

WHITE CIVILIZATION KILLS NEW GUINEA SAVAGES

Additional light on the social evolution of mankind is shed by a report of Dr. Paul Wirz, who recently returned to Berlin from a stay of several years among the primitive Marind people of Dutch New Guinea. He also brought further evidence of the destructive effect of contact with white civilization upon barbarous people. The tribe, which numbered more than 7,000 in 1915 had declined to 5,587 in 1917, and is still decreasing in numbers. The catastrophe is due principally to syphilis which appearing in the natives in a severe form resulted in much sterility, and in a great mortality among new born infants. An epidemic of influenza killed a third of the tribe.

The social organization is extremely primitive. The boys are separated from their parents early in life and brought up in bachelor houses which they quit only when married. The girls live with their mothers until marriage. In spite of this enforced separation of the sexes, immorality is common. Strong jealousy is characteristic of married life in the tribe but periodical promiscuity is the custom.

The industrial organization is a remarkable blend of individual^{ism} and state socialism. In general a person has sole property only in what he makes with his own hands alone; things which are made through communal effort belong to the entire community. As an instance of individualism, children have their own little plantations of sago and of coconut trees; while on the other hand the grassland is owned by the community as are the boats and the big drums.

Fire is made by use of the drill-bow and is carefully preserved even in long wanderings. Pottery is unknown and food is generally roasted, except fruits, which are eaten raw. Intoxicating plants are known and used. The betel nut and the strongly intoxicating kava are consumed in large quantities. Tobacco smoking is general. Salt is unknown. Kangaroo, wild boar, sea food and fruit comprise the most of the diet.

WAR DISINFECTANT NOW GOES TO WASHTUB

Paratoluolsulfochloramidsodium -----

It is a bleaching powder recently introduced in Germany. Rather, it is an organic compound which may take the place of bleaching powder. During the war it was used as a disinfectant and experimental surgery is still experimenting with it.

But its German makers see its greatest future in the housewife's washtub. They claim it is much less dangerous to linen than the average bleaching powder.

Lime salt derived from this compound also is claimed to have valuable properties as a weed killer on gravel paths. Not being easily soluble in water the rain does not wash it away easily.

Many banded birds return to the same place year after year.
