

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

C.H. Malaria.211.

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HEALTH ORGANISATION.

Malaria Commission.

Note by the Secretariat on Courses in Malariology.

The international courses in malariology were organised in 1926, and are thus approaching the close of their eighth year. The time would seem to have come to consider the position and use the experience gained to improve the organisation of the courses.

Courses have been held regularly every year at Paris. At the other schools they have been given only intermittently, owing to the small number of German-, English-, and Italian-speaking students. There have been six courses in eight years at Hamburg, three in eight years in London, and four at Rome since 1928, when the Central School of Malariology first co-operated. It will be seen that the language question has led most of the students to attend the Paris courses.

The practical courses have been held in Italy, Spain, and Yugoslavia. In Italy, the lectures have been given and the practical work carried on mainly in French or through an interpreter; in Spain, the lectures are given in French, and in Yugoslavia, in French and German.

The following are the results of these eight years of instruction:

There have been 180 scholarship-holders - 105 from the Health Organisation, 33 from the Rockefeller Foundation, and 42 from Government health departments. A large number of students have also attended at their own expense.

Of the 148 former students whose present occupations are known to us, 106 are employed in public health or anti-malarial organisations or in malaria research institutes. In other words, we know for a fact that more than 71% of the doctors concerning whom we have information are engaged in anti-malarial work.

The introduction of national courses in malariology in countries where such did not exist has steadily improved the knowledge of the students and made it possible to arrange more homogeneous groups.

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In view of the language difficulty and the expense and waste of time involved by the present organisation of the courses, it is thought that some changes might perhaps be advisable, especially as present financial conditions make it necessary to effect every possible economy.

The Health Section accordingly contemplates concentrating the instruction in future, while still availing itself of the experience of the four schools. Under this scheme, the whole of the instruction - both theoretical and practical courses - would be given each year in one malarial country, in French and in English. Professors from each of the four schools would be invited to join the staff.

The teaching would thus be really homogeneous, and would enable the professors from the four schools to exchange views - which would be in the highest degree beneficial to the students.

In the first year, the theoretical and practical courses might be given, say, in Italy, the next year in Spain, the next year in France (Algeria), and so on.

The total length of the theoretical and practical courses would not exceed 60 days, - instead of 100 days as at present.

Under this system the expenses could be reduced by about one-third.