where they made observations on mosquito populations and abundance in relation to weather conditions. They were especially interested in accumulated precipitation data. In general, mosquito populations were at a low level. The work was supported in part by the Arctic Institute of North America.

A LETTER FROM MISS HELEN LOUISE TREMBLEY informs us that Mrs. Ernestine Thurman, as a memorial to her late husband, Capt. D. C. Thurman, has given a check to the Good Neighbor Club for $26.00, to be used for sending 13 copies of the proposed *Bulletin No. 3* to designated groups in Thailand. The Good Neighbor Club and the AMCA are very grateful for this thoughtful and generous contribution.

REMEMBER: THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMCA is to be held jointly with the annual meeting of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association March 8–12, 1954, Atlantic City, N. J.