

leaf over quick-time in practice. If sun-drying is to be advised, we must remark that the leaves should not be allowed to become overheated. It is not a good plan to let the leaves dry up naturally in the shade but they should be dried as quickly as possible. By the use of hot water we dissolve out some of the alkaloid. The best yield of cocaine is afforded from the fresh leaf.—*Scientific American*.

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An important scheme has been decided upon for the study of tropical diseases, by the Indian Government. At the present time there are scattered over various parts of the country five centres, where the process of research is carried out upon a small scale. These institutions are the outcome of private enterprise, and work independently. Owing to their limited resources, the work they accomplish, while valuable, is necessarily somewhat small in scope. The Indian Government has now arranged to consolidate these various institutions, to enlarge their field of operations, to found additional laboratories in other parts of the country where investigation on the spot is urgently required, and to control their operations from one central institution. The latter is to be located at Kasauli, a small hill station in close proximity to Simla, from which point it can be easily reached and the institute supervised by the central medical and sanitary authorities of the Indian Government. The situation is well adapted for the work, the temperature being moderate, while scattered among the surroundings hills are numerous sanatoria, each of which possesses a large hospital. There is a Pasteur institute already in operation, but this will be merged with the new building, and the present administrator of the Pasteur institute, who has carried out much important and valuable work, will be the first director. The new laboratory will carry out original researches, and prepare and investigate curative sera for tropical diseases indigenous to this country and other similar climes, and the training of scientific workers. The existing scattered institutes will continue their present operations, original research in particular being stimulated. This new arrangement will prove of great value for all investigators of different countries of tropical diseases, since they will be encouraged to avail themselves of the institutions in India for carrying out on-the-spot investigations.—*Scientific American*.