

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.H./Malaria/263.

Geneva, August 30th, 1938.

HEALTH ORGANISATION.

MALARIA COMMISSION.

Agenda for the meetings of the Reporting Committee and
of the Malaria Commission to be held in Amsterdam on
Wednesday, September 28th, 1938.

Note by the Secretariat.

Document C.H./Malaria/248, circulated some time ago gave an account of the Malaria Commission's activities up to October 1937 and laid down a programme of work for a new three-year period.

At its last session, in June 1938, the Reporting Committee considered the stage reached in the investigation of various questions, discussed new proposals submitted by certain members of the Commission, and took a number of decisions concerning its participation in the International Congress at Amsterdam. The fact that a large number of the members of the Commission are to be present at that Congress offers an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views, especially on the means and methods to be adopted to render the collaboration of members in the general activities of the Commission still more effective. The brief time allotted to the Commission for its meeting at Amsterdam led the Reporting Committee to suggest that members should send in observations and suggestions to the Secretariat in advance.

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(1) The report of the President of the Commission, giving a brief account of the Commission's activities since the Algiers Congress (1930), will be circulated to members in advance.

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(2) The report of the Sub-Committee on the Standardisation of Terminology employed in Malariology, which was discussed at the last session of the Reporting Committee, will be submitted for examination in two languages (English and French) to the members of the Commission, whose observations will be annexed to the final text of the report.

In order to extend to other languages this attempt at the standardisation of malaria terminology as recommended by the sub-committee, and in order to give due place to the opinions of all schools, the attention of members of the Commission, the Permanent Committee for International Malaria Congresses and the International Committee on Nomenclature is called to this matter.

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(3) Losses due to malaria (morbidity, mortality, incapacity to work, etc.) and cost of anti-malaria campaigns.

When examining the draft agenda of the forthcoming Inter-governmental Conference on anti-malaria drugs (C.H. Malaria.248), the Reporting Committee devoted special consideration to Item 3: Relative cost of a plan of treatment and prevention by the administration of drugs according to the substance employed. The difficulty of arriving at exact estimates led the Reporting Committee to recommend as a first step that the fullest possible documentation on losses due to malaria and on the net cost of anti-malaria campaigns (personnel, drugs, anti-anopheline measures, etc.) should be brought together. Among valuable documents of this type may be instanced the reports on the results achieved in certain Mediterranean countries (Italy, Albania, Greece), where systematic anti-malaria campaigns have been conducted for a number of years.

It will be for members of the Commission to bring such data together and also to collect information on the other three items of the agenda of the Inter-governmental Conference. Their scientific standing in the eyes of Governments and health administrations is a full guarantee of success.

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(4) Varieties of anopheles. At its October session, the Reporting Committee drew attention to the gaps still existing in the available information on the geographical distribution of anopheline types belonging to the group A. maculipennis, their biological characteristics, their relationship to malaria, and especially the tests which should be applied to determine their genotypic validity.

The study of anopheline varieties in parts of Europe in which investigations have not so far been undertaken calls for the co-operation of members of the Commission. Any contributions which they might make to this subject would be brought together in a single survey, of which the practical importance cannot be questioned.

Studies of the longevity of given species of anopheles in connection with the danger of malaria transmission have been initiated in Roumania, with the co-operation of Mr. SHUTE who has undertaken to draw up a scheme of work.

A useful purpose would be served if parallel investigations were undertaken in other countries.

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(5) Malaria in native Africa. It will be for our colleagues in Africa to assist in the solution of the highly interesting problem raised by Mr. SCHWETZ in his note to the Secretariat. The Reporting Committee proposed that the health administrations in Equatorial, East and West Africa should be approached in the first place, and that with their help epidemiological information should be collected on the distribution of species of Plasmodium, including their seasonal

frequency and their distribution by age-groups. To complete these investigations the geographical distribution of anopheline varieties in the same regions should be investigated. Once this documentation has been brought together, it will be possible to turn to the question, among others, of quartan fever in its relation to local anopheline varieties.

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(6) Treatment and prophylaxis by drugs. Studies of prophylactic treatment with atabrin have been continued in laboratory conditions at the malaria treatment centres of Socola (Roumania), by M. CIUCA, L. BALLIF, M. CHELARESCO and M. LAVRINENKO. The experimental results secured have confirmed the observations made in the field by workers in Italy and Malaysia concerning the efficacy of bi-weekly doses of 0.20 grammes of atabrin, provided administration of the drug is continued for at least three weeks after the last inoculation of sporozoites.

Experimental studies of the relative preventive value of decreasing doses of atabrin on the one hand, and of small daily doses on the other hand, have also been carried out in Roumania.

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(7) Anti-anopheline measures.

a) "Naturalistic methods of malaria control". Dr. HACKETT, whom the Reporting Committee asked to draw up a report on this subject, has secured the help of a number of malariologists in the East. His report will be circulated to members of the Commission as soon as it is completed, and will constitute the basis of a more elaborate survey of the problem to be carried out with the collaboration of members of the Commission.

b) Insecticidal spraying. Members of the Commission doubtless possess sufficient experience as to the value of this method of destroying anopheles to allow valuable documentary material to be brought together with a view to possible further investigations.

The Reporting Committee desires to stress the importance of studying ~~of~~ simultaneously the habits of the local anopheline population in order to determine the real efficacy of this method.

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(8) Immunity and premunition. Experimental studies. Recent research into the mechanism of immunity against P. knowlesi infections in M. rhesus and in man appear to have extended the field of our knowledge, and give rise to suggestions for further investigations into malaria in man. The assistance of malaria treatment centres in the various countries appears to be essential.