

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

C.H.1149.
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Geneva, May 14th, 1934.

HEALTH ORGANISATION

MALARIA COMMISSION

The Medical Director has the honour to communicate herewith the Report submitted by the President of the Malaria Commission to the Health Committee at its XXIst session.

Only six months have elapsed since our last meeting which closed a triennial period of work - a period culminating in the publication of our Commission's third General Report - and which marked a new stage in our activities; I can then, I think, confine myself to-day to recording our progress up to date.

The Council, when noting the report on the work of the twentieth session of the Health Committee (C.652.M.312.1933.III), noted also the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its last meeting (October 1933).

Malaria Courses.

Under the terms of the first of those resolutions the Health Committee "entrusted to the Medical Director the organisation of such future courses as circumstances may indicate". The European courses will be held this year from July 10th to September 10th in Rome, at the "Istituto di Malariologia", under the direction of Professor G. Bastianelli, in collaboration with the "Stazione sperimentale per la Lotta antimalarica", directed by Professor A. Missiroli. In agreement with the Director of the Institute and the Italian Director of Public Health, the following foreign malariologists were invited by the Health Organisation to lecture during the course: Colonel S.P. James, Sir. R. Christophers, Professors G. Pittaluga, Ed. Sergent and N.H. Swellengrebel; other scientists have been invited by the Director of the Institute.

The scientific standing of the teaching staff, the wealth of demonstration material at the disposal of the Institute and of the "Stazione", the series of visits which are contemplated to experimental stations and anti-malaria centres in the various endemic and hyperendemic regions and in the territories where malaria control has been - or is being - carried out should ensure the success of these courses.

Barely ten days ago the first course on malariology for the Far East was opened at Singapore. This has been organised under the auspices of our Eastern Bureau, under the direction of Professor Allen, with an attendance of 28 participants, six of whom are holders of Health Organisation scholarships. Professor Walch of Batavia, Dr. Morin of the

Indo-China Pasteur Institutes and the Secretary of the Commission, Professor Ciuca, who will be at Singapore throughout the course, take an active part in the teaching. The course, which will be followed by field work in the Malay Peninsula, the Netherlands Indies and Indo-China, has met with a very favourable reception from the Governments of the malarial countries in the Far East. In connection with malaria courses the Commission has passed the following resolution:

"The Malaria Commission,

"Noting the success of the international Malaria Course held in the Far East in 1934,

"Feels that the time has come to consider the advisability of organising a similar course for certain countries of Latin America, taking into account the work accomplished by American malariologists and the need of collaboration with the existing Institutes;

"Entrusts the consideration of this question to the Health Section and asks that, if the Section's conclusions are that the matter is urgent, its Chairman shall, in agreement with the Bureau of the Health Committee, take all measures necessary for the organisation of this Course."

Co-ordinated Researches: Treatment by Totaquina.

Clinical tests of totaquina have enabled us to obtain data on 1055 cases of malaria treated with this drug and 89 controls treated with quinine.

The following institutions co-operated in the researches:

The Izolarea Hospital, Jassy, Roumania,
The Military Hospital in the same town,
The "Ospedale della Misericordia", Grosseto, Italy,
The Marengo Hospital, Algiers,
The Cocard Hospital, Fez, Morocco,
The Alexandrovska Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria,
The "Instituto Antipaludico" at Naval Moral de la Mata, Spain,
The Nanking Central Field Health Station,
The Rural Health Centre, Tomesti, Roumania,
The Malaria Experimental Station, Gurbanesti, Roumania,
The "Servicio antipaludico", Arcos de la Frontera, Spain,
The Asile clinique de Sainte-Anne, Paris.
The Malay Hospital and District Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States.

I shall, I feel, be speaking for all the members in expressing the Commission's thanks to those institutions for their valuable co-operation.

The Secretariat of the Commission undertook the sorting and analysis of the data in question; then, instead of submitting the data to a statistical expert outside the Health Section, it entrusted the statistical examination to the epidemiological information service. The material was subsequently sent to Dr. W. Fletcher, whose report will appear in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Health Organisation. The Commission examined that report and passed the following resolution:

"The Malaria Commission,

"Having noted the therapeutical experiments carried out with Totaquina and having studied Dr. William Fletcher's report thereon,

"Considers that Totquina seems able to fulfil the purpose for which it was intended, since, having regard to its efficacy - equal to or only slightly less than that of quinine - facility of preparation and cost price, its use would enable malaria treatment to be extended over a wider field;

"Recommends that the report together with an introductory note be distributed to Health Administrations in malarious countries,

"And requests the Health Section to assist Health Administrations who wish to employ this remedy in the treatment of any Institute which might continue this research work."

Research into the biological properties of the various strains of parasites and their virulence or their sensitiveness to various anti-malarial products. Efficacy of treatment by synthetic drugs.

This research work was started under the best auspices in Roumania and England. The plan of work submitted by Colonel James at the last meeting of the Commission (October 1933) was very broad in scope, and it is a matter of congratulation that it should have been applied in the Horton and Socola hospitals. Strains of various kinds of parasites were exchanged, and investigations are being carried out in regard to the course followed by the disease, the virulence of these strains, their sensitiveness to various alkaloids or synthetic drugs and the immunity reactions of persons previously inoculated.

This research work as well as the investigations into natural infection treated with synthetic drugs, which are now proceeding at the Izolarea Hospital and the Gurbanesti and Tomesti centres in Roumania can, I think, be reported upon towards the end of the year. I still hope, as I said in my previous report, that scientific co-operation in this matter may be extended to other countries, such as Italy and Spain. So far as the last-named country is concerned, the Health Organisation has

provided facilities for one of Dr. Zozaya's⁽¹⁾ assistants to spend some time in Colonel James's laboratory at Horton and to familiarise herself with the technique of the transmission of malaria by mosquito bites.

Meeting of chemists.

With a view to action upon the relevant resolution of the Health Committee, the convening of a meeting of chemists working on the chemotherapy of malaria had been contemplated. The Secretariat approached certain experts in order to prepare this meeting; but obstacles were encountered at the outset. I think, therefore, that it would be better to abandon this idea; there would, moreover, be some risk of a frank and scientific discussion proving impossible owing to the interests involved where synthetic drugs are concerned.

Problem of the varieties of *A. maculipennis*.

Professors Martini and Zotta have sent us a highly interesting report on the tour of study they made last year in Rumania under the auspices of the Health Organisation. Similar facilities were also provided for Professor Zotta and Mr. Shute, Colonel James's assistant, to spend a few days at the Hamburg Institute, while two Spanish experts, Dr. Gil Collado and Dr. Eliseo de Buen, worked for several weeks at the "Stazione sperimentale per la Lotta an malarica" at Rome.

The problem of the races of maculipennis is to-day of the highest importance, and I think the Malaria Commission should continue to devote the utmost attention to this subject.

In August next, a meeting is to be held at Rome, to which Sir R. Christophers, Colonel James, Professors Missiroli, Pittaluga, Sergeant and Swellengrebel, and Dr. Hackett have been invited. It will be the business of these experts to reach an agreement on this very question of the morphological and biological characteristics of the sub-species of maculipennis. The Director of the "Stazione sperimentale per la Lotta antimalarica" has kindly offered the hospitality of his Institute for this meeting which, as will be readily understood, will make use of the laboratory facilities there available. Dr. L.W. Hackett and Professor Missiroli have kindly undertaken to draft a progress report on the research work; this will serve as a basis of discussion. All those attending the meeting have also been requested to send in a note on the results of the work undertaken on these lines in their own countries.

New Research Work.

Our last report contemplated a whole series of investigations, which might be grouped under three main subject headings. In pursuance of the Health Committee's last resolution, the list of the problems proposed for investigation was brought to the notice of research workers through the

(1) Dr. Zozaya is in charge of malaria-therapy at the Ciempozuelos Mental Diseases Hospital (Spain).

agency of the medical press of the various countries, and, of course, through the Health Organisation's Quarterly Bulletin. The Commission hopes, moreover, that its members, experts and correspondents will give evidence of their readiness to co-operate by undertaking the study of some of the questions contemplated.

Enquiry into the Quinine Requirements of Malarial Countries and the World Prevalence of Malaria.

Questionnaire C.H./Mal./207 was sent to the various public health departments, and the following countries have already sent in their replies: Algeria, Australia, Belgian Congo, Costa Rica, Egypt, Germany, Dutch Guiana, Iraq, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands Indies, Peru and Persia, and as regards French colonies: the Cameroons, French Settlements of Oceania, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Indo-China, Martinique, New Hebrides and Réunion Islands.

These particulars will, we hope, enable us to keep our records up to date with regard to the distribution of malaria and the treatment of this disease.

Composition of the Commission.

The renewal of the Health Committee also involves that of the Malaria Commission. As you are aware, the latter body consists of members who are on the Health Committee, of expert members and corresponding members. Those members who are on the Health Committee form, if I may so term it, the Bureau of the Commission; it is for them to choose, on each occasion, the expert members whose assistance they deem necessary for the various meetings or for the various items of work to be undertaken; accordingly it is their earnest hope that the corresponding members, as well as the experts, will be ready to lend their assistance whenever it is desired.

Various circumstances led to the appointment, in 1930, of a Study Committee from among the members of the Malaria Commission. Although too numerous to permit of its being regularly convened, yet the Study Committee would really need an even larger membership to be able to claim a competence in all the various matters considered by the Commission. I have therefore proposed that a "Study Commission" should no longer be appointed. The members who sat on it - that is the Commission's experts generally - will continue to play their vital part in the work, by giving the Commission the benefit of their special experience and knowledge in this or that field of enquiry. In this way, the Malaria Commission will be able to call upon:

1. expert members who would, in a sense, be technical advisers;

2. corresponding members who would be called upon to supply information and act as liaison officers with the various malarial countries.

As to the composition of the Commission proper, I have only proposed a few small changes. In the list submitted to you, (1) you will note the absence of certain names: colleagues whose death we mourn, or who are no longer dealing with malariology or anti-malarial measures; and you will also find the names of a few new candidates among the corresponding members. The latter should complete the representation of the Malaria Commission in great malarial countries where it has so far had no corresponding member. The Malaria Commission, that is to say, those of its members who are on the Health Committee, has passed the following resolution:

"The Malaria Commission,

"Noting that the Study Committee as set up in 1930 contained too many members to be able to meet often,

"Desires not to renew this Committee;

"It approves the list of members of the Malaria Commission submitted by its Chairman." (1)

Meeting of the Commission.

During the first half of 1935 it is proposed to hold a meeting of the Commission. Following the precedent of the Rome and Algiers Congresses, I consider that this should be held at Madrid, where the Third International Malaria Congress is to meet, because we may expect most of the members of the Commission to be in Madrid on this occasion. In this connection, the Commission passed the following resolution:

"The Malaria Commission,

"Hopes that when the next Congress on Malariology is held (1935) the majority of its members will be in Madrid and that it will be possible to take the opportunity of holding a meeting;

"Recommends that its Chairman shall be its official representative at this Congress."

Before concluding this report, I desire to draw your attention to Document C.H./Mal./212, prepared by the Secretariat for the information of those who are interested in the work of the Malaria Commission during the first ten years of its existence. This document gives the history of our Commission and shows that it has fully achieved the purpose which it set itself. It is interesting, after ten years' work, to survey the ground which has been covered, and I think that each one of us will be able to satisfy himself that our Commission has really done good work. It is my earnest hope that, during the next decade, our Commission may still further develop its activities and become an ever more useful instrument for the advancement of malariology and of malaria control.

(1) See Annex 1.

ANNEXE I.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Genève, le 14 mai 1934.

ORGANISATION D'HYGIÈNE.

HEALTH ORGANISATION.

PROJET DE NOUVELLE COMPOSITION DE LA COMMISSION DU PALUDISME.

DRAFT OF NEW COMPOSITION OF THE MALARIA COMMISSION.

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1) Le Prof. Nocht a exprimé le désir de se retirer
de la Commission.

Prof. Nocht has expressed the wish to retire from
the Commission.

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