The pressing need for effectively occupying the northern half of Australia should centre practical interest in the organization and establishment of a Tropical and Semi-Tropical Agriculture in the Queensland University. Funds are in hand to equip an efficient laboratory, but a further sum must be raised to enable the school to work under expert guidance, to conduct extensive scientific investigations, and to initiate pioneer work in the field of territorial development. Advocates of the scheme point out that the Queensland University is admirably situated for tropical studies, on the threshold of tropical Australia, and within easy reach of New Guinea, the Straits Settlements, and Singapore. Scientific knowledge of the compensating areas will be the surest foundation for successful settlement by white races, if they can adapt themselves to the climatic conditions. This consideration is dependent largely upon the prevalence of medical science, and the possibility of overcoming and eradicating the diseases and pests peculiar to torrid regions. A school of agriculture, by studying the tropical diseases, sanitary and medical problems of town and village communities in equatorial Africa, America, and India warrants the expectation that greater triumphs will be won, and that many places now ruined by disease will be prospered by enterprise, and eventually be made habitable and even salubrious.

Sir Ronald Ross, the eminent physician who has done so much to remove from Sierra Leone the reach of being the "white man's grave," is convinced that the backwardness of Africa is due principally to the prevalence of diseases which white men could not overcome. Africa is near to Europe, and in ancient times there was a great civilization in Egypt. There have been many routes of communication, both across the desert, and by sea down the west and east sides of the continent; and yet civilization was re-established at every step. The tropical diseases, which slew so many immigrant Europeans, have been almost equally disastrous to the natives. Among indigenous populations, malaria often affects every one of the children, probably killing a large proportion of the new-born infants, and renders the survivors ill for years; only a partial immunity in adult life relieves them from the incessant sickness. When it exists in an intense form, the malady always paralyzes the material prosperity of communities. It is conceded that the fever to tropical Africa were almost certainly attacked by yellow fever, and the chances of death were as one to four. Perhaps the greatest number of all is dysentery, which formerly killed thousands of whites and millions of natives in India, America, and all hot countries, and rendered survivors ill for years; only a partial immunity in adult life relieves them from the incessant sickness. When it exists in an intense form, the malady always paralyzes the material prosperity of communities. It is conceded that the fever to tropical Africa were almost certainly attacked by yellow fever, and the chances of death were as one to four. Perhaps the greatest number of all is dysentery, which formerly killed thousands of whites and millions of natives in India, America, and all hot countries, and rendered survivors ill for years; only a partial immunity in adult life relieves them from the incessant sickness.