

## ENTOMOLOGY

# Fight Locust Plague

**Aldrin being used to beat back insect hordes, now attacking more viciously than anytime in the last century. Many nations join in the battle.**

► ALDRIN, AN American insecticide, is leading an international attack against the worst locust plague in the last 100 years. The insect-killing chemical is so powerful that one and a third ounces mixed with a gallon of water will cover an acre with certain death.

Supplies of the deadly chemical on hand in the infested area include: 28 tons in Karachi, India, 20 tons in Aden, Arabia, 20 tons in Beirut, Lebanon, and nine tons in Teheran, Iran. Aldrin is a chlorinated hydrocarbon distantly related to DDT and chlordane.

Locusts, the most ancient of man's insect enemies and one of the worst, are being fought in a powerful air-ground attack backed by many nations through the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization and Point 4. Since the insect hordes do not respect man's artificial boundaries, even Russia has joined the battle.

William B. Mabee, technical director of the locust control problem, reports from Baghdad, Iraq, that "so far, despite wind, sand, rain and floods, the air unit in Iraq has sprayed 5,000 acres of locusts. This, it is felt, not only prevented damage and reproduction from these (locust) bands, but has cleared a gross area twice that size. These demonstrations have been conducted in seven different areas, Hash Hash, Al Busayah, Jaw Leben, Rafee, Tkayyid, Safwan and Av Raudha."

Mr. Mabee has been joined in Iraq by Robert B. Thraikill, who is also a veteran of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's grasshopper control program of this country.

Less than half a million dollars of the

U. S. money is being spent in the air-borne battle against the locust invasion that threatens, according to official Washington estimates, about 2,000,000 acres in Iran and nearly 200,000 acres in Jordan and Iraq. Ground equipment is also used to help halt the invaders.

Locusts breed in waste places and creep about wingless in great mobs while they are young. It is then that they are most easily attacked by anti-locust forces. The insect threatening food supplies of millions of farmers in Asia and Africa is the desert locust, known as *Schistocera gregaria*. Agricultural life and economy of an area only slightly less than that of the United States is endangered by the insect hordes.

Locusts of different kinds are present on every continent. They inhabit dry grasslands and deserts from Africa to India, and swarms of the insects arrive during the summer monsoon in India. In autumn the locusts migrate to Iran and Arabia and then across the Red Sea to African countries.

The broad effort to bring the desert locust under control stems from last year's successful handling of the insects for the first time by aerial spray in Iran. Most of the locust-plagued countries have, through the years, developed well-organized ground control operations for spreading poisons. Ground measures, however, do not give the mobility and means for reaching remote areas that light, spraying planes do.

Average annual crop losses to the desert locust have been estimated at \$80,000,000. Locust breeding and locust damage are almost continuous, occurring at every season in one place or another.

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light years away. But in so doing he was losing contact with reality and was on his way to insanity.

To bring him back to the real world, Mrs. Wright did not attack the fantasies but did attack the distance that separated them from the boy. When she finally got Tommy to the point where he could bring his "monster self" back altogether, he became a very destructive monster. She refrained from moralizing or condemning at this stage, and she gave him strength to cope with the frightening part of his personality.

Tommy's recovery, however, is credited to her concern with the manner of space defense which he used rather than to the treatment after he was brought back to earth and to himself.

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## AERONAUTICS

## Airplane Exhaust Gases Heat Cabins Safely

► AIRPLANE GASES which once viciously attacked the aluminum and magnesium alloys of aircraft bodies now can be used safely to heat cold cabins and to melt ice from wings.

Corrosion contaminants in airplane engine exhaust gases have been successfully removed by a "de-corroder" demonstrated to the U. S. Air Force by the Ryan Aeronautical Company, San Diego, Calif.

Without such a device, in relatively few hours the exhaust contaminants would penetrate the pipes of the heating system to an alarming degree.

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## PSYCHIATRY

## Trace History of Old-Time Alcoholics

► WHAT HAPPENED to the alcoholic of grandpa's day? The question is timely because medical treatment for alcoholics two generations ago was limited so the history of those old-time drunks shows what can happen to atomic age imbibers who do not get or take medical treatment.

Reporting to the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Atlantic City, Dr. Frederick Lemere of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, said that of 500 such untreated alcoholics: the average length of life was 56; 28% drank themselves to death; 10% moderated their drinking until it was no longer a serious problem; 29% continued drinking at about the same rate; 11% committed suicide; six percent died insane; 19% were divorced and five percent became derelicts.

Twenty-two percent quit drinking because of a final illness and 11% quit exclusive of such cause. Of these, 68% did so without outside help, 24% following religious conversion and eight percent following medical treatment.

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## PSYCHIATRY

# "Distance" Psychoanalysis

► SUCCESS with a new method of treating mental sickness, called "distance" psychoanalysis, was reported by Dr. Rudolf Ekstein and Mrs. Dorothy Wright of the Southard School, Topeka, Kans., at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Atlantic City.

By this method, Tommy "the space child" was brought back planet by planet and finally mile by mile to his own town and nine-year-old problems and so rescued from becoming a permanent dweller in the dream world of the mental sickness, schizophrenia.

On the surface, Tommy was "a meek, frightened, asthmatic little fellow" with

no ability for making friends or getting close emotionally to other people. In his imagination he was a five-star general with headquarters on a remote planet, "a true master of the universe, using space ships to conquer and destroy remote planets, even the whole solar system."

Other little boys play at such games, but the play remains a game and usually there is a companion who is at least a four-star general playing the game, too. In Tommy's case, it was no game. Frustrating earlier years in an unhappy family situation gave him such hostile feelings that he was afraid of them. So he had to remove them, safely he thought, hundreds and thousands of