The Efficient Parasite: Dr. N. H. Swelengrebel ... 465

The paper I was supposed to read, but did not, in Section V of this congress bore the title, "The Efficient Parasite." I am going to tell you of a highly efficient parasite I came across in the bush-country of Dutch Guiana. But before coming to that, let me first explain to you what I understand by the word "parasite." Once I have made that clear, the other word, "efficient," will need no explanation.

Now, I beg of you, keep this in mind, that I am not going to tell you what a parasite is, but only what I understand this word to signify. It is simply a matter of definition. Many, or all, of you may have an entirely different definition in mind. So all I ask of you is to accept my definition just for argument's sake and for a period of forty minutes. By the end of that time you may reject it without giving it another thoughts.

Address delivered before the General Sessions of the Third International Congress for Microbiology, New York, September 2–9, 1939.
Editor's Summary