

tunities for studying human embryology from the functional point of view. Already, considerable work of great practical value has been done with regard to uterine support, to the anatomic relationships of the ureter and genital ducts and to the comparative anatomy of the mandible, the central nervous system, the colon, the greater omentum, the lesser sac and the vermiform appendix. The marsupials offer an excellent field for the study of the muscular epochs, and the postural changes resulting.

MALARIA IN INDIA

STATEMENTS concerning malarial conditions in India are contained in the annual report for 1928 of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases. According to the *London Times* it recalls that Sir Malcolm Watson and Major Lockwood Stevens went to India on an expedition of inquiry last November and sailed for home last April. They made an extensive tour and drew up reports which will be published later. In the meantime the Ross Institute in the present report gives a summary of their observations as follows:

Bombay was first inspected. Compared with many other places the control of malaria in Bombay Island, indeed its complete elimination, is a relatively simple task. The mosquito which carries the disease lives chiefly in tanks, wells and cisterns. A certain number of these have been closed or covered; and there is an able staff under Dr. Sandilands, the health officer of Bombay, capable of completely stamping out the disease. But there still remain a large number of breeding places, and eighteen years after the source of the danger was pointed out by Dr. C. A. Bentley, the director of public health of Bengal, the people of Bombay, and especially the mill workers, suffer severely from the disease.

Malaria is steadily spreading through many parts of Bengal. Within living memory hundreds of villages have been decimated; thousands of acres of once prosperous and highly cultivated land have been abandoned; populous towns have been reduced to the status of miserable fever-stricken villages; stately mansions have as their sole inhabitants the wild pig and the leopard; and the jungle is creeping in to reign once more over a land from which it was driven thousands of years ago. The malaria of Bengal may well be described as a great tragedy.

There is much controversy on the cause of the malaria in Western Bengal. Many hold, among them Dr. Bentley, that malaria has been increased by the embankments which have interfered with the natural flooding of the Delta. They claim that, where the land is flooded annually by the rivers of the Delta, there is a surprising immunity from malaria, and that malaria is specially intense where railways, canals, roads and embankments have killed the rivers or reduced their flow. The other view is that the malaria is due to insufficient drainage of the land. Its supporters claim that what drainage has done

to banish malaria from other lands it can do for Bengal. Sir Malcolm Watson considers that there is a strong case for an independent inquiry, and he has written to the governor suggesting that this should be made.

SOIL SURVEYS APPROVED BY THE PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

PRESENTATION of the soil survey work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture by Dr. Oswald Schreiner, chief of the division of soil fertility, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, and official representative of the department at the Fourth Pacific Science Congress, held this summer in Batavia and Bandoeng, Java, was followed by a resolution of the congress urging all Pacific countries to extend soil survey work as far as possible on a uniform basis somewhat comparable to the methods by which the United States has already mapped and surveyed half of its agricultural land.

According to reports from Java, received this week by Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Dr. Schreiner was appointed chairman of a standing committee on soils charged with the task of working out a uniform basis of classification for the soils of Pacific countries in co-operation with the International Society of Soil Science.

Following the meeting of the Fourth Pacific Science Congress at which he was chosen chairman of the soil section, Dr. Schreiner attended the Third Congress of the International Sugar-cane Technologists held at Sorabaya, Java, where he was again elected chairman of the soils section.

In addition to their appointment of a standing committee to further the work of soil survey in Pacific countries, members of congress showed much interest in the latest work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in soil erosion prevention and in the recent findings of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils as to the successful application of the rarer and little-known fertilizing elements to certain soil types, upon which subject Dr. Schreiner presented papers.

"No mere words can describe the absolute 'otherness' of the civilization one sees on this island. It is so different that it mystifies. It is beautiful, enchanting and altogether delightful," wrote Dr. Schreiner in a recent letter to Dr. Knight. He tells of towns and villages with strange and beautiful temples everywhere, richly carved with grotesque figures of gods and demons.

"Java has been called the jewel of the tropics," he writes, "but Bali with its tropical setting and interesting people is the real gem of these far-eastern islands; enchanting, intriguing, surpassingly beautiful, the most tropical, the most eastern of them all. The bronze statues of beautiful men and women, superb