

operating with the Mosquito Commission in reducing mosquito breeding for the duration of the mosquito breeding season by turning-over or eliminating all water-holding containers on their property. It will also be impressed upon them that the Military Personnel residing in the encampments along the shore area cannot prepare to fight the human enemy in foreign countries unless the mosquito is fought at home.

Plans For 1942 Season In Norfolk, Va.

By Perry W. Ruth, Supt.
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Mosquito Control

Our plans for 1942 had been well developed during the preceding winter. Personnel had been lined up and equipment was ready, including a new Spencer stereoscopic microscope - thanks to the invaluable assistance of Thomas D. Mulhern with the specifications - which arrived just in time to beat the "priorities".

Then the Japs threw our lagging war machine into high gear and when we caught our breath after the first take-off it was hard to get our bearings from unfamiliar land marks. We found swamp land and wooded hollows of yesterday now supporting air plane runways, barracks and hospitals and surface drainage problems which we had nursed and doctored for years were now being disregarded by Army and Navy engineers who had more pressing matters to attend to.

Undoubtedly the Hampton Roads defense area is one of the most vitally important on the Atlantic coast and rather resembles a great wheel with Norfolk

near the hub. The population of this area has been practically doubled with new-comers from every other state in the Union as well as many foreign dependencies and it may be months before temporary living conditions can offer the usual protection against the various insect plagues, including mosquitoes.

Thus our work for this year has already been cut out for us and has not been simplified by the fact that Government construction has completely nullified the satisfactory drainage we had established in two salt marsh areas when it closed their broad natural outlets with hydraulic fill and so formed artificial fresh water marshes where Anopheles have already been found in alarming numbers. I read a short paper on this subject at the Convention in Atlantic City in March.

Since our available funds were determined by a municipal budget approved before the emergency period the outlook was dark until the U. S. Public Health Service stepped into the National Defense picture. Salvation seemed at hand until it was discovered they could only operate in areas which were potential breeding places of malaria vectors. Any one who believes Anopheles to be the only mosquito enemy of National Defense has never experienced the utterly demoralizing effect on out-door workers of an attack by hungry Aedes sollicitans or A. taeniorhynchus or seen the off-duty drain of these workers' efficiency which can be caused by the unrestricted propagation of the many night biting species indigenous to this locality. Such an attitude is doubly unfortunate here where Aedes aegypti breed prolifically and are an increasing menace due to the sea and air borne guests whom we are receiving unexpectedly in ever greater numbers.

However, I feel that we can say, along with the United States Marines, that "the situation is well in hand". Our offer of assistance in training personnel for local mosquito control work has been made to and accepted by the local U. S. Naval Health units and the cooperative spirit now existing between the U. S. Navy, the U. S. Public Health Service and our own city organization clearly indicates that "united we stand".

Another twelve months may bring us additional problems which we cannot foresee today but I confidently predict that our local research and study in cooperation with the efficient organization of other workers who have the same interest will effectively meet any situation which National Defense may ask us to face.

DEVELOPMENTS IN MOSQUITO CONTROL

Anopheles And The Light Trap

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The electric light trap appears to be the only means by which a reasonably adequate notion of mosquitoes on the wing can be reported day after day throughout the entire active mosquito season. This instrument has been shown to catch representative samples of Culex, Aedes and certain Anopheles, as well as many of the less abundant and more sporadic species. Back of this statement lies a trapping experience covering the bulk of the mosquito season from 1933 to 1940 inclusive, in the course of which 1,211,639 female mosquitoes were taken and identified.