



### OUTLINES METHOD OF ERADICATING SKEETER

Official of Gorgas Memorial Institute Tells of Plans for Work Locally

"If mosquitoes can be conquered at Panama, where they breed every day in the year, you can readily realize that something can be done about them in the Chicago area when men, money and knowledge combine to tackle the problem," state Dr. Gilbert Fitz-Patrick, member of the executive committee of the Gorgas Memorial Institute which is co-operating with Chicago suburban communities in a cam-

paign to eradicate the pest in the Chicago area.

"The first thing to understand about mosquitoes is that they breed only in water. The first two stages of the mosquitoes' existence are spent in water. The third stage is the full grown mosquito as you know it—the winged insect that does the biting. And even in this stage the mosquito needs moisture in order to maintain life. Hence you find them harboring, during the day, in the shady woods, in deep grass, in shrubbery, and on the under side of buildings.

"In fact it is common misinformation that mosquitoes breed in bushes. They do not; they breed only in water. They do harbor in bushes, grass and in the woods, because they find moisture and protection there.

"Why I know of one golf club that destroyed several thousand dollars worth of shrubbery because some of the members were sure they would destroy the breeding places of mosquitoes when they ordered the shrubs cut down. Most school children know that mosquitoes breed in water, but there are adults of my acquaintance who still suspicion the bushes.

"Chicago and vicinity is not naturally mosquito-breeding territory. But because so many of the towns and villages flow their sewage into the tiny creeks and streams, streams which are almost dry in warm weather, and which actually ought to have nothing but pure water flowed into them, one is entirely right in saying that our mosquitoes are 'man made.' Man made them, when he polluted the streams, when he built splendid towns but made no provision for scientific waste disposal.

#### No Respector of Persons

"The mosquito is no respecter of persons. She bites the people who live on the south side with the same ferocity as the people who live west or north. And by the way its the lady mosquito which does the biting. She

bites because blood contains a substance she must have for maturing her eggs.

"Mosquitoes bit the rich and the poor alike. They bite animals and birds. And its a well known fact that in dairy district, badly infested with mosquitoes, that the milk production drops off just as soon as the mosquitoes begin to get 'bad.'

"Now about the plan of co-operation to overcome the man-made handicaps which are causing mosquitoes to breed so prolifically. Everybody is helping. More co-operation between towns and villages, between golf clubs, and between other agencies is in evidence in attacking the mosquito problem than ever before.

"Anton Cermak, president of the Cook County board, is one of the mosquito fighters. He and the board members have in their control, 30,000 acres of Forest Preserves, which cannot be enjoyed by the people of Cook county unless the mosquitoes are taken care of. So the Cook County board contributes liberally to the general overhead fund and besides pays for control work, such as drainage and oiling, within the Forest Preserves.

#### Sanitary District Helps

"The Sanitary District of which Lawrence F. King is president was probably the very first body to fight mosquitoes here. The Sanitary board knows that mosquitoes breed in the creeks and streams under its jurisdiction, and are therefore anxious to abate the nuisance. Consequently, for two weeks past oiling gangs have been at work in the country.

"Oiling must be practiced where drainage is impossible or impractical. Drainage is the permanent type of work, and I am glad to be able to announce that the Sanitary District has appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for drainage work on the Salt Creek area on the west side.

"Co-ordinating the work of all the groups is the Gorgas Memorial Institute, the national foundation for better individual health, created to honor General Gorgas who wiped out Yellow Fever at Panama. The Gorgas Method is the method used wherever mosquito work is done on a large scale. It is the method which will eventually rid Chicago of mosquitoes. Actual direction of the work is done by Maj.

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