

Dr. Thomas J. Headlee, scholar, teacher, investigator, organizer, mosquito fighter extraordinary, and scientist, was born at Headlee, Indiana, on February 13, 1877. A graduate of Indiana State University, he received his Master of Arts degree from the same school and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Cornell University.

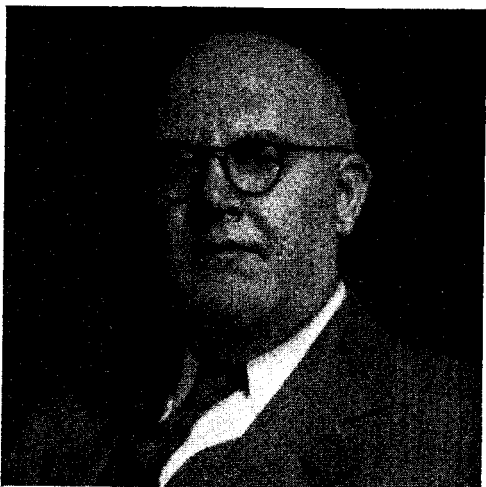
Coming to New Jersey in 1912 when mosquitoes were as yet uncontrolled and were interfering tremendously with the economic progress of the state, Dr. Headlee envisioned the vast improvement that would result from the elimination of the mosquito pest. As a scholarly entomologist he saw the great amount of effort that would be needed to successfully attack the problem, but he had the courage to approach it with determination and confidence. Building on a solid foundation of mosquito knowledge accumulated through the research of his predecessor at Rutgers, Dr. John B. Smith, he has devoted his unswerving energies to the increase of this fund of knowledge, the development and practical application of new methods and principles of mosquito control, and the dissemination of valuable information to mosquito fighters everywhere. He was called upon for guidance in the solution of wartime mosquito problems in New Jersey during World War I; now his teachings and his wise counsel are aiding mightily in the solution of the special mosquito problems arising from the present war.

Throughout the thirty years of his leadership in mosquito work, he has also made the insect problems of the farmer his own. Contemporary literature on economic entomology and mosquito control attest to the productivity of his research.

Dr. Headlee began the practice of his chosen profession at the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station, where he served as assistant and associate entomologist in 1906 and 1907. From there he went to Kansas State College and Agricultural Experiment Station to become head of the Department of Entomology and Zoology, where he stayed until 1912. Since then, he has served New Jersey well as state entomologist at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and as professor of entomology at Rutgers University.

Believing always in the value of an organized approach to the solution of insect problems, he has held membership in many scientific and professional societies including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Economic Entomologists, and the Entomological Society of America, The Eastern Plant Board, The National Plant Board, and the New Jersey State Horticultural Society. He has received the honor of election to membership in the societies Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and Alpha Zeta. He was one of the founders of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association, of which he has been secretary since its establishment in 1914, and of the Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers, of which he was the first president (1935). He is one of those responsible for the beginning of publication of "Mosquito News" and he has given it his whole-hearted support.

While Dr. Headlee's writings have gained him renown among entomologists, it is his friendly leadership, his inspiration and encouragement that have won the high respect and affection not only of those mosquito workers who have been privileged to work in close association with him, but also of his students, fellow-scientists, and a wide range of co-workers.



May 1, 1943

Thomas D. Mulhern