

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

G.H./Malaria/14th Session/P.V.5

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MALARIA COMMISSION.

Provisional Minutes.

Fifth Plenary Meeting held at Geneva on Friday, June 29th,
1928, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Dr. A. DUTRARIO

Present: All members who had attended
the preceding meeting.

PROPOSALS OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR. - RESEARCH WORK.

Dr. RAJCHMAN said that the thanks of the Commission were due to Professor Ciuca for the study which he had made on the secondary alkaloids which had been placed at its disposal. His help was equally needed in connection with Plasmochim.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

Dr. RAJCHMAN thought that an exchange of views must be held with regard to the preparation of the Third Report of the Malaria Commission. He suggested that its work could usefully be ended by the presentation of a somewhat important document which would serve as a monument and guide for the health administrations of every country. Time would be required to prepare such a document, but its necessity was

apparent from the stage now reached by the Commission in its labours. The Commission had now visited all the countries of Europe in which malaria was prevalent, with one exception. It had also investigated certain countries lying upon the Asiatic Coast of the Mediterranean. Next year the Commission would proceed to carry out investigations in India at the request of the Indian Government, probably in the Federated Malay States, and perhaps in the Dutch East Indies.

The Commission should therefore note the happy conclusion of its work in Europe, and as a tangible sign of that conclusion it should issue a volume which, he would suggest, should be composed of two parts.

In the first part, the conclusions now reached by the Commission should be stated, each conclusion being preceded by two or three pages of introduction, in which reference would be made to the most important literature on the subject - for example, published works of which the authors were either members of the Commission or other distinguished mariolegists, reports upon anti-malarial measures, etc. For instance, the conclusion reached regarding the main improvement works (grandes bonifications) would be preceded by a reference to the latest work on the subject published in Italy.

The second part of the volume would be far more detailed. It would be of great use for experts chosen from the Commission and from elsewhere to contribute each a special chapter on the anti-malarial measures within his knowledge. This part would therefore comprise between 2/300 pages of print, and could be illustrated with photographs,

statistical tables, etc. It might even be possible to prepare a film illustrating this part of the document.

Such a volume would be of undoubted use to health administrations in any country where malaria was a problem, for their main desire was to be informed of the best manner of applying in practice the various anti-malarial measures which had been suggested. To quote but one example, the use of Paris Green had been urged, and health administrations would find a description of the best means of using it in the proposed volume.

The preparation of this document would consume a considerable amount of time, and he would therefore suggest that a plan should first be prepared. For this purpose, a number of experts appointed by the Chairman of the Commission, and by the Chairman and Bureau of the Health Committee should decide as to what authors were to be consulted. Once the volume had appeared in draft form, proofs would be circulated to members of the Commission, with a request for any observations they might desire to make. These observations must reach the Secretariat by a fixed date. The volume would then be published, and the same experts would be asked to assist in the control of its publication. Once issued, the volume would form the Third Report of the Malaria Commission.

In reply to a question of Colonel JAMES, Dr. RAJCHMAN explained that in regard to the preparation of the first part of the volume, a Drafting Committee would be appointed, chosen by the Chairman of the Commission and the Chairman and Bureau of the Health Committee. As soon as its contents had been settled, the volume would appear in typewritten form, and would be circulated to members of the Drafting Committee,

who, after correcting the typescript, would give authority to print. Once proofs were available, they would be circulated to all members of the Malaria Commission, both those who had attended the present session and those who had been unable to do so.

Colonel JAMES pointed out that the great difficulty had always been that members had willingly sacrificed their personal opinions to conform with those of the majority. There should, however, be some method whereby the personal views of members could be expressed in their own way, so that if more than one view existed regarding a particular aspect of the malaria problem, health administrations could have an opportunity of ascertaining both views.

Dr. RAJCHMAN replied that the desires of Colonel James would be met by the manner in which the second part of the document would be prepared. That part would consist of chapters drafted on the personal responsibility and authority of their authors. Further, in the first part of the document, the bibliography attached to each conclusion reached by the Commission would contain references to the various individual works on the subject, whether produced by members of the Commission or not.

Colonel JAMES thanked the Medical Director for his explanations.

The proposal of the Medical Director was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES.

The MEDICAL DIRECTOR pointed out that now that the European stage of the Commission's work was finished, it was important to keep in touch with the various countries visited, with a view to following the malarial situation in them, and the development of the anti-malaria campaign. For that purpose he would propose that a series of Sub-Committees should be established to keep in touch with each country visited, both European and extra-European. Each Sub-Committee would be composed of three representatives: 1) a representative of the health service of the country in question, 2) the correspondence member attached with the Malaria Commission, and 3) a rapporteur chosen by the Malaria Commission and not belonging to the country concerned. To give an example, the Sub-Committee for Bulgaria might be composed of Professor Swellengrebel, Dr. Markoff, the Bulgarian representative on the Malaria Committee, and a member of the Bulgarian health service. This procedure should be followed in the case of all countries visited, and the Sub-Committees should do all that was possible to maintain contact with them, with the object of discovering and reporting upon new experiments made in connection with anti-malarial measures.

He was certain that if such a suggestion were adopted, the Health Services of the countries in question would benefit quite as much as would the Malaria Commission, for these health services very often found it difficult to induce the political authorities of the country to take action, and their task in this respect would be rendered far easier if they could be assured

of the support of so influential an international a body as the Malaria Commission. If his suggestion were adopted, it would be submitted to the Health Committee.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the proposal of the Medical Director was of great interest and should be adopted. It would by this means be possible to follow the progress of the disease, the measures taken to combat it and the improvements achieved.

Dr. MOUTOUSSIS thought the proposal of great importance. He warmly supported it on behalf of the health service of Greece, which considered that practical work was of the utmost importance. A suggestion of this kind made it possible to follow in practice the work being carried on in each country.

Dr. MARKOFF said that the proposal of the Medical Director would be of great benefit to the Bulgarian health service, for the Bulgarian Government was not invariably in agreement with the Malarial Service of the country, and any observations made by the League were far more likely than anything else to cause his Government to supply funds for the malarial campaign. He accordingly urged that the Medical Director's proposal should be adopted.

The proposal of the Medical Director was adopted.

TELEGRAM FROM PROFESSOR MARCINOWSKY.

The MEDICAL DIRECTOR submitted the following telegram from Professor Marcinowsky of Moscow, who had been unable to attend because of difficulties in connection with the obtaining of a visa:

"My best wishes to the Conference. I much regret that I am unable to take part in it, despite my wish to do so.

MARCINOWSKY."

He felt sure that the Commission would desire to send its wishes and regrets to Professor Marcinowsky.

The proposal of the Medical Director was adopted.

CORRECTION OF MINUTES.

Dr. RAJCHMAN asked all members to send in their corrections to the Minutes not later than the 15th July.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

Mr. MAXCY desired an opportunity to express the feelings of the American members of the Commission. He wished, on behalf of his colleagues, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Ferrell, to express their very deep appreciation of the courtesy and kindness shown to them. The work of the Commission had been of much greater value to them than any contribution that they had found it possible to make to it. He would always preserve a warm memory of the spirit of fraternity which had presided over the meetings.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Maxcy for his observations.

Mr. BOYD asked to be allowed to express his admiration of the skill and efficiency of the officials of the Health Section of the Secretariat connected with the Commission's work. He would also express his deep appreciation of the consideration shown to him by his colleagues, and his thanks for the signal honour paid to him in appointing him Chairman of one of the Sub-Committees.

Mr. FERRELL desired, in all sincerity, to express his delighted appreciation of the welcome afforded to the American members of the Commission. It had been a most enjoyable experience to have seen something of Europe, and he hoped, personally, to meet many members of the Commission in their own countries before he returned to America. No more constructive method could be followed than to summon a Commission composed of experts, who exchanged their experiences and reached a common plan of action, for the guidance and assistance of health administrations. The Health Section of the League should be congratulated on calling such a conference, which increased international goodwill, and raised the standard of health throughout the world.

Dr. MARKOFF would like to take the opportunity of expressing, on his own behalf and on behalf of the public health service of Bulgaria, their warm thanks to the Health Section for the attention and assistance given to Bulgaria for two years, especially in connection with the examination of the problem of malaria prevalent among refugees in the Department at Bourgas. Malaria had been prevalent in that district for a long time in a very severe form. Thanks

to the profound knowledge and assistance of experts sent by the League of Nations in the persons of Professor Swellengrebel, Dr. Norman White and Dr. Boudreau, the authorities in control of the refugees in Bulgaria had furnished the means to establish a special organisation for the campaign against malaria, which was already achieving satisfactory results.

He would also refer to the catastrophic earthquake which had occurred in his country two months previously, destroying two towns and twenty-eight prosperous villages, and depriving half a million people of shelter. The League of Nations had at once hastened to give its moral and material assistance to Bulgaria, and had despatched doctors and experts to discover the exact extent of the disaster, and to assist his country.

He would also tender his warm thanks to the Rockefeller Foundation, especially to Dr. Strode and Dr. Collins, for their valuable help in establishing another Malarial Department in the province at Petritch. An experimental station had been established in that town, and was already working.

He would once more repeat his profound conviction that the League of Nations was an institution destined to be of the greatest benefit to mankind.

The CHAIRMAN said that a period of intense and fruitful work had now drawn to a close. He congratulated the members of the Commission on the agreement achieved, and especially those who had worked so hard to obtain it. He would make a special reference to the efforts of the American representatives who had proved such valuable assistants.

Ibi victoria ubi concordia. There was no doubt that the work of the Commission would have a great effect upon the health administrations of the world.

Dr. NOCHT pleaded the privilege of his age in order to speak for all members of the Commission, and propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the admirable manner in which he had presided over the discussions of the Commission. The Chairman had been known to members for a long time, and everyone had been grateful to him for the kindness and energy he had displayed during the long tours and meetings of the Commission. The present Session marked the end of one epoch and the beginning of a new, which would be characterised by the fact that all work in connection with malaria would in future be based upon a common agreement. The achievement of that agreement was in no small measure due to the energy and character of the Chairman.

The vote of thanks was adopted by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Commission. His duties had not been easy, but they had been rendered far more effective by the spirit of goodwill displayed by members.

Professor ASCOLI proposed a vote of thanks to the Medical Director for his valuable co-operation in the work of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN warmly associated himself with the observations of Professor Ascoli.

The vote of thanks was adopted by acclamation.

Professor PITTALUGA desired, on behalf of the Commission, to pay a respectful tribute to the scientists who had died during the last few months when investigating a disease closely allied to malaria - yellow fever. These scientists had been the Doctors Gillé, Stokes, Noguchi and Young. The memory of that great man, Dr. Noguchi, who had all his life devoted himself to the discovery of the truth, would remind members that the truths of today became the falsehoods of to-morrow, and he felt sure would fill them with a spirit of modesty, and cause them to realise that however precious their own ideas might be, stern facts occasionally served to correct them. He asked the representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation to accept the expression of the deep respect of the Committee for the memory of these great men.

The Commission associated itself with the observations of Professor Pittaluga.

The Commission rose at 4.45 p.m.