

NEWS AND NOTES

MOSQUITO NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA.—The following six interesting and significant notes are extracts from a letter from H. F. Gray, which came too late for the March number of *MOSQUITO NEWS*.—Editor.

1. CALIFORNIA PROPOSES REVISION OF LAWS TO EXPEDITE THE ORGANIZATION AND EXTENSION OF MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS. Several bills relating to mosquito control have been introduced into the 1945 Legislature. Three of them have to do with simplified procedures by which organization of, or annexation to, mosquito abatement districts can be expedited.

H. F. Gray.

2. CALIFORNIA PROPOSES TO SPEND \$1,000,000 FOR INTENSIVE CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES TRANSMITTING EPIDEMIC VIRUS ENCEPHALITIS. Senate Bill No. 611 proposes an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the 1945-47 biennium, to be expended by the State Department of Public Health for intensification of mosquito control, principally against mosquito-transmitted epidemic virus encephalitis. This disease complex has since 1935 become far more important than malaria as a public health problem in California. The following distribution of expenditures under this fund is proposed:

First Year Second Year

Training Program	\$12,000
Administration	50,000	\$50,000
Equipment for Mobile Units	8,000	1,600
Field Personnel	15,000	15,000
Materials and Supplies.....	2,000	2,000
Transportation	2,000	2,000
Travel Expense	8,000	8,000
Contingencies	3,000	3,000
Subventions to Local Agencies	400,000	418,400
Totals	\$500,000	\$500,000

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3. CONCERN ON PACIFIC COAST OVER POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF HIGHLY FATAL JAPANESE B. ENCEPHALITIS. Appreciable concern is being felt over the possible introduction into the Pacific Coast area of the virus of Japanese B. encephalitis, a highly fatal (60 per cent case-fatality rate) disease which has appeared in epidemic form in Japan and elsewhere. The imminence of military operations in Japan, Formosa and China brings this problem sharply into focus in 1945.

H. F. Gray.

4. HOOPER FOUNDATION TO TEST RESIDUAL DDT SPRAYING OF CHICKEN HOUSES, BARNs AND OTHER ANIMAL SHELTERS AS EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT FOR CONTROL OF VIRUS ENCEPHALITIS. Several comparative and controlled experimental areas for

the use of DDT as a residue spray on chicken houses, barns and other animal shelters are being set up by the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, as a control project for virus encephalitis. The principal experiment is to start in April in Kern County, with a supplemental experiment later near Marysville in Yuba County.

H. F. Gray.

5. MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS IN CALIFORNIA. A new mosquito abatement district was organized in the Lodi area in San Joaquin County in January, 1945. Procedures for the formation of a large district in Yuba and Sutter Counties are well advanced. A large annexation to the Dr. Morris district in Kern County was affected in January. There are now 27 organized mosquito abatement districts in California (of which one is not operating), plus two pest abatement districts organized for mosquito abatement.

H. F. Gray.

6. ADVANCED SEASON FAVORED EARLY FIRST BROOD OF SALT MARSH MOSQUITOES IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA. Due to a relatively mild and rainless last half of February, the first brood of salt marsh mosquitoes is well advanced this year. Pupae were appearing at the end of the month, and flights from uncontrolled marshes about San Francisco Bay are expected about mid-March. This early brood is principally *Aedes aquamiger*.

H. F. Gray.

A PUBLIC HEALTH COURSE ON CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES, which was recently completed, was given jointly by Rutgers University and the New Jersey State Department of Health, with classes held each Saturday afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., February 24th through April 28th, 1945.

This course was designed to supplement the course in Diagnosis of Malaria and Tropical Diseases given in 1944, and to provide public health personnel, mosquito control officials and their employees, teachers, officers of institution, and governmental agencies responsible for the suppression of mosquitoes with up-to-date knowledge of facts and approved methods relating to the effective control of both disease carrying and pest mosquitoes.

The enrollment fee was \$5.00, payable to the University.

The course included:

Classification of Mosquitoes, 10 hours (2 lectures, 4 laboratory periods)—J. B. Schmitt, Ph.D., Research Associate, Department of Entomology.

Mosquito Biology, including biological control, 5 hours (3 lectures, 1 laboratory period)—E. J. Hansens, Ph.D., Assistant Entomologist.

Chemical Control, 6 hours (2 lectures, 2 laboratory periods)—J. S. Ginsburg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Entomology.

Mechanical (Engineering) Control, 6 hours (2

lectures, 2 laboratory periods)—T. D. Mulhern, Associate in Mosquito Control.

MEMBER INTEREST.—It was indeed pleasing to be allowed the privilege of serving as one of the sponsors signing the membership application of Mr. Harold Hannaway, whose interesting letter relating to his collection of mosquitoes in Massachusetts follows. Though he is not professionally engaged in mosquito work, Mr. Hannaway evidently has a very great interest in our common enemy. We welcome him to membership, and hope he may be able to attend future meetings of the Association.

T.D.M.

"April 22, 1945.
"Boston, Mass.

"MR. THOMAS MULIERN, *Secretary.*

"Dear Sir:

"I have filled out the membership blank and hope it meets the approval of the committee.

"**MOSQUITO NEWS** is just what I was looking for, and in reading the December issue I found out about the new book by Dr. Robert Matheson which I have since bought.

"A number of towns around Boston are doing mosquito control work this summer. As I am working in a defense plant I was unable to work with this group, but I have offered my service gratis in determining the specimens they may collect. The information gained by these towns' collections will help me in my general knowledge of the mosquitoes of Massachusetts.

"On April 19th I collected one anopheline larva, 2nd instar, in Belmont. This is the earliest date for any anopheline larva in my seven years of collecting and to check its occurrence I called Mr. R. W. Wales, entomologist for the State Reclamation Board of Massachusetts, to learn from him that he has found anopheline larvae in April, but it is more generally taken in late July, August, and September. Our early warm spring days must have hatched it out.

"This unusual weather has changed the aedes cycle in early spring woodland pools. In pools for which I have records for the past four years, where *Aedes canadensis* was the early species, I have this season found instead *Aedes cinereus* and *Aedes excrucians*. The last species I had listed as occurring in grassy pools in meadows, but, lo and behold, it appears in leaf filled woodland pools.

"I think it is the unknown and strange places, plus the fact that you never can tell what larva may be in your dipper, that makes mosquito hunting a fascinating science.

"I received Dr. Headlee's new book, 'The Mosquitoes of New Jersey and Their Control,' yesterday.

"Dr. Thomas Headlee's observation on the *Mansonia perturbans* larva is very valuable to me. I have not as yet found this specimen, though I have pulled and dug up many aquatic plants. Yet

I have been driven out of certain sections of open meadows by the adults.

"I am looking forward to the next issue of **MOSQUITO NEWS**.

"Sincerely,

(Signed) "HAROLD HANNAWAY."

NEW G.I. HAND DUSTER. A G.I. hand duster which sprays ten pounds of Paris Green over mosquito-infested areas in 15 minutes wasn't good enough for Technical Sergeant Claude R. Strickland, entomology technician with the 29th Malaria Control Detachment near Dakar, Africa.

So he got to work and developed a mechanical duster which, by the use of a fan, can put out 150 pounds of Paris Green in the same time—fifteen times as much as the hand duster.

The sergeant turned his design over to the Army and was awarded the Legion of Merit "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service."

Sergeant Strickland told his story while at the Fort McPherson Separation Center awaiting discharge because of his age—42. He has been in the Army two and a half years; two years of that time were spent overseas in eastern, western and northern sections of Africa. The sergeant perfected his mechanical duster while near Dakar.

Before he entered service, Sergeant Strickland was sanitary technician for Pinella County, Fla. Upon return to civilian life, he plans to manufacture insect control appliances of his own design.

The sergeant's home is at 1703 40th St., St. Petersburg.

From Public Relations Office,
Fort McPherson, Georgia

T.D.M.

THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION ASSOCIATION.

The 1945 Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association was held at the Hotel Claridge, Atlantic City, N. J., on March 28, 29 and 30, 1945. The program included many interesting papers, with great emphasis being placed upon the new problems in the control of mosquito-borne diseases which are facing mosquito workers in this country, due to the increased likelihood of the introduction of these diseases as men return from tropic war areas where they are prevalent. Papers relating to DDT were likewise heard with a great deal of interest, and promoted discussion of this much heralded insecticide. The demand for the four papers particularly referring to this subject was so great that they were pre-printed, in an edition of 500 copies, the supply of which was exhausted in less than two months. The complete papers will be printed, with the discussion, in the "Proceedings" of the meeting, to be available during the summer of 1945.

The program was as follows: