

War II (such as the thiocyanates) are discussed. Also, the American A. L. 63 and MYL and various insecticides used in Russia's war-wrecked cities are considered. The section on DDT is quite adequate. There is a good discussion of the powder and its use in mass delousing programs, clothing impregnation, and the use of a DDT hair emulsion for head lice. There is no account, however, of the use of DDT in the Naples typhus epidemic or its use in preventing wide-spread dissemination of typhus by delousing DP's and other war refugees. The book was finished in 1945 before this information was generally available.

Vaccine preparation by the laborious Weigl technique, which involves rectal infection of lice with rickettsiae, is mentioned in the final chapter. No mention is made of vaccines prepared from the chick embryo, which were used extensively in the Naples typhus epidemic; or of vaccines made from infected mouse or rabbit lung tissue, which was used in Mexico.

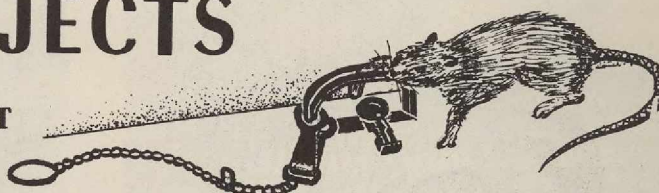
The bibliography and index appear to be satisfactory and complete.

"The Louse" is a valuable contribution to medical entomology and a book which every worker in public health would do well to have in his library.

— Harry D. Pratt

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### PREVENTION OF RUST ON STEEL RAT TRAPS



Methods for protecting steel traps against rusting and for removing rust from them have long been sought by rat trappers. Numerous suggestions have been made. Buffing followed by wiping with kerosene soaked cloths, or dipping in melted paraffin are two methods of protection. One of the most practical methods evolved has been the dipping of traps in a 17 percent solution of phosphoric acid. This not only removes rust but provides a coating somewhat resistant to further rusting.

Recently, two new suggestions have been made: dipping traps in a rubber-base plastic called Paraspray, and plating traps with cadmium. The former appears to provide good protection against rust when the traps are in storage, provided that traps are rust-free when dipped. Paraspray coating is not durable, however, and readily chips from traps which are in

use, and metal surfaces are thus exposed to rusting.

Cadmium plating proved an economical as well as a satisfactory way of rust-proofing traps. These traps cost only 65 cents per dozen more than the cost of unplated traps. In a weathering test at Savannah, Ga., cadmium-plated traps and phosphoric acid-Paraspray dipped traps were exposed for a period of nearly five months. Rainfall was frequent during this period; therefore, traps were subject to periodic wetting. At the end of the test, cadmium-plated traps gave no evidence of rusting. Dipped traps were rusted in spots, although they were not in bad condition.

On the basis of small-scale trapping tests, no significant difference was detected in the efficiency of cadmium-plated traps as compared with that of phosphoric acid-Paraspray dipped traps for capturing *Rattus norvegicus*.