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Malaria Treated Effectively By Giving Less Quinine

From the New York World Telegram January 28, 1943

Malaria-stricken soldiers can be treated just as effectively by giving less quinine over a short period of time than in the standard method. This plan is advocated by Dr. Aubrey H. Hamilton, lieutenant Commander, USNR, who has had 20 years' experience in anti-malarial work in the war zone of southeast Asia.

Huge savings of war-scarce quinine and valuable time

of hurried physicians is foreseen in a report just issued here in collaboration with the Board of Economic Warfare and Department of Commerce.

Only about a third as much quinine would be required to complete treatment of a hundred typical cases as compared to the standard treatment. This amounts to a saving of over 50,000 grains. Treatments would require 4859 fewer days.

The hydrochloride form of quinine was most used by Dr. Hamilton and his associates. It does not upset the soldier's stomach as readily as other forms. The tablets also are not likely to harden into pellets that remain unabsorbed by the body, as occurs with quinine sulfate in tropical climates.

Quinine hooked onto hydrogen and chlorine atoms can also be taken either by mouth or injection.

Experience in the Philippines and in Santo Domingo tends to indicate that the danger of using the intravenous route for administering quinine has been over-stated in standard textbooks, Dr. Hamilton declares.

Although preferring quinine, Dr. Hamilton also evaluates the use of other antimalarials. For cinchona bark, from which we get quinine, cannot supply all the antimalarial units needed during the war. Cinchona, or "Jesuit's Bark", obtained from South America does not contain as much quinine as that from Jap-held territory. But other components from this bark with antimalarial action can be inexpensively and efficiently extracted to augment our supply of antimalarials.

The Transmission of Plasmodium Lophurae,

An Avian Malaria Parasite, By

Anopheles Quadrimaculatus

By Herbert S. Hurlbut and Redginal Hewitt