

No More Mosquitoes . . . BY ELIZABETH PRITCHARD

Back in America, miraculous DDT may do a home-front job equal to its battle record

SPRING and housecleaning time are coming. The housewife is stirring. She's getting out the rug beater, readying the scrub pail and thinking how to shove the piano over where the sofa is now. But in 300,000 Southern homes this year something new will be added. It's DDT, the miraculous insect poison which has been doing such a good battle-front job. Many homes in 11 Southern states will be sprayed—a trial run against malaria that may become annual after the war.

Any morning, now, if a Georgia housewife hears a knock on the door and sees men and spraying equipment in the yard she probably won't be surprised. In fact, she'll say, "Good morning. You're the ones I'm expecting?"

"That's right, ma'am. We're here to spray DDT. It'll take only half an hour."

Malaria Serious Problem

"COME right in, then—but don't you spot my furniture!" She needn't worry.

In some 100 counties of the South, malaria is a particularly serious problem. Authorities are combatting any possibility that this insect-borne disease will sweep that area. The Public Health Service, Army, WPB and other agencies have scraped up enough DDT, although it's not generally available to civil-



Insect pests will get no quarter when this crew sprays homes

ians, to protect every home. Spraying will be done between March and June.

The initials DDT stand for a mouthful of chemical terms: dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane. When used properly it kills many of our enemy insects, household pests—especially the mosquitoes and fleas which spread malaria and typhus fever.

Here's how the anti-mosquito campaign in the South is organized. Already the necessary 100 tons of DDT powder have been gathered. One thousand men have been trained as spraying crews. They'll soon be invading that malarial zone in 400 mobile units—

including converted jeeps and gun carriers.

Crews will cover household goods with tarpaulins, stow away dishes and raw foods. Walls and ceilings, kitchens and pantries then can safely be sprayed with DDT. It wipes off windows easily. It leaves no mark on curtains, mattresses and other textile furnishings. In fact, mattresses can be left on the beds and sprayed to kill any bothersome insects.

Sprayed under pressure 18 inches from the wall surfaces, DDT penetrates the finest crevices. There it dries and leaves tiny crystals. When insects come in contact with these

crystals their nervous systems are destroyed and they soon die.

An amazingly small amount of DDT goes a long way. Furthermore, its toxic effects last a long time. A good spraying in these Southern homes now will last all summer and far into next winter.

Already DDT has successfully waged battle for our armed services against those two wartime diseases: typhus fever and malaria. It stopped a disastrous epidemic of typhus in Italy, and now there is enough DDT louse powder to prevent an epidemic among the liberated peoples of Europe.

Sprayed on Tent Walls

IN JUNGLE areas, DDT is sprayed on tent walls and used in an oil mixture to kill mosquito larvae in water.

Many agricultural uses have been found for DDT. It is effective against codling moths, cabbage worms, Jap beetles, flies and ants. Its chemical potentialities have only been scratched. Much research must be done, however, before DDT can be used extensively in agriculture. Although it kills harmful insects, it may also kill some beneficial ones, and upset a natural balance.

Experts have found that, under proper conditions, it is no more harmful to human beings than other common insecticides. When used as a louse-powder it can safely touch the skin; when diluted properly as a spray it can be inhaled without harmful effects.

Public health officials believe DDT will become one of the foremost health aids to human beings after the war. Housewives probably will get DDT sprays for their own use. DDT even may be mixed with wall paints some day to provide a perpetual death trap for insect house pests.

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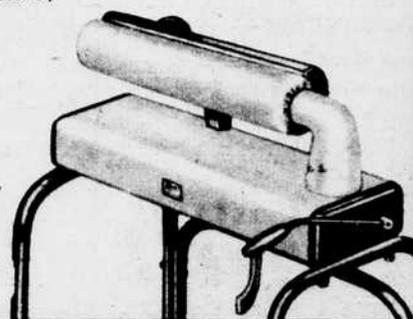
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