dirty cover, and that was the one with the 70-pound cover of the three mailed to Evanston, Illinois.

In spite of the information presented, the question might still be raised why the Association does not mail its journal in wrappers. The estimate of the cost of printing and mailing *Science* in 1949, exclusive of editorial costs, accounting, and addressograph supplies and labor, is $175,000 for an average of 35,000 copies per issue. The present mailing exceeds 32,000 copies per issue.

The average cost for printing and mailing *Science* in 1949 will be, according to forecasts, 9.6 cents per copy, or $5.00 per year. Only $1.50 of a member's dues of $6.50 remains available for all the other expenses of the Association, an amount that would be quite insufficient if it were not for advertising in both *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*. *The Scientific Monthly* has a circulation of nearly 20,000, or more than *Science* had four years ago. Since the readers of the two journals do not differ appreciably in scientific standing or scientific interests and fewer than 1 in 20 subscribe for both journals, *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly* are equally good advertising media in proportion to their circulations.

F. R. MOULTON

Australian Sod Fly Introduced Into California (Diptera: Stratiomyidae)

In response to a request for the identification of some peculiar flies collected by the writer at San Francisco, California, Dr. Maurice T. James, associate professor of entomology at The State College of Washington and authority on the Stratiomyidae, communicated the following very interesting information which may prove to be of considerable economic importance. Dr. James writes: "The fly collected at San Francisco is *Metoponia rubriceps* Macq., a common species in Australia, where it breeds in sod. I have never before seen it from the New World. Apparently, the larvae were brought in in soil and have become established in the San Francisco area. The immature forms are well known. For a good description of them and their biology I can refer you to the following paper, 'Irwin-Smith, Vera. 1920. Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales.' "

These insects were discovered in San Francisco by the writer on September 21, 1948, crawling about on a lawn bordering Park Presidio Boulevard adjacent to Golden Gate Park. Only three specimens were taken at that time, two of them being females. Two additional females were captured a few days later by Dr. Edward S. Ross, curator of insects in the California Academy of Sciences. These he found flying low over lawns in Golden Gate Park. During the same week Mr. Kenneth Innes, a student at the University of San Francisco, found a female fouled in wet paint at his home, not far from the Park.

Attempts to find more of the flies failed until the morning of October 7, when the writer discovered them in abundance on the campus of the University of San Francisco, several blocks distant from where the first flies had been found. The morning was sunny and sultry. The males were very active, most of them either flying a few inches above the lawn or crowding vantage points on dandelion stems. They were so numerous that a single stroke of the net captured a dozen or more specimens. The females, by contrast, were seen to take wing only occasionally and then only for flights of a few feet. While several sweeps of the net yielded a total of some 100 males, only three females were captured with them. Most of the females merely crawled about on the lawn until they were besieged by the males. A number of mated pairs were observed in the grass. For several days thereafter flies of this same species were found on the same lawn but never in the same abundance. None was observed after October 19.

Irwin-Smith (*loc. cit.*) states that in Australia this species has two broods per year, one appearing in the spring and the other in the autumn. However, she found larvae of varying sizes occurring at all periods of the year and noted that the larval period requires several months, perhaps a year or more. Moreover, she observed the larvae feeding on grass roots and concluded: "It is evident that their main, if not only, source of nourishment is in the juices of the living plant." While these flies appear to do no serious damage to the lawns which they infest in Australia, in America they should be regarded with suspicion as insect immigrants with important economic potentialities. Consequently, they should be watched carefully in this new environment, where they are away from their natural enemies.

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If This Be Treason—

Never advise a man to go to war or to marry. So runs a proverb at least two centuries old, which I have no intention of transgressing. It may, however, be high time to raise this question: Have not we oldsters gone too far in advocating total abstinence?

For the third time in 30 years I am listening to the arguments against drafting for military service young scientists or young men who have made a gesture toward science. By this time I have heard them all. Never yet have I heard one that did not seem to apply equally to young carpenters, electricians, or plumbers. Worse still, the proponents of these mass exemptions seem to have overlooked what may be very important facts. These young men with an interest in science are human beings. Many of them are also American citizens.

Lately our psychologists have done many interesting things. They have not yet, however, given us even a preliminary report on the present morale and professional efficiency of the men who took their chances in uniform, either by enlistment or draft, as compared with mentally comparable men who sought and secured draft exemption through their importance to any one of a dozen "war essential" projects. Special study might well be given also to the mental condition of the young men who were