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The night of the Wolf!

It was a hot, sultry night on the road to Damascus. Truck drivers pulling into the little village of Sahané waved to the farm guards and drew up alongside the solitary filling station.

There were several inns in the village, but it was too hot to sleep indoors; the drivers improvised beds at the edge of the wild stretch of road.

In one of the houses in the village, six-year-old Golam Khazayl stirred restlessly in his sleep. All was still; no breeze came through the door—open like so many others on that night of August 22, 1954.

In the mountains behind the village, a wolf left its lair and padded, silently, stealthily, towards the sleeping villagers.

It loped across the rough countryside, moving faster. Unnoticed, it crept into a vineyard where guards slept—and pounced!

Swiftly the grey form ran on: it attacked the truck drivers; went through the innocently open doors of shops and houses. It seized young Golam!

Twenty-nine people were savaged by the beast before a horseman killed it with a mallet. But the terror was not over. The wolf was diseased with rabies—and given a chance to develop, rabies is invariably fatal to human beings.

The new serum

To a team of scientists in Iran, sent out by the World Health Organisation, this was a chance to experiment with a "hyperimmune serum"—never

before tested on human beings.

On the morning after the attack, the victims were driven by truck to Teheran. Among them was the six-year-old boy—most savaged of them all.

But he recovered; so did twenty-four of the other victims.

Four of the eighteen bitten about the head died. But the value of the serum was proved. Using it in various doses, in connection with vaccine, the W.H.O. team found that certain combinations of the two immediately created antibodies to fight the germ.

● The story of Sahané's night of terror is revealed in a Bulletin just published by the World Health Organisation. And it makes clear that the Wolf of Sahané, though it claimed four lives that night, may be the means of saving hundreds.