

MOSQUITO ERADICATION

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Mosquito eradication by W. E. Hardenburg

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W. E. HARDENBURG

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ERADICATION**

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PREFACE

Along with the marked increase in public appreciation of preventive medicine, that has developed in recent years in the United States, has come a recognition of the great importance of mosquito eradication, particularly in the South. This has manifested itself in the launching of anti-mosquito campaigns in cities, towns and villages in every Southern State, and it is a foregone conclusion that the success of these will spur other communities on to action.

Abroad, too, the menace of the mosquito-borne diseases is being recognized. In the tropical and sub-tropical areas of Latin-America, the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation has done, and is doing, very valuable work. Many American corporations employing labor in those regions have found that it pays to protect their labor, and are doing so. Furthermore, the governments of many of the Latin-American countries are awakening to the heavy toll of the mosquito-borne diseases, and are taking steps to eradicate them.

The same may be said of many regions in Europe, Asia and Africa. Anti-mosquito work now is being carried on to a greater or lesser extent in Italy, Spain and several of the Balkan countries; in Mesopotamia, India, Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula and many Pacific islands; in East and West Africa, Madagascar and various other political subdivisions.

This means that, in the aggregate, an enormous volume of anti-mosquito work is being done today. And, as the fruits of this work become better known and appreciated, it will increase many fold in all the above-mentioned countries. Furthermore, as other territories, that are today undeveloped, awake, more anti-mosquito work will have to be done, if man is to exploit their resources efficiently.

This vast volume of work, both present and prospective, renders it incumbent that only the best methods should be employed. While many persons may have a general idea as to the procedure in mosquito eradication, this is not sufficient for the

men in charge of the work. They must know what methods are best adapted to the particular problem they have in hand, or, in other words, what is the cheapest way of accomplishing the desired result. In anti-mosquito work, as in other branches of engineering, the goal should be to get the best results for the money available. If the cost of eradicating mosquitoes is to amount to as much as the toll of the mosquito-borne diseases, but little is gained.

Although the importance of this matter is self-evident, there seems to be an amazing paucity of books on mosquito control. When the writer started in at anti-mosquito work, about the only material he could find on the subject was stray references to it in medical works, various pamphlets published by Federal and State health and agricultural organizations and LePrince and Orenstein's valuable volume, "Mosquito Control in Panama," which, however, deals with work under somewhat exceptional conditions.

So far as the writer knows, this situation still obtains. Asked repeatedly for the name of some text-book on mosquito control, he has been unable to mention any one book, with the exception of LePrince and Orenstein's, that deals adequately with the subject. It is with a view to supply this deficiency that he has prepared the present volume.

A conscientious effort has been made to outline the best practice, both in the United States and abroad. It has been the special aim of the writer to be concise, so as to avoid making the volume too bulky, but to omit nothing of value.

The writer takes pleasure in acknowledging here the kindness of Dr. Harrison G. Dyar, Director of the U. S. National Museum, in revising part of the chapter on mosquitoes; of S. F. Hildebrand, Ichthyologist, in revising the chapter on fish control; and of W. A. Hardenbergh, Sanitary Engineer, in making many valuable suggestions regarding the book. Credit is given writers, from whose works extracts have been used, throughout the volume.

W. E. HARDENBURG.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.,
June, 1922.

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