

## EDITORIAL SECTION

### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

When I received from Dr. Glasgow a request for a contribution to the March issue of *MOSQUITO NEWS*, I realized that this was a welcome opportunity to speak to the membership at large on a subject that has impressed me very forcefully. I refer to the extremely important part the *NEWS* is now playing and must continue to play in the growth and life of our American Association.

One has only to compare the last December issue of *MOSQUITO NEWS* with that of four years ago to realize that this magazine, fathered by pioneers with vision, has now grown up to occupy a place in very favorable contrast with any similar publication. And all this has not come about by accident but through the tireless effort of those men who have had the foresight and the tenacity of purpose to keep going in the face of the many obstacles of the last few years and who have sacrificed much that the Association might live on and prosper.

There can be little doubt but that anti-mosquito work is a field that will greatly grow in the future. Publicity during this World War centered much attention on the mosquito and the danger to health which it constituted both here and abroad and the fact that mosquito breeding could be controlled became an established fact. We Americans are not inclined to put up with discomfort that can be avoided and the annoyance of pest mosquitoes is no less easy to bear that that caused by disease carriers.

I believe that scores and hundreds of cities and communities which had never heard of mosquito control a few years ago will be introduced to it by their returning service men who have seen it in action and many of whom will have been trained

in its fundamentals. I believe that new units, large and small, will come into being all over our country as well as in countries abroad and it will be in connection with these new units that our Association can perhaps render its most valuable service. The problems to be met by these units may vary greatly according to their geographic location or other contributing causes, even though they are working toward a common goal, and if our organization has the foresight to earnestly seek their affiliation, the mutual benefit will be great. The interchange of thoughts and ideas and the dissemination of new discoveries are the foundation stones on which a solid structure may be built through co-operation, while the expansion of our membership may in turn increase our ability to serve. Truly, our official publication is an ideal means to this end.

Through this medium the policy of the organization as well as the developments of science can be carried to the far places, while news of the far places may be of the greatest interest near at home. In this connection I wish to urge every member who may read these lines to take just a little time from his other work and write briefly to our Editor. Any item of personal news about yourself or some other member; what problems you have or anticipate; or a short description of the sort of work you are doing. They may seem very commonplace to you but you would be surprised how interesting such notes could be to others. Your contribution does not have to be a scientific treatise or a polished editorial to be worthwhile. So do not hesitate to give the Editor the help he needs and welcomes.

PERRY W. RUTH,  
*President.*