

MEDICINE

No Danger of Malaria Epidemics In Inoculations to Fight Paresis

Recent Increases in Malarial Incidence in South Due To Floods, Storms, Etc., Rather Than to Clinical Use

NO APPRECIABLE danger of malaria spreading among the general population as a result of its use in the treatment of the brain disease, paresis, exists, in the opinion of Dr. L. L. Williams of the U. S. Public Health Service. Dr. Williams explained his reasons for this opinion in a report to the Conference of State and Territorial Health Officers with the U. S. Public Health Service held at Washington, D. C.

Dr. Williams also described the work of his associates in supplying hospitals for the treatment of mental disease with malaria-infected mosquitoes for their work. Most hospitals have only a few cases of paresis a year, and it is hard for them to carry the proper strains of infection along in between cases. So Dr. Bruce Mayne of the U. S. Public Health Service, working in laboratories of the South Carolina State Hospital for the Insane, breeds the mosquitoes, infects them with malaria germs, keeps them on ice, and when the call arrives from some hospital, ships them by express. He is at present working on the problem of how far he can successfully ship these mosquitoes without their dying or losing their desire to bite upon arrival.

When malaria is used in treating

paresis, best results are obtained by letting the parietic patient recover spontaneously from the malarial attack, without giving him quinine for the malaria. This results in the discharge from the hospital of a certain number of malaria carriers, and it is from these carriers that it has been feared malaria might be spread in regions where it no longer occurs, Dr. Williams explained.

He does not believe this is at all likely to happen, because the conditions under which we now live are so different from what they were when malaria was prevalent from Canada to the Gulf. Better housing, nearly universal use of screens, draining, and generally improved health and increased resistance of the people all tend to protect them from attacks of malaria. Even those who do get malaria seldom die of it nowadays, because their resistance is so much better, he pointed out.

The development of automobile travel during the last ten or twelve years has resulted in great numbers of southern people going north for the summer. Many of them are malaria carriers, yet they have not spread the disease in regions now free of it. Dr. Williams stated that in view of this it was not

likely to be spread by the relatively few parietic patients who are malaria carriers.

Some of the alarm over the situation was occasioned, he felt, by the fact that at the same time as the discharge of the first patients treated with malaria, natural conditions in the shape of hurricanes, tornadoes, rains and subsequent drought had upset the living conditions of large sections of the population and also of the mosquitoes in regions recently freed from malaria. A rise in the number of malaria cases followed, and was by some related to the new treatment for paresis. This is unjustified, in Dr. Williams' opinion.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Ancestors of Eskimos Found Minnesota Lake Bed Varves

DISCOVERY in Minnesota of an ancestor of the Eskimos has been announced in *Science* by Dr. A. E. Jenks, professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota.

The skeleton, which offers a new problem for scientists who are trying to find out how long men have inhabited America, was found in the silted depths of an extinct lake, in Ottertail County. The human bones lay twelve feet beneath layered silt, formed at the end of the glacial age. In that remote time, as the ice sheet retreated north, the silt flowed into and filled various lakes in this part of Minnesota. The period when this occurred, according to latest geological estimate, would be 18,000 or 20,000 years ago.

Examining the skeleton of the "Minnesota Man," Dr. Jenks pronounces it that of a youth under twenty years of age. The youth was a primitive creature, who, Dr. Jenks says, "must have been of an American ancestral type." He had markedly protruding jaws, and unusually large teeth. The nose had primitive, even ape-like characteristics, described by the anthropologist in the words:

"The nasal aperture has distinctly simian sill and borders."

From the present stage of measurements and reconstruction, Dr. Jenks finds that the man revealed is more akin to Eskimo than Indian in physical type.

With the skeleton lay a crude dagger of antler, and a large pendant of shell. Each has a hole for a leash, by which the youth fastened the articles to his person.

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