COLONIAL OFFICE MEDICAL ADVISER ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TOUR

Dr. A.G.H. Smart, Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office, who has recently returned from the Middle East, and Dr. W.H. Kauntze, Assistant Medical Adviser, who had previously during the year visited Africa, have given brief accounts of their tours to the Colonial Advisory Medical Committee

Dr. Smart told the Committee that one of the main reasons for his visit was to enquire on behalf of the Secretary of State into the welfare and state of health of the people in each territory after the strain occasioned by three years of war. Another was to satisfy himself that liaison between the Services and civil authorities was as complete as possible. He had since reported fully on these two aspects of his visit to the Secretary of State. He dwelt at considerable length on the position that he had found at Malta, where his visit coincided with the arrival of a food convoy. One thing that had impressed him very much during his tour was the wholehearted devotion to duty that was apparent everywhere and he noted how in this effort, as in this country, women were taking a prominent place. The visit made him realise personally the tremendous value there was in such contacts more especially in times like the present.

Dr. Kauntze told the Committee something of his tour which occupied six months and covered most of Tropical Africa. He, too, had certain specific objects in mind during his visit on which he was able to give some information to the Committee. Amongst other things he found that great progress had been made in maternity and child welfare work, more especially in East African territories. He also noted developments in the organising of dispensaries as welfare centres in West Africa and mentioned the need that was evident for an increase in numbers of subordinate staff with better facilities for training. He also spoke of the advance which had been made in medical education at Makerere College in Uganda, and at the Yaba Medical School at Lagos, Nigeria.

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