

this country for six generations. Here, in the South of England, you can find acres of land that are not being used. We won't be able to afford such a state of affairs much longer, but in order to bring the land back into production more is necessary than this or that incentive scheme. What is needed is a change of attitude to life—a change of attitude to, shall we say, "Mother Earth," and it is the mothers of this country who can do a lot to bring this about.

*Q.* Is the difficulty of going back to the land the fact that we haven't got enough houses for our agricultural workers? —(*St. John's Ambulance Brigade.*)

*A.* Frankly, this is one of the difficulties, and again it is a change of attitude that is needed. The real tone and character of our civilisation is a town one, so that the bright young chap from the village has one object—to get away from the village into the town. There are careers to be had in the town where one can start at the bottom and work one's way up—but there are no careers in agriculture unless one has capital behind one. If the nation wanted houses for farmers there would be houses; houses were needed for coal miners and so there are houses—not all of them yet, but a large proportion. It is a matter of what the community wants. What we *should* want is more farming.

*Q.* Could more land be released for farming if more blocks of flats and "flatted" factories, i.e. factories housed in one building but having a separate factory on each floor, were built? —(*National Federation of Women's Institutes.*)

*A.* In terms of my own trade, which is to deal with facts and figures, I can only point out that the actual amount of land taken up by this type of housing compared with that doesn't make a lot of difference. It is not for me to lay down the law, but I should not like to see a Government that forced people to live in this or that type of accommodation. I personally believe that accommodation that is in touch with nature is far more important than all the luxury gadgets that are incorporated in the modern blocks of flats that are being built today. This modern trend encourages people to remove themselves and their children from the ultimate reality of life, and such a civilisation will never find its way back to the solution of the problems we are discussing.

*Q.* Mr. Schumacher has stressed the fact that we must change our attitude towards certain aspects of life. Would a change of attitude towards coal mining help? I read recently that only 2 per cent. of the entrants into coal mining come from the higher education groups. Is there anything we can do to attract more young men into the industry so that we can produce and export more coal? —(*National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.*)

*A.* The National Coal Board, which I have the honour to serve, is grappling with that very problem at the moment. The point is not so much that people in the higher education groups don't want to come into coal mining but that coal mining has for so long been an unglamorous industry that it has never occurred to people that there was a job to be done there. The point that the question leads to is that if you ask yourself how many higher paid jobs there are in coal mining and I assume that payment is made for a good reason—higher education, higher pay—you find that the proportion is astonishingly small. There just isn't any truth in the statements about "hordes of officials." If you take the census classification in the coal industry, 2 per cent. of all employees have higher qualifications compared with the textile industry 5 per cent., vehicles 10 per cent., general engineering 12 per cent., chemicals 13 per cent., aircraft production 16 per cent. That is the crux of the matter. How can you re-build the whole social structure of the industry so that there is room to bring more brain workers in? The introduction of 10,000 such workers into the industry would make more difference than 100,000 manual workers.

## New Drug to Fight Malaria.

### Encouraging Experiments in Tropics.

GOOD NEWS FOR OVER 700 million people may lie in a tiny tablet, a new weapon in the fight against malaria.

For over three years, scientists of the Wellcome Research Laboratories in London and New York have been working on a new antimalarial drug called Daraprim. Their researches started from a lead given one day when an experimental compound was found to have a biochemical action suggesting antimalarial possibilities.

Now, after satisfactory clinical trials in human beings in the malaria danger zones of Tunisia, Indo-China, Belgian Congo, West Africa and India (including Assam) Daraprim is available to the medical profession for both the treatment and suppression of malaria.

In many diseases infested tropical areas a single dose of 50 mgm. (less than one grain and just sufficient to cover a small coin), has cleared the parasite from the blood and has relieved the fever in acute cases. Sometimes this has been achieved with an even smaller amount.

While in Africa for six months, Dr. L. G. Goodwin of the Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine, as reported in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal*, took daily doses of the new drug and deliberately exposed himself to infection. He allowed himself to be bitten by four mosquitoes known to be infected and in the interests of his experiment disregarded the normal antimalarial precautions. For example, in the dangerous evening period he seldom wore socks, scorned mosquito boots and slept many nights without a net. Despite this Dr. Goodwin did not contract malaria.

Dr. I. H. Vincke, Medical Director of malaria research at Elizabethville tells in the *Annals of the Belgian Society of Tropical Medicine* how he gave Daraprim to the inhabitants of two isolated villages in the Belgian Congo—Kasonga and Mumema—who were given weekly doses of 25 mgm. during the winter months when transmission of malaria takes place. At the beginning of the experiment in September, 22 per cent. had malaria parasites in the blood. By the middle of December all were negative and remained so. In April, 1951, over 7 per cent. of mosquitoes in these villages harboured and were capable of transmitting malaria parasites. In April, 1952 no infected mosquitoes could be found.

No bigger than a piece of confetti in circumference, the Daraprim tablet is tasteless, and experiments have shown that there are no toxic effects to cause sickness or depression.

It is estimated that there are approximately 700 million persons infected with malaria and about three million deaths annually directly or indirectly from it.

## Domiciliary Treatment of Tuberculosis.

The following refresher course has been arranged to take place in the Medical School Lecture Theatre at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, S.E.1; the price for the course is £1 1s. payable in advance to the Secretary, Tuberculosis Educational Institute, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

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