

MALARIA NO. ONE WAR RESEARCH IN VIEW OF BRITISH

Quinine Still Best Curative
Drug — Sulphanamides
Treatment Fails.

By Henry Tosti Russell
United Press Correspondent

London (U.P.)—Malaria is pub-
lic enemy No. 1 on the list of
tropical medical war-research
men here, with bacillary dysen-
tery and louse-typus close re-
spective runners-up.

This claim was made to the
United Press by one of the best
known medical research authori-
ties in this country, whose name
cannot be quoted by virtue of
British Medical Council rules.

"Research goes on unceasing-
ly," he explained, "in the
direction of both prevention and cure.
Many of us still feel, however,
that prevention is better than
cure."

"So far as malaria is con-
cerned, apart from specialized
experiments of which details are
not likely to be released by mili-
tary authorities in time of war
quinine is still at the head of
the list of curative treatments.
The war, however, has empha-
sized the equal—if not superior
—value of its ten-year-old sub-
stitute: Atabrine (known in Eng-
land as mepacrine)."

"As 90 per cent of the world's
quinine was produced in the
Dutch East Indies, now in Jap-
anese occupation, the use for at-
abrine has naturally increased
enormously. All the statistics
which I have studied indicate
that successes in treatment equal
and sometimes surpass the ef-
fects obtained with quinine."

The United Press informant
revealed that other drugs, in-
cluding the now famous sulpha-
namides, had failed in the treat-
ment of malaria.

Discussing prevention of the
same disease, he said it was a
common mistake to assume that
quinine, atabrine or any other
known drug was 100 per cent
efficient in the prevention of
malaria.

"There is no known drug that
can unfailingly immunize
against malaria," he said; "a lit-
tle common sense would show
how stupid it would be to gen-
eralize. Obviously, prevention is
easier to secure by the taking of
regular doses of drugs where
the number of malaria-bearing
mosquitoes is not excessive. But
those who secure comparative
immunity in such
circumstances might then be as-
tonished and disappointed to find
that they would succumb in
spite of all precautionary drug-
ging, in districts where the pest
are more numerous."

"To put it another way, pre-
vention has a good deal to do
with how many times the victim
gets bitten every night. If he
gets bitten too often he may well
absorb more malaria than his
system contains of preventive
drugs. In these cases, malaria
gets the upper hand and the
mosquito wins the day."

On the question of prevention,
he expressed the opinion that
Pan-American Airways Africa
route airmen were a "model
which could well be followed by
all those interested in domiciling
white men in malaria-infested
districts."

"Their methods include the
prevention of breeding at the
source, screening of buildings to
keep out pests, nets over bed-
ding, spraying the inside of
buildings, taking preventive
drugs, and the frequent exami-
nations of potential victims."

"The fact that they spent a
good deal of money installing
modern devices such as refrig-
erators to safeguard food supplies
was, in my view, all to the good.
One thing is certain, whatever
expenditure was involved must
have been well repaid if results
are considered, for they were
highly successful."

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