

when he established a hospital on the banks of the Ogowe River.

This doctor of medicine, of music, of philosophy and of theology receives no money from any organization, and he and his staff live only on what money is required for their basic needs.

Criticisms of Dr. Schweitzer have sprung up in recent years, and some have said his hospital will not outlast him. Better equipped hospitals undoubtedly have been built by other doctors and organizations in far-off countries than by Dr. Schweitzer, but his personal magnetism and motives will be remembered long after his death.

Schweitzer's Medical Studies

"It seemed to me," Dr. Schweitzer has said in explaining why he took up the study of medicine at the age of 30, "that we should all take our share of the burden of pain which lies upon the world."

Government personnel in a nearby village have already taken over treatment of patients with sleeping sickness, the disease that first required most of Dr. Schweitzer's time. Leprosy, malaria, elephantiasis, dysentery and other diseases common in the tropics, as well as those that afflict mankind in temperate climates, now take up Dr. Schweitzer's time. About 500 patients a month are treated, bringing their families and cooking utensils with them in dugout canoes.

Dr. Schweitzer's Nobel Prize money was used to add new buildings for the leper settlement, which is apart from the main hospital. He used 60 male lepers who were well enough to do the carpentry. Since 1943, the lepers have been treated with the sulfone preparations, promine and diasone, which give hope to patients formerly doomed.

Gabon is now an independent republic. In its capital city, Libreville, on the coast northwest of Lambarene, can be found Dr. J. B. Biyoghe, director of health.

One of his prized teachers is a 22-year-old Gabon-born girl named Clarissa Ivombo, who got her state diploma at Bordeaux, France. She is one of 15 Gabonese women who are qualified as midwives. She not only teaches and consults with expectant mothers, but assists at the mother and child center set up in Libreville with the assistance of the WHO.

Ignorance in Feeding

Many of these babies cannot survive weaning because their mothers do not know what to feed them. Babies are frequently given the same food as adults. There is no transition between breast milk and sardines, one of the main foods along with bananas and the starchy cassava.

Miss Ivombo advises mothers on health foods on the market and gives them simple recipes so the children will have proteins found in vegetables.

Maternity clinics and hospitals are drawing hundreds of persons from the old treatments. Medicine men who anoint the navel of a newborn baby with the vegetable fat, ori, are no longer held blameless when it causes tetanus. Their "Ito Malu" method for gastric ailments of children, by which

a child's abdomen is massaged with the urine of a cow and the child is given the urine to drink, is gradually being abandoned as parents learn that this treatment often causes death.

The magnitude of the world's health problems requires worldwide organization and scientific treatment on a large scale, but like foot soldiers in the Army, individuals make up the necessary troops. Many of them are scattered for reconnaissance. Many of them work virtually alone. But all of them are keeping up the battle against diseases in which there is no truce.

Drugs are available to stamp out tuberculosis. Sprays against mosquitoes and treatment for malaria and yellow fever carried by insects are at hand. Vaccine for smallpox is plentiful. Yet these preventable killers are still taking millions of lives along with other diseases, due to ignorance and lack of funds. The revolution in jungle medicine needs more ammunition and more doctors.

In addition to the World Health Organization, specialized agencies of the United Nations devoted to children, to agriculture, to labor, and to education and technology are cooperating to make health more universal.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Labor Office (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are helping to spread the formerly isolated work of the jungle doctor today.

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Nature Note

The Crocodile

► THE "smile of the crocodile" does not necessarily mean that he is happy. He really cannot help the smile, for it is caused by enlarged teeth in the lower jaw that stick up outside the narrow snout and give the appearance of a grin.

This "smile" is one way to tell a crocodile from an alligator, whose snout is much broader than the crocodile's.

Both these scaly, long-tailed reptiles are members of the Crocodylian order which is divided into three families—the gavials, which are sparsely distributed in India, the Malay Peninsula and the East Indies; the crocodiles, which are found in moist regions throughout the tropics; and the alligators, which are largely restricted to the New World, with one species in China.

Crocodiles are considered the most dangerous of all Crocodylians.

They produce their young from white elongated eggs with thick, hard shells. Unhatched crocodiles, like all Crocodylians, have an egg tooth on the tip of the snout. When they are old enough, the babies poke this tooth through the eggshell and emerge as tiny greenish creatures with black marks and bright beady eyes. The tooth falls off soon after they hatch. From then on they are able to take care of themselves—but many fall prey to fish, turtles, birds and other animals.

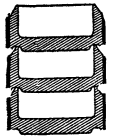
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