EDITORIAL

S. G. BREELAND

Editor's Note: In a recent conversation, the senior author of the article "Observations on Mosquito Feeding Activity on the Flower Heads of *Eupatorium* and *Solidago*," which begins on page 32 of the March issue, advanced a number of interesting speculations engendered by the observations recorded. Although admittedly "speculative thoughts," they are of the type that may provoke discussion and stimulate others to do a little thinking; they are therefore presented on this page.

While the actual observations in themselves warrant recording as biological fact their real importance may lie in their implications. Some of these are as follows.

(1) Flowers may be a source of energy for female mosquitoes in their initial flight in search of blood. The establishment of an association between specific plant and mosquito species could possibly result in an added method of mosquito control, *i.e.*, the chemical or mechanical destruction of plants important to the species.

(2) Such an association also poses the question of whether a visit to a plant, perhaps more specific than now thought, is a prerequisite for some species to utilize or even desire a blood meal.

(3) Since the botanical family Compositae is a leading family as a drug source, *e.g.*, eupatorin, listed in Merck Index as a hemolytic, perhaps hypersensitivity to mosquito bites is associated with whether or not the mosquito has previously visited a flower head of one of these plants.

(4) Food from specific plants may be necessary to stimulate mating and/or blood feeding, a knowledge of which could provide the key for establishing insectary colonies of certain species.

These speculative thoughts are being pondered by TVA biologists. Some of them will be pursued further. Since several workers have verbally expressed interest in these implications, they are being passed along to the reader with the hope that interest will be stimulated in this neglected area of mosquito biology.

OPERATIONAL NOTES

At every annual meeting for the past few years, the Editor, in his report, has urged the members to cooperate in supplying more "Operational Notes." Many members also have urged the inclusion of more such contributions. The Editor has tried to emphasize that it is up to the individual members to submit them. If we do not print enough "Operational Notes" to satisfy those who wish to have more, it is because they have not made their contributions.

In an effort to stimulate interest in this part of the Section hitherto known as "Operational and Scientific Notes," it has been decided to set up two sections, one for the "Scientific Notes" and one for the "Operational Notes." Bruce Brockway has agreed to act as Associate Editor for the "Operational Notes" section. With the assistance of his well known drive and enthusiasm, we can look forward to an increase in the contributions of the nature that so many of the field men would like to see. All members are urged to give Bruce their cooperation and support.