

glass one. On his return he exhibited the eye very proudly, but one day reported for work without it. Asked why he was no longer in possession of the glass eye, he replied: "Well, what is the use of it? I can't see through it, anyway." And as far as I know, he never replaced it.

favour for him to present his uncovered forearm for the doctor's needle.

The staple food of the Arab on the coast is rice, which is provided during the war by the British authorities from India. Formerly supplies of rice, sugar, and attar (a form of flour) were given to the sheik of the district for distribution.



We used to have a regular sick parade every morning from the village of Sharjah, and it was always a trial to the doctor to deal with these patients. The main complaint was malaria, which, despite reports to the contrary, appears to affect the Arab there just as much as the white man. The doctor naturally prescribed quinine, but it was a moral certainty that by giving a man twenty pills and telling him to take six a day, two morning, evening, and night, he would be courting disaster. The Arab would reason this way: "If I take six a day for three days, I will be better, so why not take the whole eighteen to-day and I will be better three days earlier?" Many of them did this, and there were some very sick Arabs about. To give a native a course of hypodermic injections was almost impossible, as he did not appreciate the treatment, but rather considered it a

It was discovered, however, that in four cases out of five the sheiks were exporting the bulk of the supplies to the other side of the Gulf, where there was a famine, so the British Government, with the political agent's assistance, established food centres in most of the towns, where the issue to the poorer people could be supervised and checked.

Bahrein Island is the largest inhabited spot in the Persian Gulf, and it was not many years ago that the sheik and his wife were presented at Court in London. This is probably one of the few times on record that a sheik's wife has preceded her husband anywhere.

Except for a few date palms, there is no vegetation on the coast. Building materials are almost non-existent, and the Town of Sharjah is constructed from coral, which is dug from the sea-bed at low tide and mixed with a local native