

NEWS AND NOTES

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION was held January 6, 1954 at the Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia. About 125 persons attended and considerable interest was shown by many of them in several papers. In his report, President Dorer stated that there are now thirteen mosquito control districts in Virginia, protecting about one fifth of the state's population. Approximately \$350,000 is spent annually on mosquito control by the State of Virginia. A pertinent and often overlooked point in large scale mosquito control was brought out by Mr. Edwin Lazarus of the Tactical Air Command, U. S. Air Force, who emphasized that good surveys for larvae are a prerequisite of good results by airplane spraying.

Mr. V. D. McManus was elected President for 1954-55 and other officers were as follows: Mr. J. W. Dennis, Jr., 1st Vice-President, Mr. T. B. Noland, and Vice-President, Mr. N. S. Beaton, 3rd Vice-President, Mr. Rowland E. Dorer, Secretary-Treasurer.

THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION held its annual conference at the University of California in Berkeley on December 2 and at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland on December 3 and 4. According to Harold Gray, of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, the meetings were well attended and unusually informative. Mr. Gray also notes that December was unseasonably warm and dry, necessitating an almost summer schedule for his district, but that since the salt marshes were nearly dry there were almost no *Aedes* larvae. He also recorded the finding of *Aedes varipalpus*, four months early, on December 18.

NEW PINK BOLLWORM RESEARCH CENTER DEDICATED. The new Pink Bollworm Research Center at Brownsville, Texas, was dedicated January 24, 1954, at an impressive ceremony participated in by Governor Allan Shivers of Texas; Congressman Lloyd Bentsen, Jr., of Texas; Ing. Mauro Ruiz Ayala, representing the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Mexico; Dr. R. D. Lewis, Director, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; Hon. Harold Hutton, Commissioner of Agriculture of Oklahoma; Mr. G. G. Gibson, Director, Texas Agricultural Extension Service; Mr. Paul Mayfield, President, National Agricultural Chemicals Association; Dr. Clay Lyle, Director, Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. H. G. Johnston, National Cotton Council of America; and Dr. S. B. Fracker, Assistant to the Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Fred C. Bishopp, Coordinator, Pink Bollworm Research Center, welcomed the guests and introduced the speakers.

Dr. Bishopp, former Assistant Chief of the

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, left the Bureau on June 30 to assume the responsibility of coordinating the extensive research program to be carried on from the Pink Bollworm Research Center. This program involves work designed to meet the threat to the entire cotton industry of the United States through the recent rapid spread in this country of the world's most destructive cotton pest.

Although the main research efforts of the Center will be devoted to a solution of the pink bollworm problem, no doubt much of the basic information to be developed there will be broadly applicable to other insect problems including those involving mosquitoes.

The facilities at the Pink Bollworm Research Center include a 26-room air conditioned office and laboratory building; a building housing 5 bio-climatic cabinets; an insecticide building for gross experimental work with insecticides; a greenhouse with headhouse; a half-acre screened cage; and a building to house a shop, and to store automobiles and equipment. A few acres of land are available immediately adjacent to the laboratories on which cage and small plot experiments can be conducted. Irrigation water for this area and the large cage is provided from wells.

A unique feature of the setup is the provision of bio-climatic cabinets for duplicating temperatures and humidities of any area from which hydrothermograph records are available. These cabinets will make it possible to determine whether an insect would thrive in a given area in advance of the actual establishment of the pest in that area.

THE TENTH EDITION OF *Entoma* was issued by the Entomological Society of America in February. This widely-known and useful compendium of information on insecticides, fungicides, diluents, emulsifiers, adjuvants, equipment, trade names, manufacturers' addresses, research organizations and a multitude of other things of interest to workers in insect control, is obtainable from George S. Langford, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. The paperbound edition is \$2.00 and there are a few copies available in cloth binding, at \$3.00.

THE REPORT OF THE CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE ANTI-MALARIA SOCIETY, LTD. for 1952 has been received from Calcutta, India, by this Association. The Indian society completed its thirty-third year in 1952, and at that time had 355 general members, 51 "ordinary members" and 5 life members. One hundred five of the general membership is presently in East Bengal, a part of Pakistan. Since the primary societies have been reduced from their former Government support, the Society appeals for contributions, stating that,

however small, they will be gratefully acknowledged and put to use in combating malaria, which they feel has been the principal cause of the ruin of Bengal, formerly a rich and productive state. The officers of the central Society, Messrs. Mukherjee and Chatterjee, state that the primary societies, wherever they have been able to establish them, have been successful in many villages in eradicating malaria. Unfortunately, even after thirty-three years of very strenuous effort, the central Society has been unable to establish and guide more than a very few of these local groups.

THE NAME OF THE JULIUS HYMAN & COMPANY DIVISION of the Shell Chemical Corporation has been changed to the Agricultural Chemicals Division.

IN COLOMBIA, the Government has announced that eleven months after operations were commenced, protection against malaria has been afforded 1,225,000 persons by a project undertaken jointly by the Colombian Government, UNICEF and WHO. In this effort, the Government is meeting 80 per cent of the total cost of the project, UNICEF is providing supplies and equipment and WHO is providing specialized personnel, as it will continue to do through 1954. It has been estimated that 700,000 people suffer from malaria annually in Colombia, the malarious regions extending from sea level to an altitude of 1,700 meters and being inhabited by a population of about 6,800,000. Vast and naturally rich areas have been depopulated by malaria in Colombia, but it was not until the present internationally-sponsored effort that effective remedial steps have been possible. In the same project, spraying aimed at eliminating *Aedes aegypti* is also being conducted.

COLLECTION OF MOSQUITOES FROM WOOD RATS' NESTS was reported by Raymond Ryckman and Ken Arakawa in articles printed in the *Pan-Pacific Entomologist*, copies of which have come belatedly to hand. Species collected hibernating in the rats' nests included *Anopheles freeborni*, *Culiseta inornata* and *Culex tarsalis*. The authors found that mosquitoes apparently seek not only shelter from winter cold in the nest of the wood rat, *Neotoma fuscipes*, but apparently also seek shelter from the dry, hot environment as well.

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNION COUNTY (N. J.) MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION, covering the period from 1912 through 1952, has been received for review and contains photographs of control equipment and methods over the years which should be of much interest to everyone engaged in mosquito control. A foreword discusses the gradual progression of ecological change which has accompanied the control efforts.

C. Y. CHOW WRITES IN A LETTER TO TED RALEY, that the back numbers of *Mosquito News*

which Ted sent are very welcome and valuable additions to the library of the Insect-borne Diseases Control Training Center at Kurunegala, Ceylon. Dr. Chow returned to Ceylon in December after a two-month home leave in Formosa, during which he also visited India, Japan, Hong-Kong, Singapore and Thailand. In the latter country, he recounts, many members of the AMCA were in attendance at the WHO-sponsored First Asian Malaria Conference in Bangkok, including P. F. Russel, Jaswant Singh, Francisco Dy, Don Pletsch, M. E. Griffith, A. D. Hess and others.

JULIAN DE ZULUETA, WHO MALARIA ADVISOR ON THE SARAWAK MALARIA PILOT PROJECT, writes Ted Raley that he made a general survey of Sarawak in 1952 and that during 1953 he has been in charge of the malaria control pilot project there. The Project is supported jointly by the Sarawak Government and the World Health Organization and Dr. Zulueta feels that already progress can be noted in the effectiveness of their control efforts. Prior to going to Sarawak, Dr. Zulueta was in charge of malaria control in eastern Colombia.

HARRY H. STAGE ATTENDED THE EIGHTH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS, which was held November 16 through 28, 1953, in Manila, and reports that some 250 delegates and visitors attended the various meetings. Harry, who was then en route to his new post as Malaria Control Specialist for F. O. A. at Saigon, Viet Nam, was one of the panel of a two-day symposium on aspects of malaria. The symposium was moderated by Dr. MacKerras, of Australia, with A. D. Hess, of Manila, acting as recorder. Other panel members were: Josephine MacKerras of the Australian National Research Council, F. E. Baisas, of the Philippine Department of Health, T. L. Chang of WHO in Manila, Melvin Griffith of STEM in Bangkok, Stephen Hu of the Honolulu Board of Health, Luang Ayurakit Kosol of the Ministry of Health in Bangkok, Cornelius Kruze of Johns Hopkins, Emil Massal of the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia, Jose B. Mendoza of the Department of Health in Quezon City, Manila, Cornelio Urbino of the Tala Malaria Laboratory of the Philippine Department of Health and Gaudencio Villanueva, Director of the Department of Health of the Philippines.

Several trips were included in the Congress activities, such as a visit to Corregidor and Bataan, the latter one of the most highly malarious localities still existing close to Manila, and to Rural Health Demonstration Centers in Quezon City and Angat, Bulacan Province. At the latter, three bus loads of delegates were met by the school band and paraded through an arch of welcome between throngs of flag-waving children, a colorful tradition in the Philippines. After the visit of inspection there were speeches and re-

freshments and the delegates then reviewed the school cadets.

Panel discussions were also held on filariasis, virus encephalitis, rural sanitation and training.

HARRY STAGE ALSO REPORTS, FROM SAIGON, that the job appears to be a big one but that fortunately he does not need to feel that he is starting from scratch inasmuch as Harry Pratt, Earle Lyman, Walter C. Baker and others of the USPHS have laid a fine groundwork in the early training of the local workers. The spraying teams have learned their lessons well, and are doing an excellent job, he adds; they will use some hundred tons of 50 per cent wettable DDT per year and are including Dieldrin in their plans as well. (Parenthetically, he says that their equipment "is that advertised regularly in Mosquito News—how else would I know what is available?")

"The other day," Harry continues, "I rode all day long on a slow train over beautiful hills of virgin teak, bamboo, palms, rubber and coffee and then, as we dropped down into the lowlands—endless rice paddies. Deer, wild boar, tigers and elephants roam these hills and wild peacock are considered good game, as well as the domestic chicken's ancestors.

"From this background of environment imagine the dozens of species of mosquitoes on each of about six contour levels, i.e., from sea level to altitudes of 3,000 feet. It's fortunate for us that the French entomologists and malarialogists of the Pasteur Institute have accumulated so much important information upon which we can develop and build an effective program."

GEORGE BURTON WRITES FROM THE FOA MISSION TO LIBERIA that he is finding evidence of the effectiveness of a buffer zone against immigrating adult mosquitoes. His teams are using dieldrin and are pushing ahead with a program of spraying all the areas surrounding the major breeding sites around Monrovia. Although only

about half of the areas of this demonstration project have been covered so far, mosquitoes are almost completely absent from sprayed but unscreened houses. Even unsprayed houses lying within this sprayed zone are nearly always free of mosquitoes, which seems to show that mosquitoes from outside the zone are killed by the sprayed houses before they can penetrate to the unsprayed ones. About an hour is apparently required for the dieldrin to be effective, and it seems to have little or no effect on houseflies, which are numerous. For about two months after spraying there is also freedom from roaches and ants but they begin to come back slowly thereafter. Cage and panel experiments are now being set up to determine more accurately the exact effectiveness of the treatments.

THE TURLOCK MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT of California has had the temerity to issue an Annual Report for 1952 which is so full of a variety of statistics that an adequate review would be impossible, but which should be a boon to anyone seeking figures on the operations and even the costs of such a program for comparison with their own. Tables are given which show complete breakdowns of the total figures in many categories of operations, including costs of materials, operation of vehicles and the salaries of the workers.

FROM RALPH VANDERWORKER (excerpts from a letter to Les Smith): "On Sept. 1, I was assigned to U. S. Coast Guard HQ as Chief Sanitary Engineer Officer located in Room 1202, % HQ at 13th and Penn Ave., N.W.

"The new assignment is very much to my liking. More travel than formerly but near the shores and I enjoy the water as you know. In addition, there is enough field work to keep me aware of current problems.

"So far there have been relatively few mosquito problems. Most of my work involves small water supplies, sewage disposal, food sanitation, plumbing, insect and rodent control."

UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION

Districts: Box Elder County, Davis County, Magna, Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake County, Weber County

Sixty per cent of the people in the state of Utah are now living within the boundaries of organized mosquito abatement districts.

For Proceedings of annual meetings and other information write Lewis E. Fronk, Sec.-Treas., Utah Mosquito Abatement Assoc., 2441 Grant Ave., Ogden, Utah