ago the Italians by blood conquered the blond and blue-eyed Goths when Gothic kings added Italy to their dominions. Conquest by race is a slower, but surer, conquering agent than arms."

Admitting that this has not occurred in various other parts of Africa, Dr. Harrington finds conditions different. South Africa had a sparse native population, beaten back by British and Boers, and these races have an exceptionally strong tendency to keep aloof from natives in their colonies. Other parts of Africa proved too unhealthy for colonials to settle down permanently in larger numbers. Moslem faith, as in Egypt, acted further as a fairly strong barrier to mixed marriages.

### Favorable Conditions

But in Ethiopia the conditions would favor rather than deter a racial blend, as this anthropologist analyzes the situation. As factors promoting mixture, he cites these: the vast mountain region with a climate that can—by sanitary engineering—be made as healthful as the Swiss Alps; the fairly heavy population of "dark yellow browns," with their Christian religion. Any attempt to dislodge the natives from their age-long homes, to segregate them, would be bitterly fought by them. And forbidding racial mixture would be a gesture inevitably futile.

Two Gibraltars guard the destiny of the British Empire—and the other one is Ethiopia, in the opinion of Dr. Harrington.

#### Vital Waterway

"Ethiopia and the rock of Gibraltar guard opposing ends of a waterway vital to the British Empire," he explains. "By her past history, Britain is committed to giving a free and just government to large populations at the extreme west of Europe and in southern Asia and Australia. These two large groups, in East and West, depend on the water road of communication from the Atlantic Ocean through to the Indian Ocean. To complete the highway the expensive Suez Canal was built, and if a single point is blocked from Gibraltar's rock at the Atlantic end, through the Mediterranean, across Suez, down the Red Sea and through the Straits of Bab-el-Mendeb into the Indian Ocean, England would be seriously hampered in her contact with India and her other eastern colonies.

"The Gibraltar of the West is only a rock less than three miles long, but capable of raking far into Africa with its guns. The Gibraltar that protects the eastern end of Britain's water highway is

### Sounds of Ethiopian Names in the News

Haile Selassie (Hhay-leh Seh-lah-syeh). Means Power of the Holy Trinity.

Addis Ababa (Ahd-dis Ah-bah-bah'). New Flower.

Aduwa (Ghad-wah'). Where the Ethiopians repulsed Italy 40 years ago.

Tsana (Tsah-nah'). Important lake, source of the Blue Nile. Ethiopia is from Greek words meaning sunburnt or dark face.

# Sounds of War Words in Ethiopian Speech

Weh-tad-der'. Soldier, fighter.

Tor. Spear.

Yeh-medf tor. Artillery; literally "cannon spear."

Yeh-bah-buhr'. Airplane pilot.

Sam-djah'. Bayonet.

Guhd-gwahd'. Trenches.

Yeh-'irq mah-gah-nay-nyat'. The peace meeting (League of Nations meeting).

a whole plateau of African mountains the impregnable fortress of Ethiopia, capable under scientific management of sustaining a population of perhaps up to 50 million people.

"Neighboring African lands are incapable of use to dominate the scene. They are too starkly desert or too insufferably hot or unhealthy. But from Ethiopia, strategically placed to control or close the waterway, guns could be fired over the Red Sea with devasting results to British communications, while a thrust to the west would cut the railway that connects with South Africa. This railway runs almost in the shadow of Ethiopian mountains.

"Equally vital to Britain is Ethiopian Lake Tsana, source of the Blue Nile, which sends its waters into Egypt at just the right time when waters of the Nile derived from other tributaries are getting low. The project of irrigating Egypt in future years takes into account the necessity of harnessing Lake Tsana.

#### Free for 3000 Years

"A military coup which could be given from Ethiopia might settle the fate of the British Empire and cut the connection between England and India at a time when this connection was urgently needed. British liberality has left free this country, which is the most important to Britain of all the regions of Africa, but which has an unbroken record of over 3,000 years since it paid tribute to any conquering nation."

Science News Letter, September 28, 1935

MEDICINE

# Find Astringents Protect Against Sinus Disease

NEW weapons for the fight against sinus disease were described at the meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

Weak solutions of astringents such as tannic acid and sodium alum greatly diminished the amount of infection in experimental animals when the astringents were used before germs were injected into the sinuses, Drs. Ralph A. Fenton and Olof Larsell of the University of Oregon Medical School reported. These specialists have been conducting a five-year research on sinus disease. The work has been financed by the Academy.

Another weapon which may prove useful is the fluid from the birth sac of animals (sterilized amniotic fluid). Improvement in experimental and human sinus disease was brought about by the local use of this fluid, Drs. Fenton and Larsell reported. The fluid possesses high reparative powers because of its content of so-called growth hormones and active cell juices, they explained.

Similar improvement in sinus disease was noted after the use of certain rare new chemicals resembling ephedrine.

Local use of the quartz light was not found to help in the repair of chronic inflammation. Powerful antiseptics were found almost always irritating when used after sinus inflammation has become established.

Science News Letter, September 28, 1935