

Washington Digest

Miracle Insecticide — DDT Not a Panacea

New Deadly Bug Killer Has Effective Use But It Also Has Its Limitations and Danger When Improperly Used.



(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a guest column written by Winfield J. Dryden, WNU Staff Correspondent, and was not prepared by Baukhage, whose column generally appears in this space each week.)

DDT, much publicized insecticide, saved thousands of lives of our fighting men and civilians in countries where our operations were extended, but it is not the panacea that we would like to believe.

The irony of the story is that it was discovered nearly seventy years ago by a German chemist named Zeldler, but was almost forgotten until rediscovered during the present war by Dr. Paul Muller and Dr. Paul Langer. These Swiss scientists asserted recently, upon their arrival in America, that with proper control, flies, mosquitoes and other harmful insects can be eliminated entirely from the United States. But along with these insects would go our pollen-carrying insects, bees and other beneficial friends of mankind, also perhaps our birds and fish. Gone also would be many plants and trees that depend upon insects for pollination. As they point out, it is a job for entomologists, not laymen.

DDT has been made available to the public in limited amounts. There will soon be a sufficient supply to meet every demand. Manufacturers of the products, whether in liquid or powder form, are careful to give complete instructions as to its application, which must be followed.

Scientists Tell of Effective DDT Use

Despite its inherent toxicity, DDT in the desired insecticidal concentrations in air is of such low order that it will not cause injurious effects in humans, Dr. Paul A. Neal, chief of the research section of the division of industrial hygiene of the U. S. Public Health Service, has reported. It was this knowledge that made it advisable to spray from the air the Jones Beach area on Long Island, N. Y., and part of the city of Rockford, Illinois. In both cases the purpose was to control insects, Jones Beach to kill sand fleas and Rockford to kill polio-carrying flies, believed to have been the direct cause for the serious infantile paralysis outbreak in many sections.

LT. Col. A. L. Ahnfeldt, U. S. Surgeon General's office, after a study of results secured in the army, reports: "In peace time DDT may well change the destiny of the earth's population. . . . Our postwar world will no longer be scourged by typhus and malaria and other insect-borne diseases. DDT is not a cure-all, but in the perpetual war between humans and disease, DDT is one of the most effective weapons yet discovered by man."

"DDT will be to preventive medicine what Lister's discovery of antiseptic was to surgery and should close the door forever on those diseases which are companions of death-dealing insects."

In the field of agriculture, the results have been far from disappointing. Remarkable results have been obtained by some of its application, while in others the results were either negative, incomplete or its use not recommended due to effect on birds and other insects. Will Prove Boon to Hard-Worked Farmer

Average Citizen Has Answer to National Welfare

While agricultural use of DDT must still be considered in its experimental state, reliable and complete tests at various state experiment stations have proved that it is the best insecticide now on the market for the control of the apple's most destructive pest, the codling moth.

It will kill Japanese beetle adults, while current remedies are based entirely upon their repelling value.

The grape leafhopper and other leafhoppers are highly susceptible to DDT and excellent results have been obtained with it against Oriental fruit moth. It also has proved effective against apple red bug, pear thrips, grape berry moth, fruit tree leafroller, apple maggot, cherry maggot and many others.

In California, it was proved that DDT was effective against codling moths in walnut and other orchards. At Missouri it was found that a three per cent dust was effective in controlling blister beetle, squash bug, white fly, thrips, sowbugs, corn earworm, Colorado potato beetle, spotted and striped cucumber beetles, northern corn rootworm, pavement ant, lace-bugs, leafhoppers on grape, flea beetles on eggplant, and a ten per cent dust for roaches, fleas and squash bugs.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reported that "DDT insecticides were found experimentally to be definitely more effective than those currently used for control of some 30 pests that

attack field crops, man, livestock and trees. These included codling moth, cabbage looper, catalpa sphinx, cotton boll-worm, cotton flea-hopper, eastern tent caterpillar, elm bark beetle, green-striped maple worm, gypsy moth, horn flies on cattle, Japanese beetle, Lygus and four other kinds of sucking bugs, mimosa webworm, pine sawflies, pink bollworm, spruce budworm, velvet-bean caterpillar, vetch bruchid, white-fringed beetles, mosquitoes, bedbugs, three kinds of lice on man, and houseflies and fleas in buildings.

A Good Insecticide For Postwar Home

Brig. Gen. Simmons, army medical corps, has said: "DDT will exceed even penicillin in its ultimate usefulness and will prove to be the outstanding medical advance made during the war."

One of the newest products is a paint containing DDT to be used on walls of kitchens, dining rooms and in institutions. Other industrial uses have been found by dusting with a 10 per cent DDT powder around the sink in kitchen and other places where cockroaches and other insects stay.

DDT will eliminate the bedbug problem in hospitals, as well as in private dwellings. It may be applied as a five per cent spray or as a 10 per cent powder to both sides of the mattress and springs. It also provides freedom from flies and mosquitoes in hospitals. The new aerosol bomb, which releases the DDT as an aerosol—a cross between a fumigating gas and an ordinary fly spray, is excellent for this purpose. A power spray may be used in applying a five per cent DDT solution.

Just as it is proving effective on the agricultural and industrial front, and as it saved lives on the war fronts, DDT has started to contribute to the health of the home front. The story of spraying for mosquitoes against malaria is well known.

Painting door and window screens with a five per cent solution of DDT in water or kerosene leaves an insecticidal residue that will kill every fly, mosquito or other insect lighting there within the next several months, the U. S. department of agriculture reports.

A five per cent solution of DDT in kerosene sprayed on floors or over rugs eliminates the flea nuisance. A hand sprayer is adequate. By spraying deep into cracks, the DDT will remain toxic to these insects for several weeks.

A ten per cent powder applied to cracks with a small hand duster can be depended on to kill any brown dog ticks that may be hiding there.

Baseboards, especially those that have worked loose from the wall, afford excellent breeding places for bedbugs, cockroaches and brown dog ticks. DDT is sure death to these pests. A hand sprayer, held close to the opening, will send the insecticide, a five per cent solution in kerosene, down where the insects are concealed, or a large duster, of 10 per cent powder, may be used.

Six Pairs of Twins in Family



The land of the Dionne quintuplets has produced another marvel: six pairs of twins in the same family. Of these 12 twins, 7 are still living. They were part of a family of 19 children born in 23 years to farmer Olivier Braut, 42, and his wife Germaine, 39, near Montreal, Canada. The 12 living children are pictured with parents.

Boyington-Wainwright-Wermuth



Three outstanding heroes of the war against Japan, Maj. Gregory Boyington, marine corps ace, left; Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, hero of Corregidor, center; and Capt. Arthur W. Wermuth, "one man army of Bataan," credited with killing 116 Japs singlehanded, were all found alive in prison camps, despite extreme hardships they underwent.

Pete The Pooch Is an Able Seaman



Impatience is the name for Pete, who can't wait for a line to be tossed from the chock, but dives into the sea and swims ashore, guiding the coast guard cutter to its berth at LeHavre, France. After being lifted out of the water, with the line in his mouth, he sees that it is properly moored to bollard. The wire-haired fox terrier meets all ships.

Hurley Serves as Peace Maker



Mao Tse-tung, Communist leader of China, was escorted by Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hurley, American ambassador to China, to a meeting with Chiang Kai-shek. The result of Hurley's efforts was a report, "Now with the victorious conclusion of the war against Japan, China is about to enter the stage of peaceful reconstruction." L. R. E., Mao, Hurley, Chiang.

Regains Court Title



After three years of inaction, Sarah Palfrey Cooke came back to regain the National Amateur Women's Tennis title from defending champion, Pauline Betz, 3-6, 8-6, 6-4. The tournament held at Forest Hills, New York, was the first postwar event.

Our Flag Over Japan



Proud G.I.s of the 11th airborne watch the American flag flapping in the breeze, soon after their arrival at Atsugi airstrip from Okinawa, as planes in the background wing over the field. The raising of the flag marked complete surrender of Japs.

Champ Girl Hurler



Connie Wisniewski, of Detroit, ace hurler for the Grand Rapids Chicks of the All-American Girls Professional Ball league, broke a pitching record with 34 wins for the season, as well as for the three years the league has been in existence.

'I Did No Wrong'



"Tokyo Rose," did nothing more than entertain G.I.s, which despite her statement, and that of her relatives in Chicago, is not what she intended.



(Note—In Drew Pearson's absence, Herbert Bayard Swope, long a student of British political affairs, contributes a guest column on the new labor government.)

By HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE
Former Editor of the New York World and Public Relations Adviser to the Secretary of War.

NEW YORK.—The conservative defeat in England is not so striking a blow as some portray it. Unquestionably, there will be a trend toward socialization, but I think that this will be confined, at least for the next few years, to the natural monopolies—power, light, heat, transportation, communication (already in the state's hands except for cables) and, of course, mining, steel, and the Bank of England. But much of this has been on their program for the last 25 years.

In fact, even the Lloyd George government gave support to the basic plan.

There will be a trend on the part of the radical movement in this country to affiliate itself with the British program. And I think there will be efforts to gain a wider and deeper association politically with Britain and Russia. But I do not discern any trend toward communism.

Whatever Britain does will be done not by dictatorship, but under the rule of a true democracy. That characteristic is from becoming a repetition of Stalinism. After all, only two communists were elected out of 37 who ran. That's not dangerous, even though the propagandists can—and do—claim 100 per cent increase! (The Combies had one member in the last House.)

No New Foreign Policy.

I should doubt that there will be any decisive changes in foreign policy. Britain has consistently adhered to a pretty well formulated foreign policy for almost 30 years. However, it is reasonable to expect a greater sympathy on the part of the British foreign office for the movement left of center than with the kings and Tories the expiring government supported. An approach to self-government in India is to be expected.

I think foreign trade will become more international minded and more collective. I think it will move toward further cartelization. The question about British commerce growing will be dependent upon their range of wage. Labor will drive for wider employment and higher pay. Probably it will take over many features of Beveridge's plan. To hold the British position in world markets will require subsidies. In other words, Britain will embark upon a species of protection.

Long Labor Rule

Attlee is a good man, overshadowed by his association with Churchill. My guess is that labor is in for a long run and, if there is any change it will be to displace Attlee for one of its own, such as Bevin or Morrison. As its name implies, this is a labor victory, built in a democratic framework.

Unquestionably, the fact that labor received a clear majority of all the votes, will tend to unify the country. I believe there is nothing to fear from England. In fact, we may be able to learn from this great experiment. My hope is that there will not be too great a limitation set upon free enterprise.

We should remember that Ramsay MacDonald's labor government swung steadily to the right. In fact, it is axiomatic that the ins grow conservative and the outs more radical.

That is happening in America right now. It wouldn't be surprising if the Republicans were gradually to move to the left, as against the conservatism of the southern democracy.

Universal War-Weariness

In my reading, it is almost a settled law of history that every country engaged in a war repudiates the leadership that brought its people into the war. We saw that exemplified after World War I. All the victors were repudiated—Wilson in America, Lloyd George in Britain, Orlando in Italy, Clemenceau in France. And the losers, too: the Hohenzollerns, the Hapsburgs and the Romanoffs.

Apparently a great wave of war-weariness overwhelms all peoples, and they throw out anyone remotely connected with the war. If that be true, it disposes of any question of military candidates. But there is small likelihood of that; America has chosen a great military figure really only once. That was Grant—and his presidency was a stretch.

Attlee's cabinet is a strong one and certainly as good as Churchill had.

There is an additional point, in connection with the English result, on which I should like to expatiate for just a moment:

We Won't Copy England

There is an insistent belief that the English elections are definitely an indication of how ours is going. While unquestionably, the result shows a tendency, in reality there is nothing to warrant the belief that it is any more than such a tendency.

In 1908 to 1911, Lloyd George was beginning his successful campaign for vast social reforms in Britain. We remained conservative, electing Taft in 1908, and would have elected a Republican in 1912 had it not been for the Bull Moose split.

England went liberal during the war, and thereafter, but we turned solidly to the right immediately after the war, while England, in the early '30s elected a labor government. In 1932, when MacDonald got a plurality, we put our leadership in the hands of Calvin Coolidge.

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB
I have a temper quick and hot; It's very wrong to have I know. I s'pose I ought to conquer it — It feels good to lose it though.

WNU Features.

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SNAPPY FACTS about RUBBER

Rubber production from native plants in Southern Florida is not promising at present, and commercial planting of tropical rubber plants there is not justified, in the opinion of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A special railroad coach equipped to demonstrate tyre (British spelling) conservation has traveled throughout England.

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You may suffer nagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.
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