Clinical and Other Notes.

MEDICAL ADVISORY DIVISION. HEADQUARTERS; GREAT EASTERN AREA. A REPORT ON T.O.T.

BY Colonel E. N. THUSIAST.

[Received December 10, 1945.]

MEDICAL Advisory Division's report on T.O.T. indoor spraying carried out in "A" Camp—Paradise Gardens.

The following report describes for the first time how the death-dealing, time annihilating, all-embracing benefits of the greatest insecticide and larvicide of all time were brought to the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander, Great Eastern Area. It is, perhaps, not without significance that this experiment was commenced within a week of my return to the H.Q. after my very successful experiments—reports of which have already been forwarded, at Cuttack, Chilka Lake, Jessore, Tamu and all stations in between (Reports 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6).

This experiment was designed to set up the usual impenetrable death-barrier around a circumscribed area, namely a cadjan hut in the "A" camp area. This site was outstandingly favourable for such an experiment on the mosquito-annihilating power of the most outstanding insecticide and larvicide of our generation, or any other generation, namely T.O.T.

The technique in the colossal gigantic epoch-making experiment has already been described ad nauseam in numerous foregoing reports and, though often imitated, has never been excelled.

The reason for the favourableness of the site chosen, should it be considered expedient or even desirable that any reason should be given for any observations in this effort, is that figures for anopheline counts (live counts of course—not dead catch, as the mosquito-annihilating, life-destroying, stupendously breathtaking effects of T.O.T. had previously been denied to this unfortunate cadjan hut), figures—as I say—were available from the time the hut was erected.

Week ending April 15, 1944 .. 0 10  Week ending August 5, 1944 .. 0 4
" 22 .. 0 8  " 12 .. 0 6
" 29 .. 0 6  " 19 .. 0 2
May 6 .. 0 4  September 2 .. 0 4
" 13 .. 0 2  " 9 .. 0 6
" 20 .. 0 4  " 16 .. 0 2
June 27 .. 0 2  " 23 .. 0 3
" 10 .. 0 3  " 30 .. 0 2
" 17 .. 0 4  October 7 .. 0 4
" 24 .. 0 6  " 21 .. 0 2
July 1 .. 0 4  " 28 .. 0 2
" 8 .. 0 6
" 15 .. 0 4
" 22 .. 0 6
" 29 .. 0 2

SPECIES COUNT.

Per cent | Per cent
---------|---------
A. Peculiarfacies var. scharffii .. 14 | 14
A. Immaculatus var. hutleri .. 14 | 14
A. Subrosa var. birtii .. 14 | 14
A. Jimmiensis var. hilli .. 14 | 14
A. Jamesi var. hilli .. 14 | 14
A. Maximus var. ricii .. 14 | 14
A. Amanuensis var. walei .. 14 | 14
A. Quadriceptus var. liftoni .. 14 | 14
It will easily be recognized that there is a striking alteration of the species counts, and this should be the subject of further research. It will be seen that these figures support the well-known theory that mosquitoes tend to avoid new buildings; the figures for the first three weeks do not support this theory and should therefore be ignored.

The room selected was an ordinary cadjan hut taken at random on the basis of which hut in the area would be likely to give results most favourable to the use of T.O.T. The area of the hut was measured accurately by pacing, and estimated roughly to have a wall area of 750 square feet which would require 1 1/2 pints of a 5 per cent solution of this wonderful but precious compound (T.O.T.).

Live bait: For this experiment I decided to depart from my usual practice of having live animal bait in the form of a cow (vide my experiments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) owing to the incomprehensible objection of the occupiers to having cow dung on the walls and floor of their office. This factor at once makes this experiment unique in my series (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

However, as the climate is reasonably warm, and the office is normally occupied by several people, and as there is a water shortage in town, I readily jumped to the conclusion that sufficient animal bait would be furnished, and thus made this experiment exactly comparable to my other reports (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

Preparation of the solution:—
This occupied the part time of 3 officers and 4 labourers for seven days. 1 1/2 pints of crude kerosene were obtained by the expenditure of 4 signals, 3 telephone calls, 2 15-cwt. 4 x 4 truck journeys and much verbiage. A quantity of the precious powder (T.O.T.) was carefully measured by a spoon of unknown capacity and tipped into the kerosene. A Captain I.A.M.C. then very kindly offered to second himself from duty for three days in order to supervise personally that the valuable and potent powder (T.O.T.) dissolved in the kerosene.

Spraying.
As a period of four weeks had been devoted to making the power sprayer fit for service, no major delays were anticipated, and we proceeded to the target area at 09.00 hours October 23.

I had had the foresight to rope off the area, as I feared that the usual intense and natural exuberation of the ordinary people, when they heard that the magic powder had come to save them, would lead to unmanageable crowds and interfere with their salvation! However, there were no spectators except a handful with martyred expressions who had been turned out of their office for the morning, thus proving the inability of staff officers to absorb new ideas.

After an hour's delay at the start while a new power sprayer was borrowed from an outlying station, H hour on D day was announced.

The actual spraying, naturally carried out in accordance with the rules I have already laid down (vide my reports 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6), occupied 0 minutes—later corrected to fourteen when I found out that as usual I had no idea what time it was. Thus T.O.T. at 56-4798 mgm per square foot was accurately applied.

The normal inhabitants of the hut recommenced work at 14.30 hours the following afternoon, when they volunteered the valuable information that the nauseating stench of kerosene seemed to be wearing off.

Post-spray period.
Mosquito catches—naturally all dead—for three months' post-spray period are set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>October 28</th>
<th>A.</th>
<th>C.</th>
<th>December 16</th>
<th>A.</th>
<th>C.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;  11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>&quot;  23</td>
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<td>&quot;  18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;  30</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;  25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;  13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;  20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;  9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It will be seen that for a period of three months from the time of spraying no live anopheline mosquitoes entered this hut (as naturally they would have succumbed to the death barrier) and thus the malaria risks in this hut were at a low level only achieved by T.O.T. and in dreams.

The lower culicine counts in the post-spray period may be explained by the fact that there was—from three days after the spraying—an unfortunate absence of human bait, as all the normal occupants were discharged to hospital on this day suffering from the effects of kerosene poisoning.

This small detail should in no way be allowed to detract from the outstanding success achieved in this magnificent experiment. Another win for T.O.T., or as I prefer to express it—

Another score
For dear trichlor.

SMILE THERAPY.

BY
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[Received November 7, 1945.]

It is a well known fact that the recovery of Service patients from disabilities of all sorts often takes considerably longer than that of civilian patients. This is true in particular of surgical cases and where the free movement of limbs and joints has been restricted. Speaking of "Knee injuries in Soldiers," A. G. Timbrel Fisher states (Lancet, June 23, p. 802) that the results of removal of semilunar cartilage from Service patients "are almost grotesquely at variance with those seen under normal peacetime conditions." He accounts for this strange fact by "the longing which most Service patients feel to return to civilian life, which creates a subconscious atmosphere which is inimical to complete recovery." This, and many other observations, seems to prove that poor results with Service patients are often due to psychological causes. These causes are only too often translated into Army language as "dodging" and "swinging the lead." The problem, however, is not so simple, as we know from the many cases of traumatic neurosis which occur in industry. And what is more, the psychological background of the patient’s lack of will to recover lies not only with the patient himself, but almost as much with his surroundings during treatment.

This other side of the problem, which might be of some importance, can perhaps be better seen by the orderly in the wards than by the medical officers. This is not an insolent assumption, but the mere stating of the fact that the O.R. in the R.A.M.C. is on a somehow similar mental level to most of his patients and therefore nearer to the patient’s way of thinking.

Any army is, of necessity, a soulless mechanism, working in perfect order as long as it deals with numbers of considerable size. The patient, however, is out of the mechanism. He is not just one out of a number, and he has, for the duration of his disability, regained his personality to a full and often even to a painful extent. His pains and his complaints are predominant in his own mind and he thinks he has a right to be treated not only individually, but as an individual.

[1] Be it remembered that this is written from the point of view of a Nursing Orderly in the R.A.M.C. While readers may not agree in toto with all the writer says his paper contains much valuable common sense. In brief, it may be taken as a plea for a cheerful "bedside manner." There are some doctors (and nurses) whose very entrance into a ward suggests that the patient’s next interview will be with a celestial quartermaster for "issue of wings, halo and harp." There are others who at once suggest a speedy return to the enjoyment of such good things as may yet survive in our troubled world.—Ed.