

MOSQUITOS IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By A. C. MUNRO, R. N.

"IT'S a typical case of Malaria," the doctor said, and wrote a page of orders, "Very interesting. Very rare. We don't get it here. You will do well to observe his case very carefully, for you may wait a long time before you see another," he counselled the Internes. "Transmitted by mosquitos." I heard him saying as they left the ward.

"By mosquitos!" Why, we have millions of mosquitos and I never heard of Malaria before, thought I, as I set about to have the orders carried out. It was my third year in training. I was in charge of one of the Military floors in a well-known hospital in Western Canada.

Presently, one of the Laboratory technicians came, and as she handed me the report she said, "It's a very interesting case. The slides are beautiful. It's a typical case of Malaria.

"Miss Stewart, what is Malaria? I never heard of it before,—if I come over to the Laboratory in my hours off, will you show me the slides and tell me about it?

"Righto. Do. I don't know a great deal about it myself but I'm sure Dr. B. will tell you. He's quite thrilled about it. Malaria so seldom happens along. This case came from the South."

"See them, those palish, large corpuscles with darkish grains in them? Those dark specks are the parasites. You will find them here at different stages of development."

I gazed at the cells and the crescents and listened spell-bound,—“they feed on the red corpuscles. The normal R. B. C. is greatly lessened in Malaria, and Anaemia is a frequent after-effect. When the parasite matures, and incidentally it multiplies in the corpuscle, it bursts through into the blood stream, and at that, the patient goes into a chill. Some bugs, they are!”

"It's a typical case of Malaria" said the Doctor; so said the Internes; so said the Technician; so said I. "Really! It's Malaria, is it? what is Malaria?" so asked they all.

It's a far call to training days in that happy land and that solitary imported case of Malaria, but familiarity with it in this land, where it ravages like a destroying host, has failed to breed contempt, rather it has stimulated and sustained interest.

"Mosquitos transmit it." We mention this quite glibly, but the History, the Romance, the Triumph of Research that are embodied in the statement, are at least on a par, with that of the greatest discoveries of

Medical Science. The Memoirs of Sir Ronald Ross, late of the I. M. S. are a revelation. He worked against almost insuperable odds and won.

"Mosquitos transmit it" discovered Ross, playing a lone hand. To-day, the League of Nations, following his lead are investigating Mosquito and Malaria.

The Malaria Commission spent nearly five months in India last year, not in the cold season, but in the actual malaria season, and they visited areas, where people would not go for the good of their health, by any means. We await their findings with interest.

"Mosquitos transmit it." Malaria has been advanced as a cause of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. Alexander's armies went forth conquering and to conquer. They returned to Italy, Malaria-ridden. It robbed them of their "pep." They infected the mosquitos and the mosquitos bred merrily in the Italian marshes. Thereafter went forth conquering hosts, not of men, but of mosquitos.

The part played by mosquitos, during the construction of the Panama Canal is too well known to require describing here. Millions in money, and countless lives were lost.

Who shall say that the mosquito (*Anopheles*) has not earned every right to consideration in the deliberations of The League of Nations?

RURAL HOSPITALS AS HEALTH CENTRES

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THE last United States census, taken in 1920, shows a rural population of over 51,000,000 or about 2.8 per cent less than the urban population. In the Survey of October 15th, 1928, we read "More than 80 per cent of the rural population is as yet unprovided with official local health service 'approaching adequacy'."

These limited health facilities of the vast rural districts is one important obstacle to the better distribution of the nation's total population. Surprising facts are revealed when a comparison is made between urban and rural health reports. The magnitude of this nation-wide health problem is evident when we realize how the progress has been in the last fifteen years.

The rural hospital is one of the most valuable aids in the solution of this difficult problem; these small hospitals when adequately staffed, and equipped with facilities for prompt and accurate diagnosis and treatment,