

WORLD-WIDE MOSQUITO CONTROL

A recent news item, dated November 19, 1941, Rangoon, Burma, carried an interesting item of news -- "The fight against malaria -- the worst natural enemy of efficiency on the Burma Road to China -- was given impetus today by the arrival of two more members of the American anti-malaria mission. They were entomologist W. L. Jellison and engineer H. A. Johnson." (Note:-- Mr. Johnson took charge of the Eastern Association Group while in Memphis.)

Mosquitoes Declared Guilty Sleeping Sickness Carriers

Washington (U.P.) -- "One of the most baffling mysteries of medical science was believed solved last night with a government announcement that mosquitoes carry sleeping sickness.

For almost 20 years federal, state and local health authorities have sought the carrier of the disease that kills from 250 to 500 persons and hundreds of animals each year. Until now every clue was worthless.

The mosquito has been convicted of many offenses. He is a carrier of malaria, yellow fever, dengue and other maladies.

Scientists long have suspected him of complicity in the spread of encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness). But they never could prove it. Now they claim conclusive proof.

In a wholesale roundup of "suspects" the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, cooperating with the University of California and Washington state and local health authorities collected about 10,000 mosquitoes, flies and other biting insects. The collection was made in the Yakima Valley of Washington during the summer of 1940 when 27 humans and 40 to 50 unvaccinated horses had sleeping sickness.

The insects were identical, frozen and shipped in dry ice to the University of California laboratory at San Francisco. Then they were divided into lots or "pools" according to family and species, washed, ground and the serum injected into mice.

One pool composed of culex tarsalis mosquitoes produced symptoms of the St. Louis type of sleeping sickness. That type received its name from the severe epidemic which took more than 100 lives in St. Louis during the summer of 1932.

That was the criminal medical scientists were after. At last they had definite proof of his guilt.

It had been demonstrated previously that mosquitoes could transmit the disease under laboratory conditions. But that did not prove that they were the actual carriers of the disease. This was the first definite proof that mosquitoes collected in the field were the actual carriers.

Medical authorities said the particular species of mosquito found carrying the virus is widespread in states west of the Mississippi. The

same kind of mosquitoes, placed in a different "pool" were found to cause sleeping sickness in horses.

Last year, according to public health service records, there were more than 3,000 cases of human sleeping sickness in the United States. About nine per cent of the cases were fatal, the records showed.

The findings, while of great scientific importance, leave some questions unanswered, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine said. The scientists now want to know whether:

(1) Mosquitoes are the only transmitting agents of human encephalo; (2) whether the culex tarsalis mosquito is the only type transmitting the disease; (3) whether mosquitoes must be abundant to cause the disease, and (4) whether mosquitoes harbor the disease between outbreaks.

If these facts are established, a plan for mosquito eradication can be mapped that might control sleeping sickness as effectively as mosquito eradication helped control yellow fever."

Newark Sunday Ledger
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Hailed On Gains In Malaria War

St. Louis (A.P.) -- "A young Iowa-born scientist received medicine's highest honors today for helping to make the tropics habitable for troops.

The American Society of Tropical Medicine presented to Dr. Lloyd E. Rozeboom of Johns Hopkins