

can make malaria a thing of the past, and, when we do, this will be a better world in which to live.

BATTLE AGAINST MALARIA

Dispatches to this newspaper from New Guinea tell that important work is being done in residual spraying with DDT to kill the Anopheles mosquito, the prime vector of malaria. Tests made thus far have shown an almost incredible reduction in infant and juvenile illness.

This is cheering news to come at a time when the specialists in tropical medicine are deeply concerned over the fact that both mosquitos and flies are beginning to breed strains that are resistant to DDT. The New Guinea Anopheles is apparently a brand that will stay in the house at night. Some strains do not. It is obviously easier to attack the vector if he is stationary or sluggish. If the New Guinea mosquito runs true to type on the experiments thus far made it may be possible to do a large-scale clean-up.

In our part of the world we do not usually recognize the significance of malaria. Dr. Mackie's admirable Handbook of Tropical Medicine says flatly that malaria is by far the most deadly of all the communicable diseases. Its victims, annually, run into millions. More than that, it is a debilitating disease. It always means loss of the capacity of the individual to be a happy member of society. No one who has ever seen a child with the malformation that comes from early malarial infliction can ever look with complacency on this enemy of mankind.

The work that is being done in New Guinea is largely voluntary. It is only a small sector in a world-wide war. But it is an encouraging part of the battlefront. We can win if we have the determination to do so. We