

LIFE ON LEPER ISLE.

To MOKONAI - (forbidden haven of 700 lepers in the FIJIAN GROUP) - comes a ship once a year, it brings relatives for a one-day reunion on the Pacific isle. Newsreel cameras are permitted ashore for the first time, as humanity's all-but-forgotten people are re-united with their loved ones. For today, after centuries as "untouchables," lepers - (scourged by a disease no longer held to be highly contagious) - live in new hope of freedom.

A twist of Fate isolates them on an island of matchless beauty. And here, souls denied an existence on one world, recreate another of their own. Sisters of Mercy aid them in their fight to preserve a social usefulness against the day of possible return to the world outside. Tragically, the very-young fall easiest victims to the ancient malady.

Himself a willing prisoner on MOKANAI, Dr. C.J. AUSTIN is medical superintendent of the island hospital. The Chulmodgra-Tree Berry is his chief weapon against leprosy. Its oil, when processed, has valued curative properties.

At the hospital, constant treatment by intramuscular injections of chulmoogra oil - (the oldest Indian remedy) - can arrest leprosy in its early stages. New cures, (including experimental radium treatment) are already sending back over 50 per cent of former sufferers to society.

A well-equipped theatre brings islanders the boon of laughter, and nurses-by-day become operators each lonely dusk. The lepers' faith, too, endures the ravages which destroy the body.

All too soon ends their one day of reunion with those who are free to come and go. For many, as yet, there is no going back. Three million world lepers share their bitter grief at parting, and their hope that one day their freedom ship will call. Today, their future is brighter, as Science seeks a new key to unlock the gates of MOKONAI.

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