

comfort, some of them bring deadly sickness.

Men can benefit from monkeys, if they use their wits a bit. For one thing, they can watch what the monkeys eat. Anything that a monkey eats, a man can eat. Also, they can eat the monkeys. There is no need to waste precious ammunition on them, either. Several ingenious methods for trapping them are figured, including the old trick of getting the monkey to put his hand into a small hole in a coconut shell for a tempting bait; the animal won't unball his fist once he has grasped the prize, and so gets caught.

But of all man's enforced relations with nature in the jungle, those with plants are most important. Plants offer by far the best supplies of food: fleshy roots, like sweet potatoes or yams run wild; edible shoots, like those of bamboo, big ferns, and palm buds; familiar fruits like bananas, pineapples and coconuts; less familiar ones like hogplums, star apples and the unspeakably malodorous but nutritious durian.

Four of the more dangerous poisonous plants of the jungle are also listed: santonin, manzanillo, cowitch, and the deadly strychnos. All species mentioned in the text are pictured in clear, unmistakable line drawings.

Most of the booklet is devoted to the problems of survival in the jungle; staying alive in the desert may be just as difficult, but not as complex a job. Mainly it has to do with conservation of water, protection against sun and heat, and food sanitation. The desert-stranded flier is warned against eating food which friendly Arabs may offer him: offered with the best will in the world, it is almost certain to be contaminated with germs more dangerous than poison. Buy or barter raw food and cook it yourself; then you will be safe, is the counsel.

This guidebook is the result of exhaustive research by the Safety Education Division of the AAF Flight Control Command. Noted scientists were interviewed, every available authority on life in the jungle and desert was consulted.

No detail was overlooked in trying to make the book practical and readable. The cover is vermilion so it can be readily distinguished against jungle or desert background if lost. The binding glue contains insect-repellent powder and the pages are water-resistant. The type face and illustrations are especially designed for reading under adverse lighting conditions. The book itself fits easily into the hip pocket.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1943

PUBLIC HEALTH

D. C. Fights Malaria

Clean-up of mosquito breeding areas intensified as nation's capital received three cases of malaria from foreign countries.

► THE FIGHT to protect the nation's capital against malaria, which some scientists believe may be the great plague of the present war, is being intensified, Dr. George C. Ruhland, District of Columbia Health Officer, announced.

There are three "bona fide cases of malaria" in Washington now, the health department records show. The patients have recently returned from foreign countries where they had been employed on government business.

Importation of more cases of malaria and possibly other communicable diseases are anticipated by Dr. Ruhland because of modern swift air transportation which brings people to Washington from Africa, India or the Southwest Pacific in a few days instead of weeks.

Only one type of mosquito transmits malaria in the Washington area. This is the *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*, familiarly known as "the quad." A survey, part of a program for "control of malaria in war areas," was made by the District of Columbia Health Department and the U. S. Public Health Service last summer. This showed that the chief breeding grounds for "the quad" around Washington are in the areas around Oxon Run Creek and in the Potomac River in the vicinity of Oxon Bay. A few malaria mosquitoes were found here and there throughout the city but not in sufficient numbers to warrant alarm.

As a result of the survey findings, extensive oiling, ditch digging and draining operations were undertaken around Bolling Field, Blue Plains, the National Arboretum and the grounds of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, where a number of parasitic patients are receiving malaria treatment.

Oiling, "dusting" with Paris green and mosquito trapping will be intensified in about a month when the mosquito breeding season will be at its height. Dusting operations by airplane will be extended to include the Marine Base at Quantico, Va.

Dr. Ruhland invited the public to report suspected mosquito breeding places to the Health Department which will

investigate to determine whether or not the malaria mosquito is involved.

"We are particularly suspicious of the fish pond with the sprinkling water fountain," Dr. Ruhland said, adding that tin cans and other receptacles which fill up with water and the smaller stagnant pools are usually only sources of the pest mosquito which does not carry malaria.

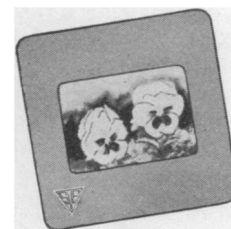
Science News Letter, May 29, 1943

● RADIO

Saturday, June 5, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Boris Berkman, president of the Milkweed Products Development Corporation, will speak on "Milkweed as a War and Peace Crop."



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