

PUBLIC HEALTH

Child Health Weapons Forged At White House Conference

Experts Declare for Adequate Family Incomes, Education In Family Life and Aid For Handicapped Children

WEAPONS with which to fight for the health and happiness of American children were forged at the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, held in Washington last week.

They are weapons which can and will be used by mothers and fathers, by teachers and physicians and nurses, by everyone who is enlisted in the cause of childhood.

Here is how they can be used. In a middlewestern city there is opposition

Recommendations of the Conference are summarized in a 20-Point Standard of the Minimum Requirements for a healthy, happy childhood, which are published in full on page 348.

to the medical examination of nursery school children. When the director of the nursery school class returns to her home front, she will carry with her a new and powerful weapon, the official recommendation of a conference summoned and guided and inspired by the President of the United States. Every nursery school or similar institution should have a trained medical advisor on its staff, one of the conference committees recommended.

Weapons were made, too, for the mother and father who are fighting to give Johnny and Mary a fair chance for a healthy, happy, useful life. In practice, the weapons may turn out to be cod liver oil and vaccinations and nursery schools and pasteurized milk and special classes for the child who is handicapped. They are defined in the final recommendations of the various committees which may become a handbook to aid American mothers and fathers who want to give their children a square deal.

One of the most powerful weapons in every parent's fight for his child is an adequate family income. Some form of insuring this to each family in America is wanted.

A pension or aid to the families of the unemployed was suggested by Grace

Cover illustration by courtesy of U. S. Bureau of Home Economics.

Abbott, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau. Experience with mothers' pensions might be taken as the basis for making unemployment a legal reason for unemployment pensions or aid, it was brought out.

The committee of family and parent education urged a minimum basic income for each family sufficient to provide "not only for the physical survival of the child, but for his education and for family recreation." It stated that research is needed to determine what this basic income should be, and what amounts are necessary to provide adequate care for children of various ages.

"The child wants to belong to a family, to have his own name, his own parents, his own things. He wants his family to be as good as his friends' families. He needs the affection, security and the encouragement of his family to fortify him for successful contacts in the outside world.

Instruction In Living

"This committee firmly believes that instruction should be provided by schools and colleges to further the satisfactions of intelligent participation in family life and to prepare for courtship, marriage and parenthood. However, as long as the family exists as a unit, the initial impetus toward adjustment or maladjustment will be provided in the home life of the child."

Schools play a large part in the life of a child and have a big influence on his future. Every parent wants his child to have the best education available. A change in our school system may be advisable, the Conference proceedings indicate.

"We have had in all education too much teaching of facts, too little development of individuals.

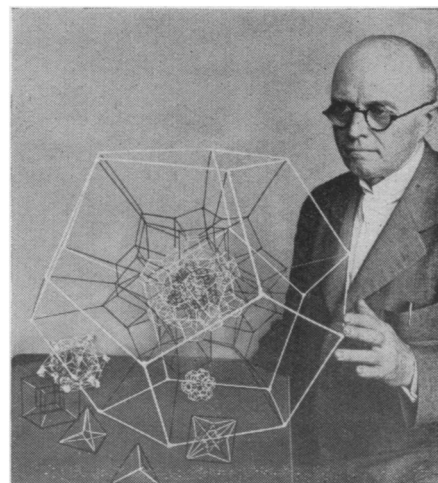
"There has been perhaps too much emphasis on giving information and educating the individual to make a living, and not enough on educating him to live," the committee on family and parent education stated.

Help for the handicapped child must not merely be a matter of support and

medical care. Education and training are also important, for the child's sake and for society's, is a finding of the committee on the physically and mentally handicapped, headed by William J. Ellis of Trenton.

"The handicapped child, like every other child, is a potential social asset. Each and every one, no matter what his background, or how severe his handicap, has some gift which he can make to his time and to his community—whether this gift is the priceless one of a genius, like the music of the deaf Beethoven, or the inspirational writing of the blind and deaf Helen Keller, or whether it is the performance of those humbler manual tasks, tasks which are inglorious, but which must be done by someone, if the wheels of our life are to keep turning."

The conference committee on public health organization concluded that the bulk of the health activities of the national government, whether for child or adult, should be consolidated under the U. S. Bureau of the Public Health Service. Dr. E. L. Bishop, state health com-



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FOURTH DIMENSION MODELS

One of the world's few sets of models illustrating the theory of the fourth dimension has been made recently by Dr. Paul Heyl of the U. S. Bureau of Standards and put on exhibition at the National Academy of Sciences Building in Washington.

Although fourth dimensional geometry is not a new concept and for many years had no standing in physical science, the advent of the theory of relativity has forced the subject upon the attention of physicists, Dr. Heyl points out.

The models are really perspective views of figures involving a fourth dimension. Just as a drawing on a flat surface gives a perspective of a solid figure in space, so a figure in space can give a perspective of a figure involving a fourth dimension, it is explained by Dr. Heyl.