

beings. It has learned, somehow, a most fantastic and complicated method of making mosquitoes carry its eggs for it.

When a female of this species has eggs ready to deposit, she haunts a spot where mosquitoes are emerging from pupation. When a mosquito comes out, still soft-winged and unable to fly well, she grabs it and retires to a secluded and quiet nook. There, holding the victim carefully, she proceeds to lay from ten to fifty eggs, sticking them to the body and upper legs of the mosquito. Then she lets it go.

Later, the mosquito alights upon a human or simian victim, seeking its normal meal of blood. Immediately the larvae within the eggs burst forth and make haste to the victim's warm skin, which they presently penetrate, to begin the parasitic stage of their life cycle.

The same species of botfly, Dr. Curran states, also finds homes for its young in the bodies of cattle, but the indirect method of egg deposition is different in this case. The flies merely lay their eggs on the underside of leaves in the high bushes, and from these positions of vantage the larvae find their way to the backs and sides of cattle that brush through.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1939

ASTRONOMY

Star Emits Puffs of Smoke Causing Light to Vary

A STAR that periodically half-hides itself behind a puff of smoke, like an automobile with a dirty, soot-choked muffler, was described by John A. O'Keefe of Yerkes Observatory to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This star, an inconspicuous member of the constellation Northern Crown, is a variable, that is, it undergoes periodic fluctuations in brightness.

Five years ago another astronomer, E. Loreta, suggested that the star produced its own dimmings by puffing out clouds of obscuring matter. Mr. O'Keefe's studies have now indicated that these clouds are probably composed of carbon dust—in effect, smoke.

The star apparently expels the carbon in the state of a vapor or gas, which speeds out to a distance of about four times the star's diameter and then condenses into solid particles.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1939

Unlike grasshoppers, Mormon crickets cannot fly in advancing on farm crops.



STUDYING DUST

The Navy Department is now getting ready to study the dust problem, cause of industrial diseases, on a larger scale. Assistant safety engineer Morris H. Mills is taking a dust photograph with this piece of apparatus which is designed to take samples of the dust content of the air and then to make a permanent record of the sample by photographing it on 35 mm. film. These film records can be studied and compared by enlarged projection on the Argus film viewer shown at the right.

PUBLIC HEALTH

North Dakota Health Program To Resume in Improved Form

Fixed Trial Period, Not Failure, Cause of Plan's Abandonment; Dues to be \$33 Yearly

THE FARM SECURITY Administration's health program in North Dakota, far from being abandoned as a failure, as a recent news report indicated, is to continue under an improved plan shortly after July 30.

Dues will be set at \$33 per year, a slight increase over the \$2 per month of the last plan.

"There is no justification for saying the plan has failed," Jesse B. Yaukey stated. Mr. Yaukey, statistician borrowed from the U. S. Public Health Service, is second in command of this division of the FSA under the chief medical officer, Dr. R. C. Williams, of the U. S. Public Health Service.

The lapse in operation of the health program for FSA clients in North Dakota is similar to the lapse which oc-

curred in 1937, Mr. Yaukey explained. It is due to the fact that the FSA and medical groups in North Dakota have deliberately limited each of the plans so far tried to a definite period for trial purposes, with the idea each time of starting operations again under new plans improved from the experience gained with previous ones. The last plan was set up to run for eight months ending June 30.

Dr. Williams and Mr. Yaukey will meet on July 30 with the medical group in North Dakota to put the final touches to the plans already made for the new program of health service. As soon as possible after that date, the new program, worked out at a meeting in May, will go into operation.

The new program, it is planned, will