

A Statement

Towards Malaria Eradication

by Dr. M. G. Candau

Director General of WHO

FIVE years ago, WHO was entrusted with leadership of the greatest health programme the world has ever seen: the eradication of malaria, meaning the universal abolition of this disease once and for all.

"By the end of last year, 279 million of the 1,400 million human beings who lived under the real or potential threat of malaria had been freed of the disease. During the World Health Assembly which met last May in Geneva, I had the great pleasure of hearing all the delegates from the malaria-stricken countries reaffirm their governments' determination to banish malaria.

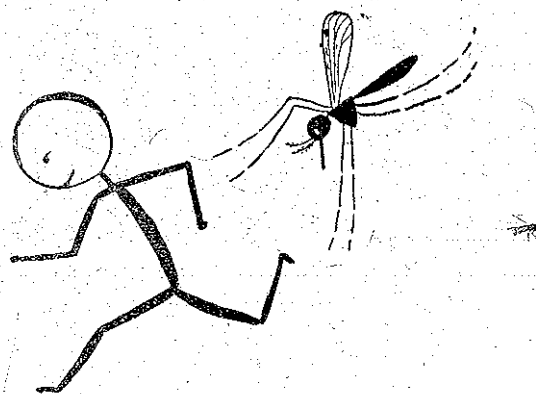
"According to the latest information to reach Geneva, 62 countries or territories, inhabited by 684 million people, are at present pursuing the enemy energetically and conscientiously. In 16 other countries or territories

inhabited by 167 million people, health authorities are now working on detailed plans for their eradication campaigns, which are soon to be launched. Recent statistical studies have confirmed the sharply downward trend in the number of malaria victims throughout the world.

"For me there is no doubt that, within the near future, malaria will have disappeared from most of the world. There are practically no technical difficulties that would obstruct success, and I am convinced that international solidarity will provide the financial means needed for the current world campaign.

"Other diseases encouraged by malaria will disappear in turn. Governments and those responsible for economic and social advancement should therefore accelerate forthwith the development processes in the unfavoured countries. The hundreds of millions of human

beings that will be freed from disease, the millions of sufferers that will be cured, the hundreds of millions of lives that will be spared will mean new energies, and new claims for work, housing, food, and the right to human dignity. The time to think of these matters is now".



Fifty Years Ago . . .

Nurse, Beware !

IN one of the large hospitals in Bombay a nurse sat watching a patient who was seriously ill. Down swooped a crow, picked up a clinical thermometer, and sitting on a ledge out of reach, regarded the nurse provokingly. "Oh Crow," cried the nurse, "let me have my thermometer; it is a half minute one, and I shall have to pay for it," but the crow only croaked, "Oh no, Nurse, what is the use of

my living so close to the hospital, and watching the doctors and nurses all day long if I do not learn anything? Now I shall be able to take the temperature of all the sick crows in our neighbourhood"; and winking maliciously at the nurse, away he flew.

The nurse thought it hard that she should have to pay for the thermometer, but the Hospital is a Government one, with plenty of

red-tape about, and on inquiry it was found that there exists no fund for replacing articles stolen by crows! Therefore, nurses, beware! Those in authority only smiled, saying, "The thermometer should have been put in a safe place, out of the reach of a crow".

C.R.M.

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