It would be a tragic waste if, although millions of dollars in materials, equipment, planes, gasoline and flyers' and photographers' time, and even some lives, have been spent in acquiring the material, it were allowed to deteriorate from lack of care or to be destroyed because of lack of a place to house it.

Military authorities are likely to fail to have much consideration for or interest in non-military uses of their apparatus and equipment. Their job is to defend the country, and such things as do not bear directly upon this do not necessarily carry much weight with them. Those at present in charge of the units that have jurisdiction over this material are keenly aware of and interested in its peacetime preservation and use. They do not yet have proper facilities for housing and filing of the negatives. There is, furthermore, no assurance that those at present actively working with the collection will not leave the services and return to civil life as soon as they are permitted to. What would happen to the material if an officer who did not understand or appreciate its full value were placed in charge is highly uncertain. Scientists have ample reason to be concerned about this in view of what has sometimes happened in the past, not only in military agencies but in certain civilian ones.

It is theoretically the duty of the National Archives to handle all material of this sort. The officials of this agency of the government are at present actively concerned with this very problem. They have, however, inadequate facilities both for going to the agencies in possession of such material and asking for it, and for housing it should it be offered to them. It would, furthermore, be too late to assert their jurisdiction after the negatives had been destroyed as obsolete for military purposes or because space was needed for other purposes.

The various agencies concerned are at present working on this problem and have plans for a negative depository to handle all negatives accumulated as a result of the war, and perhaps all other negatives of permanent value that are property of the government. Details of this scheme are not complete, but the plan for the building is before Congress for approval. The main necessity is to gain congressional approval and appropriations to build the needed building and to provide the staff to catalog and administer the collection.

It is hoped and anticipated that if such a depository becomes an actuality the material will be generally available to scientists, regardless of their governmental or institutional connections.

This article is written for the purpose of stimulating those scientists and organizations of scientists whose interests and researches will be served by having available this great accumulation of photographs to indicate to the government agencies involved and to Congress their needs and concern as to its disposition. If this is neglected, the arrangements finally made may be disappointing and the greatest scientific good may not be served.

F. R. FOSBERG

THE TOXICITY OF DDT TO DAPHNIA

IN view of the widespread interest in the effect of DDT on animal life in general a series of experiments was carried out to determine the threshold concentration of toxicity to *Daphnia magna*. A suspension of DDT[1] in Lake Erie water was made by adding one ml of a one per cent. solution of DDT in acetone (one g DDT to 100 ml acetone) to 249 ml or more water for initial concentrations. The remainder of the procedure followed was the same as that described by the author in determining the toxicity of substances found in industrial wastes.[2]

It was found, in all but one instance, that 50 per cent. of the *Daphnia* were immobilized by concentrations of over one part per billion in thirty-two hours or less. Concentrations from one to one hundred parts per billion immobilized the animals in periods between sixteen and thirty-two hours. Animals in concentrations of less than one part per billion survived as long as the controls in Lake Erie water alone. Some experiments were run as long as 130 hours.

These results may be of significance in relation to using DDT for mosquito control, since in many localities it is essential that the zooplankton be protected.

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REPORTS

PROPOSALS FOR A NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THE joint meeting of the National Advisory Health Council and National Advisory Cancer Council of the Public Health Service, was convened on September 28, 1945, to consider specifically the relation of the Public Health Service to the report made by Dr. Vannevar Bush to the President, and to pending

[1] Dr. George L. McNew, of Naugatuck Chemical, kindly furnished an alcohol washed sample of DDT with a set point of 103.4.

[2] *Sewage Works Jour.*, 16: 1156–1165, 1944.