

# Report Most Recovered After Hong Kong Ordeal

1941-100-112

Siegnory Club, Que., Dec. 2 (CP).

—A Winnipeg medical scientist told a doctors' meeting today that while a percentage of Canadians taken prisoners at Hong Kong will have serious permanent disabilities because of vitamin B deficiency during their imprisonment, the majority have been rehabilitated and returned to useful civilian duty.

Dr. J. D. Adamson, professor of medicine at the University of Manitoba and director of medicine at the Deer Lodge Veterans' Hospital, Winnipeg, termed defective vision the worst result of imprisonment at Hong Kong.

He was speaking to a conference on treatment of veterans being held under the auspices of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to correlate medical knowledge gained in DVA hospitals since the end of the war and to establish future treatment policies.

Dr. Adamson said figures showed that in three per cent of cases Vitamin B deficiency had so impaired vision that for industrial purposes the veteran is, in effect, blind, although there is no case where he cannot make his way about. About 25 per cent have impaired vision in some degree.

Second great effect of the imprisonment was a nerve and spinal condition evidenced by weakness of the legs, shooting pains and unnatural fatigue. The majority of cases, he said, had responded to treatment.

Doctors present will present a recommendation to treatment authorities of DVA, asking a serious study of hypertension, still one of the medical mysteries. It was pointed out that few medical agencies have the same opportunity of studying the disease as that offered by the large mass of patients in DVA hospitals.

A report on the use of streptomycin in the treatment of tuberculosis in DVA hospitals was presented by Dr. P. Hill. He said that the number of cases in which complete results are available is still so small that no definite conclusions are possible.

Miss Agnes J. Macleod, director of nursing for the DVA, referred to the new nurses' school of training being opened in Windsor in mid-January in conjunction with Metropolitan Hospital as the result of a gift of \$160,000 from the Canadian Red Cross. This school, she felt, would pioneer a new system of nursing education which would graduate nurses in a little more than two years, instead of the three-year course now required.

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