

**WATCHFUL**

*These Chinese children are being examined to see whether they have enlarged spleens which are a sign of malaria infection.*

parasites in the blood stream and prevent them from living out their life cycle, in the course of which the victim would suffer an attack of "chills and fever."

Providing good sanitation and medical care for the workers will also be supervised by the commission. The Burma-Yunnan Railway is responsible for medical service, but this work will be under the direction of an experienced medical officer, Dr. Fred P. Manget, who is a member of the commission. Dr. Manget has spent 32 years of his life in China as superintendent of an American mission hospital.

**Women Do Heavy Work, Too**

According to Mr. C. Y. Tu, managing director and chief engineer of the railroad, the commission's patient population will include both men and women. In China, both sexes are doing the same kinds of heavy work and we shall probably have as many women patients as men.

Dr. Marshall Balfour, chief of the Rockefeller Foundation's Far Eastern Division, will act as consultant and adviser to the Medical Commission. His headquarters are at Manila, and from there he will join us.

Besides Dr. Balfour, Dr. Manget and myself, the members of the commission include: Dr. T. H. Tomlinson, U. S.

Public Health Service, in charge of malaria control; Dr. Paul Stephenson, formerly of Peiping Union Medical College, in charge of public health and sanitation; Dr. Gordon Smith and Dr. W. L. Jellison, Public Health Service; Mr. H. A. Johnson, Public Health Service; Mr. Frank W. Fisk, University of California; Mr. D. E. Wright, Rockefeller Foundation; Mr. F. W. Thomas and Mr. E. R. Lacy, Tennessee Valley Authority; Mr. L. B. Hall, Georgia State Department of Health; and Mr. Arthur B. Morrill, Detroit, Mich., Water Board. The clerical staff, Mr. Carl Gohman and Mr. Joseph Pastorski, is also from the Public Health Service.

It is expected that the Medical Commission to China will be on the job for at least a year. By December, we expect to be fighting malaria along the Burma-Yunnan Railway.

*Science News Letter, November 8, 1941*

**MEDICINE****Chemicals From Germs Better Than Sulfa Drugs**

**T**WO NEW bacterial substances may prove beneficial in treating sinus infection, mastoid infections, empyema, boils, infected wounds, and other localized bacterial infections, Dr. W. Barry Wood, Jr., associate in medicine and as-

sociate physician at the Johns Hopkins Hospital of Baltimore, reported.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Eighth District branch of the Medical Society of the State of New York, Dr. Wood discussed the clinical use of the sulfonamide group of drugs and pointed out that these two new substances have certain theoretical advantages over sulfanilamide and its derivatives.

"These drugs, use of which is only in the experimental stage, kill gram-positive bacteria and will do so in the presence of pus," he asserted. The action of sulfanilamide and its derivatives, on the other hand, is greatly inhibited by the presence of pus.

"These substances, both of which are products of other bacteria, may be of benefit particularly in treating bacterial infections encountered in surgery."

The substances are gramicidin, developed by Dr. Rene Dubos of the Rockefeller Institute and penicillin, discovered in England. Experiments with these substances are now being carried out both in this country and in England.

*Science News Letter, November 8, 1941*

**MEDICINE****Pyorrhea May Come From Thyroid Gland Disorder**

**T**HYROID gland disorder, especially deficient thyroid action, may be the cause of some cases of pyorrhea, Dr. Rowe Smith, of Texarkana, Ark.-Tex., stated at the meeting of the American Dental Association in Houston.

Secondary anemia was also a factor in a number of patients he studied.

Pyorrhea is curable and preventable, Dr. Samuel Charles Miller, of New York, asserted at the same meeting.

Causes of the condition both in the mouth and elsewhere in the body should be sought and corrected, both dentists emphasized, pointing out that attention to the mouth alone may have been responsible for many failures in pyorrhea treatment in the past.

*Science News Letter, November 8, 1941*

**● RADIO**

*Thursday, November 13, 3:45 p.m., EST*

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

Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the National Academy of Sciences, will discuss the relation of industry to fundamental research. Listen in each Thursday.

*Monday, November 17, 9:30 p.m., EST*

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

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