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# EFFIGY-HABITATIONS FOR SPIRITS OF DISEASE

MILANO, SARAWAK, BORNEO

The Milano attribute all illness and misfortune to malevolent spirits. Certain spirits cause illnesses associated with their function. Thus the spirit of the air may cause *headache* or *fever*, the spirit of the water *dysentery*, the spirit of the jungle *malaria*.

In cases of sickness, no medical remedies are used. The medicine man (*orang bayoh*), having diagnosed which spirit is causing the trouble, makes an image of it, from sago pith, called a *dakan*. With incantations and other ritual, the spirit is induced to enter the image. Then, according to the character of spirit inhabiting it, the *dakan* is placed outside the house, in the river or in the jungle, that the disease-causing spirit may go home.