

America's attention was focused on the disease when famous baseball player Lou Gehrig, the "Iron Horse", contracted the disease in 1939 and died in 1941, wasted to a skeleton.

Doctors have since discovered that Guam in the Pacific has the world's record for number of cases of Charcot's disease in proportion to its population.

### Intermarriage.

One explanation is possibly that the disease runs in families, and there is intermarrying on ocean islands. But it may be there are certain conditions—diet, local conditions, perhaps a local virus, though none has yet been found.

Yaws, an unpleasant disfiguring infection, is another disease widespread through tropical Pacific Islands. It is only since the white man has settled in these islands that rapid permanent cures have been made by new drugs.

All told, the old view that Pacific islands were Edens till the "white devil" arrived disguised as a paleface in a pith helmet needs revision.

The real "devils" of tropical Edens fly around on mosquitoes, crawl about in bush ticks and mites, travel the Pacific in flocks of migrating birds.

The campaigns begun by white doctors in World War II to protect their Pacific armies, continuing in peace, are banishing these evils slowly but surely.



### 🌀 *The Children's Library and Crafts Movement at La Perouse* 🌀

This year the children's Play Centre at La Perouse is going well. After the Holiday Camp the local children were very keen to regain the use of the recreation hall for their Saturday afternoon activities. "Turn yourself into an ant and crawl through the crack," suggested one little girl while we were still waiting for the hall to be emptied of camp gear. Now each Saturday it is filled with happy boys and girls bubbling with excitement and pleasure.

Painting is their first choice, and the end wall is always covered with beautiful colour and interesting design. Some of the children love to dress up and act out the stories and fairy tales which are told to them. Many like making puppets and return each Saturday to model, paint and dress their creations. Recently Mrs. Murray of the Movement's Clovelly Puppet Theatre entertained a large audience with her puppets.

As well as the pleasure of creating, the children have much fun in the play corner with dolls and cradles, afternoon tea on their new tables and chairs, or they sit quietly with a book from the shelf. Out-of-door games also have a place in the programme.

"Cheers for Saturday afternoon!" cry the boys and girls of La Perouse, and "See you next week," is their farewell.

### AUSTRALIA UNBOUND.

To those who can read them, Australia is a land of happy omens. There are illuminating indications that we are to be a higher civilisation of peace and wisdom. Australia, the mystic land of the south, has waited countless ages for her turn in the mission of Truth. Since the beginning of time the Southern Cross has looked down and guarded all Australia. This fiery sign at nights is a symbol of Australian hearts. It is also significant that the peaceful ocean washes our shores. A new nation is a glorious proclamation of the eternal forces of the universe. Not new in the sense of geology or history, but a new opportunity for Faith and Hope to successfully resist the tyranny of evil tradition, and the most main of reaction. Scattered across the broad face of Australia are numbers of earnest men and women, humble and obscure folk, whose names do not appear in the daily papers or the popular movements of the day but who cherish the true ideal of Australia and manifest it with dignity and simplicity in their daily lives.

—MICHAEL SAWTELL.



Dianne Cooke, who is captain of the Primary School at Cootamundra is seen planting a tree at the opening of the Play Centre at Nicholson Park by The Governor, Sir John Northcott, who is seated on the platform.