

PHARMACY

New Totaquine Standards

Anti-malarial obtained from "Jesuit's Bark" may contain less quinine; ceiling also imposed. Total amount of active ingredients remains the same. Found effective.

► NEW STANDARDS will soon be officially announced for the anti-malarial, totaquine, it is reported by Dr. E. Fullerton Cook, chairman of the committee of revision of the U. S. Pharmacopeia.

The medicine is a mixture of substances, including quinine, obtained from "Jesuit's Bark." This mixture has the same action against malaria as quinine, but has been little used in this country.

Lowering the quinine content to 7%, results in fuller use of South America barks which analyses show average only 1% quinine. This does not include about a fourth of the bark samples which contained practically no quinine. They contain the other anti-malaria substances, however, which can be just as effectively used as quinine, most physicians believe.

The former standard required 10% quinine or more. Now a ceiling of 12% will also be imposed, Dr. Cook announces.

This presumably was adopted to in-

sure uniform results in treatment and to prevent conflicting therapeutic claims and price differences. Authorities feel that these would be unjustified merely on the basis of one preparation containing more quinine than another.

Another requirement that at least a fourth of the product be cinchonidine and cinchonine will be completely dropped. The lower limit of 70% total crystallizable alkaloids will have a ceiling of 80% in the new monograph.

The new standards will be maintained, Dr. Cook explains, for at least the "duration" while the maximum use of anti-malarial supplies is necessary due to exposure of our troops to the fever and cessation of our usual imports from the Far East.

Totaquine is equal to quinine in anti-malarial efficiency. That is the consensus of opinion expressed by experts on tropical diseases at a recent conference called by the National Research Council in Washington.

Science News Letter, October 17, 1942

NUTRITION

Food Second To Nothing

► "IN THE business of fighting a war, food is not second to any other item," Colonel Paul Logan, assistant chief of the Subsistence Division, Quartermaster Corps, said, speaking to a hundred representatives of the dehydration industry attending the two weeks school conducted by the Department of Agriculture at the Western Regional Laboratory in Albany, Calif.

"It isn't possible to overemphasize to you and your companies their importance in this war," Col. Logan declared.

"Today in this war the most precious thing in all the world is forty cubic feet of space commonly known as a ship's ton. With unlimited tonnage we would have long since had more supplies and a greater fighting force overseas. If we can use each one of the cubic feet to best advantage we have contributed tremendously toward the war effort."

Using dehydrated foods is one way of

gaining this advantage. Great Britain, for example, was purchasing canned potatoes. A ship's ton of canned boiled potatoes weighs 920 pounds. The same ship's ton of dehydrated potatoes reconstituted weighs 3,980 pounds.

To prevent possible loss through inferior quality the government conducts rigid inspections of plants and products. With the help and suggestions of people all over the country, it has established precise specifications. Rejected material is to be disposed of under the supervision of an inspector and any vendor offering rejected material can be prosecuted for fraud, Col. Logan pointed out.

The army, being one of the largest buyers in the world today, deals directly with the producers and gives out contracts, known as "Letters of Intent." The Joint Dehydration Committee at Washington passes upon the applications of every one going into the business

● RADIO

Saturday, October 24, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Reginald Atwater, executive secretary of the American Public Health Association, will give some of the highlights of scientific research that will be presented at the meeting of the Public Health Association in St. Louis October 27-30.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m., EWT

Science Clubs of America programs over WRUL, Boston, on 6.04, 9.70 and 11.73 megacycles.

One in a series of regular periods, over this short wave station to serve science clubs, particularly in the high schools, throughout the Americas. Have your science group listen in at this time.

Monday, October 19, 9:15 a.m., EWT

Repeated at 12:30 p.m., PWT

Science at Work, School of the Air of the Americas over the Columbia Broadcasting System, presented in cooperation with the National Education Association, Science Service and Science Clubs of America.

"Building Machinery" will be the subject of the program.

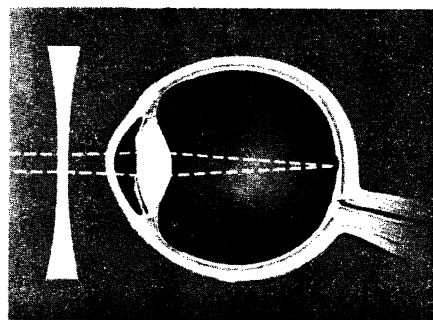
and gives "approval of plants as projects."

"I am very much interested in seeing this industry get established this year," Colonel Logan said. "Every pound of food that America can produce is going to be needed. We need it and the world needs it."

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