

PHARMACY

Quinine for War

Drug stores of the nation are contributing their supplies of the anti-malarial drug to the armed forces in war zones.

See Front Cover

► QUININE from the nation's drug stores are being contributed to a quinine pool for the armed forces under a plan inaugurated by war agencies.

This week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER cover shows the first quinine shipments being inspected at the American Institute of Pharmacy in Washington. These drugs are ammunition to blitz an important enemy of our fighting men.

Deadly malaria takes its toll in Guadalcanal, Africa, New Guinea, Burma and other war areas. Quinine conquers this disease faster than any other drug, most clinicians now admit. It is irreplaceable for patients having undesirable side-reactions when treated with synthetics, such as atabrine.

"Our medical officers are using the synthetic antimalarial drugs whenever it is possible to do so," declares Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy, "but the need for more quinine is becoming increasingly urgent as the number of men fighting in malarious regions increases and the stockpile dwindles."

Several hundred thousand ounces of this vital drug, it is estimated, are now stored in the prescription laboratories of the nation. So the War Production Board, Defense Supplies Corporation and American Pharmaceutical Association are cooperating in an appeal to every retail and hospital pharmacist of your community. Stocks of quinine are mailed to the Institute of Pharmacy to be inspected, sorted and sent to laboratories. It will then be reprocessed for use by the armed forces.

The quinine pool was originated by Dr. Ivor Griffith and associates at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. Twelve thousand ounces, collected mainly through Pennsylvania pharmacists, has just been shipped to laboratories, Dr. Griffith announces. The success of this project reveals the likely importance of the quinine pool when adopted on a national scale.

In return for war-scarce quinine the pharmacist will receive a certificate stating that his stock has been given "to combat malaria among the armed forces

fighting the Axis enemy in tropical areas." It is an invaluable contribution, officials point out, because money cannot buy new stocks of quinine. Cinchona trees from which quinine was obtained are in Jap hands.

"The American Pharmaceutical Association welcomes this opportunity," says Dr. E. F. Kelly, secretary, "to pool its staff and facilities with those of the war agencies of the government in tackling one of the greatest projects ever undertaken by organized pharmacy in the United States."

In the South, where malaria is prevalent, quinine will gradually be replaced by totaquine, a new antimalarial mixture now obtained from South American cinchona trees. This can be used effectively to treat malaria in this country, but so far the product has not been

stable enough to reach malaria-stricken troops abroad in good condition.

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ENGINEERING

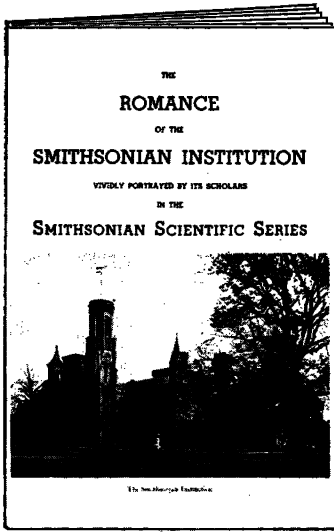
Wired-Radio Programs Used In Army Camps

► WIRED-RADIO programs are now given in several Army camps by the U.S.O. for the entertainment of the soldiers. The equipment is operated by the Army, which uses it for other purposes as well. Civilian defense units are using the wired-radio in their work in a number of key cities. So it may be said to be playing its part in the war effort.

Wired-radio programs are distributed over power lines instead of being radiated through space by means of transmitting antennae. They are picked up with the ordinary broadcast receiver. They are particularly of interest to communities not in the primary service area of any long-wave broadcasting station.

As many as 40 stations could operate at the same time on the broadcast band in any locality without interaction with nearby similar systems, it is stated by *Electronics* (January).

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