EDITORIAL

OPERATIONAL ARTICLES

At several recent annual meetings, the editor has found himself apologizing to the membership for the relatively small number of papers that could be classified as "operational" in a given volume of Mosquito News. There have even been some cancellations of subscriptions because individuals felt that not enough was being published in their particular field, or because there were too many papers of a highly technical or narrowly specialized nature.

Let there be some persons who think that the editor and his staff have selected these papers to the exclusion of papers of a more general or more practical nature, we would like to point out again that nothing could be further from the truth. Our policy is to have a well balanced journal in order to serve the interests of all our members. But the editors do not write the papers, and we cannot edit or prepare papers that are not written or that are never submitted.

In order to encourage the preparation and submission of such papers, several years ago the section on "Operational Notes" was set up, with Bruce Brockway as section editor. It was hoped that many members might be stimulated to send in items that they thought were too short, or possibly not "formal" enough for the Articles Section. A number of interesting notes have been sent in, and I am sure that all or nearly all that were submitted were published. But the number has been disappointingly small.

Therefore, at the last annual meeting Al Buzicky and Tommy Mulhern both volunteered to go out after special papers of a longer, and more detailed type, that would be comparable to the more technical papers that appear in the Articles Section. The active assistance of the Regional Directors was solicited, and several members were approached and asked to prepare papers on specific subjects. I believe that everyone who was thus approached agreed to do whatever assignment was given him, but, again very few papers have come in.

We quote the following paragraph from a letter that was sent out in August to the Regional Directors by Al Buzicky:

"The response so far to our request for additional operational articles has not been particularly impressive. It is realized, however, that there is a time lapse in such matters and I hope that more will be forthcoming soon. Please do all you can in your Regions to stimulate production of these papers. Often writing does not come as easily to control people as it does to persons in the academic field so you may have to suggest, assign, wheedle and prod to get meritorious articles written up."

The only step we can suggest that has not yet been taken is to have a roving reporter go around to different regions and interview persons who are doing interesting things or who have constructive ideas, and then write them up. Do we have any volunteers? All that is needed is a persuasive personality, ability to write, a knowledge of mosquito control, good health, an urge to travel, nothing else to do, and plenty of money (his own) to spend on the project.

In the meantime, until such person comes forward, may we not have an increasingly effective response to our sincere desire to increase our Operational Articles production and publication?—D. L. C.