

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# Five Diseases Are Targets In Fight for Nation's Health

## Cancer, Syphilis, Infantile Paralysis, Malaria and Yellow Fever Retreating Before Organized Attacks

**F**IVE major campaigns against disease are engaging the nation's disease fighters with renewed vigor, following the annual American Public Health Association meeting in New York.

With new financial support from the federal government and from private sources, and with fresh impetus, these men and women who protect our health are fighting as never before against such major foes as syphilis, malaria, cancer and infantile paralysis. At the same time, the lines have been strengthened against yellow fever and other diseases that may be imported from abroad.

Under the leadership of Surgeon General Thomas Parran, of the U. S. Public Health Service, also president of the American Health Association, the entire nation has taken up arms in the fight against syphilis. As a result, physicians and health officers are able to apply their knowledge of how to treat this disease and to stop its spread. In Chicago, where a poll was taken, an overwhelming number of citizens expressed their willingness to take the test which shows whether or not a person has the disease. In many communities, as soon as the health authorities started the anti-syphilis campaign, patients began coming to physicians for treatment, instead of hiding their illness and trying to cure it in secret with inefficient remedies. Health authorities apparently are well on the way to the conquest of this disease.

### National Cancer Institute

Cancer, most dreaded of all diseases, can now be fought more relentlessly and on a larger scale than ever before. A National Cancer Institute to fight the disease was founded by an act of Congress and over \$1,000,000 was provided to build and equip the Institute and provide for its first-year expenses, with more funds to be provided annually. Gathering and disseminating of present knowledge about the disease, purchase of radium to be loaned to institutions for cancer treatment and research into causes and methods of fighting this dread killer are the functions planned

for the institute. Money alone will not conquer cancer, but it can help cut down cancer deaths by making treatment more widely available, by giving scientists a chance to discover better methods of treating and controlling it, and by teaching laymen and physicians all over the country how to do their share in fighting the disease.

### Protective Spray

A better spray for protection against infantile paralysis got its first trials during the past summer. While it is too soon to know how much help this may give in controlling the disease, much hope is held for it. Even if this does not prove to be a sure means of preventing infantile paralysis, other methods of protecting children from the crippling ailment may be developed in the course of the research under the new National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. (See page 234)

Malaria reached a peak of 4,000,000 cases during the past summer, one national health authority estimated. It is probable that this old disease foe will never again reach such a high point because during this same summer a unified malaria control program for all the southern states in the malaria area has been started. Grammar school children of the South will be the intelligence

branch of the army in the renewed fight against this disease. A drop of blood from each of these children will lead health authorities to the strongholds of the malaria-carrying mosquitoes, wherever they may be hiding. Once their breeding places are located exactly, effective steps can be taken to route them and thus to free the entire South of the disease.

Side by side with these campaigns against disease within our borders have been instituted two new measures to keep foreign diseases out of the country. One of these is the new radio pratique by which incoming vessels are allowed to proceed to port if they have notified U. S. Quarantine authorities by wireless that no cases of disease are aboard ship. The other is the agreement entered into by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the Pan American Airways System for keeping yellow fever out of this country. The discovery of new yellow fever centers in South America at almost the same time that air travel brought that continent so much closer than ever before to the United States brought the menace of yellow fever uncomfortably and even dangerously close. The new measures include fumigation and vaccination.

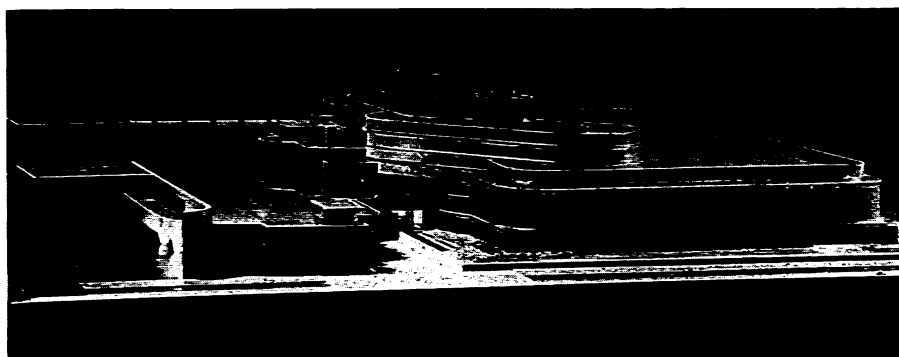
*Science News Letter, October 9, 1937*

## ENGINEERING

## Windowless Building Built By "Organic" Architecture

**S**CIENCE, beauty, and maximum efficiency combine to make the long talked of futuristic industrial architecture a reality in the internationally famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright's latest creation.

In a new building (*Turn to Page 239*)



### SCIENCE AND BEAUTY

*Glass predominates in this latest Frank Lloyd Wright creation, a wax factory at Racine, Wis. Full daylight and air-conditioning feature the building, which is without windows. Novel "upside-down" columns effect important savings in floor space.*