

ACTIVITIES IN MEMBER STATES

HOWARD-KRAUSS SOCIETY

Motto: "Educate to Eradicate Malaria"

By **Annekay Tharp**
Sponsor **Howard-Krauss Society**
South Side High School
Memphis, Tennessee

The Howard-Krauss Society of South Side High School, Memphis, Tennessee, is a group of senior and junior high school English students, organized to study the importance of malaria control and to pass the knowledge of its importance to others through a medium of student creative expression.

The term "Howard" symbolizes two distinct contributors within the past hundred years to insect-borne disease history—The Howard Association, which served stricken humanity valiantly during the yellow fever epidemics in the United States, the last half of the nineteenth century; and Dr. L. O. Howard, first author to recognize the importance of insect-borne disease control by writing of mosquito control in text books as early as 1901. The name "Krauss" honors Dr. William Krauss, who, a veteran of the 1878 yellow fever epidemic in Memphis, literally gave his life in furthering malaria research.

The Howard-Krauss Society was formed in 1936, under the guidance of Mr. J. A. LePrince, who had previously lectured to classes interested in the annual Gorgas Essay Contest. Through the initial influence of Mr. LePrince

the society has established a library of pamphlets and books, which serve as a basis for its study.

Officers of the society, in accordance with its constitution, direct the weekly and yearly program of the group. Seventy-odd members, through half-hour weekly programs, planned by a student committee and approved by the sponsor, master essential facts of relative importance to laymen in the furtherance of malaria control: (1) They gain a knowledge of the local species of disease-bearing mosquitoes, their habits and the general methods of control. (2) They learn the history of insect-borne disease control, which includes contrasting economic and health conditions of the plague-ridden and plague-conquering eras, as well as the biographical history of pioneer research workers in yellow fever and malaria control. (3) They recognize the economic importance to-day of preventive insect-borne disease measures.

Two educational factors are followed in directing the study program: (1) Students are taught to develop the "seeing-eye" in finding the answer to problems related to nature and man. (2) Students learn that to sell citizens in general on a public service idea

"Men must be taught as if you taught them not,
And things unknown propos'd as things forgot."

These principles of education, developed through student-teacher direction, make the Howard-Krauss study not only interesting, but give members pride in contributing their personal efforts.

Important facts relative to malaria control are indelibly impressed upon members by individual and group participation in creative interpretation of such facts. Each member writes an essay, stressing some phase of malaria control importance. Each also participates in a pictorial, dramatic, poetic, musical, or journalistic interpretation of the malaria control theme for presentation to a general lay group of students or citizens.

In preparation of this program other departments contribute their skill and talent, thus integrating the project with the work of the entire school.

The yearly interpretative student treatment of the malaria theme reaches the entire student body of twelve hundred. Through the student body homes in the community are made malaria control conscious. Through student efforts often clubs and organizations in the city are reached as well as hundreds and thousands of other citizens.

During the past eight years interpretations have assumed varied media: parade floats, radio programs, national prize-winning essays, poster displays, exhibits at conventions and fairs, original skits and talks before school and civic groups, and malaria editions of the school paper.

The five hundred-odd alumni who have participated in Howard-Krauss programs are potential voters for the next forty or fifty years. They are trained to recognize the malaria problem and to meet their responsibility intelligently, as individuals and as members of a community.

During the 1941 inspection of mosquito work of the T.V.A. the Eastern Association was favored by an invitation to attend a meeting of the Howard-Krauss Society. All who were present were impressed with the serious purpose of this group of young people, and with the vast amount of knowledge regarding malaria and malarial mosquitoes which they had accumulated. The Society represents an ideal model which high schools in other areas might well be encouraged to emulate.

Of lasting value is the annual spring issue of the eight-page high school paper "The Triple S," which number is gotten out by the Society and which is devoted primarily to items relative to malaria and mosquito control. It represents a worth-while addition to the library of any mosquito control agency. It is to be hoped that the Howard-Krauss Society will continue its publication, and that its sphere of influence may be extended through exchange with other schools.

SECRETARY.