

The Drug That Saved Mr. Churchill's Life

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last two germs are not affected by the parent substance, sulphanilamide. Scientists have always been curious as to how these drugs act. If they could but propound some reasonable theory they would be in a position to forecast the probable activity of new compounds, rather than simply submitting them to a process of trial and error.

"The mode of action is now known. To put it picturesquely, it would seem that these drugs are closely related to some of the essential foodstuffs of certain germs. These germs seize upon the chemical, thinking they are getting a good meal, and do not discover the mistake until too late. Fed with this unsatisfying food, the germs tend to die

of starvation. At least, they are unable to multiply quickly, and when this is so there is every chance for the natural defence mechanisms of the body to overcome the infection.

"This knowledge is of first importance when using these drugs in the treatment of disease. As the drugs imitate germ foodstuffs they can only be effective against the particular germs whose foodstuffs they imitate. They are not, therefore, of any use for every unknown fever; they will only cure fever when they are so constituted that they can trap the particular germ causing the fever. The haphazard use of these drugs for every little cough or cold or unknown illness is unwarranted, futile, and wasteful.

"The next point is that the drugs must be used in full and proper dose—either full doses or none at all is the best maxim. What these drugs do they do quickly—in a matter of five, seven, or, at most, ten days. If the drug has not shown evidence of working by then it will not work at all.

"The drugs are not without danger, particularly if used over long periods in small and ineffective doses. Their administration must always be closely supervised by a medical man. During treatment the patient must have plenty of simple fluids so that he has a free kidney action and can wash the drug out of his system without clogging up his kidneys. Nor should reliance be placed on the drug alone. All the well-tried and reliable methods of treatment for keeping the patient in good and fit condition must never be neglected."

And that is what the two men most responsible for this epoch-making discovery have to say about their work. You will not fail to compare the typical case-history of pneumonia in 1935 with the recent illness of our Prime Minister. For him there was no seventh, ninth, or eleventh day crisis, because, as you know, he was treated by this new drug—and within twenty-four or forty-eight hours of taking it the temperature usually becomes normal. We are told that the Prime Minister worked throughout his illness and must therefore assume that there was never deep anxiety, thanks to M & B 693.

Home From The Islands

A FAIRLY big batch of men returned to New Zealand recently from the Islands, many of them destined for work in essential industries, since they are not Grade 1. The Listener saw these men filing off their ship the day they arrived and talked to one or two in the clearing station.

Every man who struggled down the gangway with a huge heavy kit looked brown, but it didn't mean necessarily that he had been fit as a fiddle all the time he was away. He might be carrying home woven grass mats, and baskets, carved coconuts and other souvenirs of the Islands, but he might also be bringing unpleasant recollections of bouts of dengue fever, crops of boils, or attacks of a form of malaria.

"Our health was all right on the whole—at any rate mine was," said one man we spoke to, "but there were very few of us who escaped altogether without some queer sort of illness that we'd never had before."

"Food all right?"

"Oh yes. You've heard what it's like up there—no fresh milk, difficulties with the butter in the heat, plenty of tinned corned beef, and so on. There's plenty of local fruit, but the prices have gone skyrocketing. Pineapples, which grow in abundance where I was, were selling for 2s 6d each, and I expect you could get them here for not much more. Paw paws were a bit cheaper, and the coconuts you just pick off the trees as you want them."

As men continued to file off the ship the pressure on the disembarkation arrangements began to pile up. Instructions were shouted to men waiting to receive their first pay in New Zealand currency after a long spell of the decimal system, and queues were moving forward. It was no time for standing around talking. We found another familiar face, a man who seemed to have a moment to spare. He had been in another part of the Pacific for nearly a year and confessed that he was "tired of sitting on his tail." He had specialist training, and hoped to get into the Air Force after his leave expired.

Each man was handed an official circular explaining the arrangements that would be made for him in the near future—some would be re-mobilised at the end of their leave, being specialists, or men without children, others would be called upon to enter essential industries

APOLOGY

Owing to the unprecedented demand, it was impossible to make all deliveries of Korka Dolls before Christmas. All who have not received their dolls have been written to. Outstanding deliveries are guaranteed by January 31. The manufacturers apologise for any inconvenience caused.

All Korka Dolls are sold on a definite guarantee of satisfaction or money refunded, but if any customer is not prepared to wait for delivery, please communicate with us.

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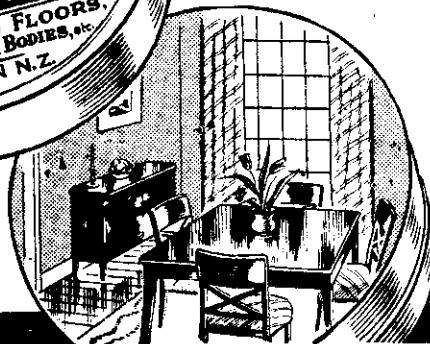
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