

PUBLIC SLOW TO BENEFIT BY GREAT MEDICAL DISCOVERIES

That the great medical discoveries made by doctors and research workers should be more fully applied, so that the public may benefit by them, was urged by Miss Elizabeth G. Fox, director of public health nursing of the American Red Cross, who spoke at the second Pan American Red Cross Conference recently.

When the germ of some dread disease is isolated, the public shows great enthusiasm, and at once mentally checks that disease off as "conquered", Miss Fox told the conference. In reality, however, the new knowledge cannot work any magic in the world until it is the property of the man in the work shop, the mother in the home, the school teacher, and the child on the playground.

The public health nurse was described by Miss Fox as the agent that is needed to work among the people in their homes, to teach them the value of disease prevention and modern medicine, to help them to get proper medical attention, and to build up for them an ideal of health.

"In this country it is estimated that only ten per cent. of the sick are cared for in hospitals," said Miss Fox. "The remaining 90 per cent. are cared for in their homes, and of this 90 per cent. perhaps less than a quarter can afford the services of a private nurse. The majority of them, and this includes people of moderate means such as professional people and those in small business, must depend upon the services of a public health nurse if they are to have skilled nursing care.

SQUARE DEAL FOR GAS CONSUMERS ASSURED

The gasoline station operator who gives his customers short measure better watch out, for the weights and measures inspector will get him, even if the oil company auditor does not.

At the National Conference on Weights and Measures held at the Bureau of Standards recently, officials from several states described their Sherlock Holmes methods for cheating cheaters. An innocent looking automobile is driven to the gas station and five gallons is put in the orthodox appearing tank, which in reality is not connected up with the feed pipe at all. After driving away the tank is emptied and the contents measured. If they do not come up to standard requirements the operator is given the opportunity to explain matters in court next morning. Fuel for the check-up automobile is supplied from an extra tank of small size to facilitate its concealment.

A check-up on the containers in which oil is sold came up for discussion. The practice of keeping oil poured out in bottles to expedite service during rush hours, lends itself to shortmeasuring fairly readily, it was stated. Standard size containers for oil sold under such conditions was recommended.
