

NEWS AND NOTES

NEW YORK EXPANDS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION. To meet a growing local demand, the Suffolk County Mosquito Extermination Commission through the County Board of Supervisors requested, and the 1946 session of the State Legislature passed an amendment to the mosquito extermination law, such that, as Chapter 388 of the State of New York Laws of 1946, effective April 1, 1946, the law now reads: "Section 410. Powers and Duties of Commission. Said commission shall use every means feasible and practicable to suppress mosquitoes, ticks, flies, and other hominioxious arthropods which may require community action for their control, . . ." Incidentally, the Commission requested, and the new law provides that the former name "Suffolk County Mosquito Extermination Commission" be changed to read "Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission."

R. D. G.

COMMANDER A. A. WEATHERSBEE has recently been separated from the Navy and has returned to the South Carolina State Health Department. Commander Weathersbee directed mosquito control on many projects at Puerto Rico, Norfolk, Virginia, and Okinawa.

R. E. DORER

ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA. In December, 1945, the Elizabeth City County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors voted to organize into a mosquito control district. Funds were appropriated and work was started at once. Stewart Gibson and T. A. Sheehan were appointed to serve as commissioners. Dr. I. C. Riggin, Virginia State Health Commissioner, who by law is chairman of all mosquito districts in Virginia, appointed R. E. Dorer to act as his deputy. N. L. Benton was appointed by the commission to act as superintendent. Headquarters are at Hampton, Virginia. The work to be done will consist of drainage and larvaciding and will continue the work started by the Malaria Control in War Areas program carried on by the Public Health Service.

R. E. DORER

R. G. PIRIE, Superintendent of the Fresno (California) Mosquito Abatement District, died suddenly of a heart attack on February 2, 1946. He was 44 years old. He had been Superintendent since December, 1942, succeeding A. V. Preuss, who was inducted into the Army.

H. F. GRAY

ROBERT L. USINGER has been released from Malaria Control duty with the U. S. Public Health Service, and has resumed his work at the University of California as professor of entomol-

ogy and assistant entomologist in the Agricultural Experiment Station with headquarters on the Berkeley campus.

H. F. GRAY

F. H. TAYLOR, F.R.E.S., F.Z.S., Entomologist, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, died on December 20, 1945. Mr. Taylor was a member of the American Mosquito Control Association.

T. D. MULHERN

H. ELISHEWITZ. A paragraph from a letter to the Secretary.

TROPICAL OIL COMPANY

BARRANGABERMEJA
COLOMBIA, S. A.

El Centro, Colombia
February 28, 1946

Dear Tommy:

I've just come back from a 950 mile one-month long trip down the Magdalena river by launch. Stopped in 10 different towns and stations and did anopheline reconnaissances. There are three different and distinct ecological and biological strata represented in the various sections of the river: in the uppermost section, *punctimacula* is the main vector, in the central section, *darlingi*, in the lowest,—a semi-arid region—*albimanus*.

The river represents the nastiest malaria problem of any place that I have encountered. So extensive that engineering control is impossible; such high mosquito populations that 8 to 10 thousand mosquitoes enter each trap each night; and in most sections the malaria rate is 3000 to 5000 cases per 1000 people per year. I had a chance to do some nice biological studies which show that, contrary to published experiences, *An. darlingi* will enter traps to feed on man, horses, mules, cattle, dogs, chickens, pigs, and goats. Also accumulated some data on their quantitative host preferences; their flight times, hours of feeding, and resting habits.

I'm sorry that I won't be able to get to the meetings this year but hope them the best of success.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) H. ELISHEWITZ.

DR. JOHN M. HUFF, now Director of Public Health, City of Norfolk, Virginia. A letter to the Editor.

Norfolk, Virginia
May 16, 1946

Dear Doctor Glasgow:

I know that you are constantly in search of items of news which have a bearing on the welfare of our Association and of our profession

in its larger sense. I believe that any important change in the prominent personnel of an organization directing mosquito control naturally falls in this classification and I offer a few details of a move that was recently made in the City Government of Norfolk in the hope that both you and the membership may care to have them.

The appointment of Dr. John M. Huff as Director of Public Health for the City of Norfolk should be of interest to the membership not only because a number of us have had the privilege of personal acquaintance with him but also because the man who is to fill this important office has displayed such an active interest in the knowledge of anti-mosquito work.

A former Medical Officer for more than 25 years in the regular Navy, Dr. Huff was called from retirement in 1944 to act as Assistant, with the rank of Commander, to Rear Admiral James J. A. McMullin, then Chief Medical Officer of the Fifth Naval District with Headquarters at the Norfolk Naval Operating Base. The problems in Sanitation and Public Health in this District, under the war time emergency, which he aided in solving so satisfactorily were manifold and gave proof of his technical ability while at the same time the loyalty of his own staff and the friendly relations he established with City Officials and other civilians with whom he came in contact indicated a remarkably pleasant personality.

It was during this period that the potential mosquito hazard in Norfolk created by war time Naval construction assumed its most serious proportions. Admiral McMullin gave the situation his immediate and personal attention with instructions to Commander Huff that remedial action be undertaken at once. Thanks to the latter's administrative ability, an organization was quickly set in motion and under his direction our Albert A. Weathersbee, then a Lt. Commander in the Naval Reserve, undertook extensive field operations which he carried forward with great success until his transfer to the Pacific Theater of War. Our Donald MacCreary, also a Lt. Commander in the Naval Reserve, was then assigned to the Norfolk Operating Base, under Commander Huff, and was instrumental in completing the task which resulted in almost total temporary control and led to the elimination of the major breeding sources.

Throughout this whole period there was the most friendly and complete cooperation between the Naval Medical Department and the Norfolk Bureau of Mosquito Control which was in almost daily contact with Commander Huff. Plans were under way to design a permanent drainage system to eliminate the breeding areas created by Naval construction and Commander Huff was instrumental in bringing our Secretary, Thomas D. Mulhern, to Norfolk to act as an expert consultant in the matter and to submit a report with recommendations to the Naval Medical Department to be considered by them before giving their approval of final plans and specifications. The engineering work on this project has now been largely completed in a very successful manner and will stand in no small way as a tribute to the vision, understanding and executive ability of Dr. Huff.

When Dr. Huff retired from Naval service this Spring with the rank of Captain, it was most natural that he should be considered for the post of Director of the Department of Public Health, newly created by the Norfolk City Council. In spite of a natural desire for a period of rest from the arduous duties he had but lately relinquished, he was persuaded to indicate his willingness to accept the appointment and his name was at once submitted to City Manager H. H. George, 3rd, by the Advisory Commission on Public Health, composed of six well known local physicians, with a very favorable recommendation. Affirmative action was taken at once and Dr. Huff's appointment as Norfolk's first Director of the Department of Public Health was announced on March 6.

Since taking over his duties he has made many new friends among his associates and has indicated a thoroughly cooperative attitude toward the Bureau of Mosquito Control, which now comes under his direction. As Chief of that Bureau I feel that our organization is peculiarly fortunate in the City Manager's selection of a man with the knowledge and interest that Dr. Huff has displayed in mosquito work. Undoubtedly the growth and development it made under the splendid guidance of the Director of Public Welfare may be expected to continue uninterrupted.

Yours very truly,

PERRY W. RUTH,
President.