

more persons in the United States are disabled by illness"—Miss Roche.

"There must be one standard of medical care for all"—Dr. Irvin Abell, president, American Medical Association.

"For \$1.98 per case per month emergency care of illness can be provided"—Miss Dorothy Caroline Kahn, director, Philadelphia County Relief Board.

"Compensation should be provided

for loss of working time due to illness"—William Green, president, A. F. of L.

"Some medical service today is shoddy at any price"—Dr. Hugh Cabot, Mayo Clinic.

"I rise in defense of the medical profession. We know what the problems are."—Dr. Olin West, Secretary, American Medical Association.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938

PUBLIC HEALTH

Incipient Uprising Among Consumers of Medical Service

"Consumers" of Medical Attention Feel That Better Service Can and Should Be Provided By the Profession

AN AIR of incipient uprising on the part of the consumers of medical service hovered over the National Health Conference.

Contrasted with the dogged insistence that all's well in the medical world as seen by American Medical Association representatives, the farmers, labor representatives the parents and the liberal faction in the medical profession made it very plain that all who are ill in mind and body are not being served as they could and should be.

This is largely an economic matter. Obviously scientists must learn about the cure and prevention of disease and there must be more accent on prevention in the future national health program, as Surgeon General Parran of the U. S. Public Health Service urged. But the

major immediate problem is how to get medical service to all the people and who is to pay the bills.

Among the consumers—"patients" to the doctors—which means you and me, there is a growing feeling that medical care is something that can be paid for under some insurance scheme, without any loss of quality of service or income by the average physician.

Over a hundred representative leaders of medicine, government, labor, agriculture, press, social service and other fields sat in this deliberative congress called by the committee coordinating federal health and welfare activities, headed by Miss Josephine Roche, Colorado industrialist and former assistant secretary of the Treasury.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938

PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Care Has Become A Major Political Issue

The Call for the Doctor and the Problem of How To Pay Him Have Become the Concerns of the Nation

THE GREAT problem of medical care for all has been projected by the three-day National Health Conference into a major position among the issues before the nation.

When political parties and candidates begin to build their platforms, hardly any who hope for success will dare to leave out a plank for some sort of pro-

gram for health and protection and medical care. The voice of labor, agriculture, and other consuming groups will be raised too insistently not to be heard and heeded.

Some phases of the \$850,000,000 per year health program outlined by the government experts will undoubtedly come before the next Congress, and

some provisions may rush to enactment with unanimous approval just as anti-cancer funds were voted by the last Congress.

Medical insurance, modeled along the lines of job insurance under social security is now emerging as a matter discussed by the people as well as the experts. In some American form, a new kind of compulsory, government administered "life" insurance for the living, paying the medical bills when the great disaster of illness comes, seems almost sure to become a part of our social order. How soon, is a question. Three years? Five years? A decade?

The prevailing feeling among physicians, as crystallized by leaders of the American Medical Association, is opposed to any change in the usual system of individual engagement of doctors on a fee basis. "State medicine" is anathema to most of them, although a leaven of growing hundreds, the informal Committee of Physicians, favor many general ideas of the conference.

Many physicians will join these liberals when they realize that it is the duty of the medical profession to respond to this national cry for the doctor, just as the family practitioner traditionally arises in the middle of the night to bring a new baby into the world.

Organized medicine at the conference just closed undoubtedly had impressed upon it the extraordinary fact that there is more demand for their commodity of disease prevention and treatment than they can supply. They were told that hundreds of practicing physicians are partially unemployed—with office hours too often leisure hours—while ill millions go untreated. It is a gigantic problem of distribution.

The public is calling for the doctor and trying to work out the best way to pay him. This is an old personal problem that is becoming a national issue. It is one that everyone will hear more about in the months to come.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938

ARCHAEOLOGY

Arabs Misled Excavators With Chinese Bottles

ABOUT a hundred years ago, wily Arabs played a trick on tomb explorers in Egypt. And echoes of that trickery, which for a long time was not detected, still plague historians.

The trick worked in this fashion. Arabs around Thebes, where archaeologists were exploring Egyptian tombs,

managed to plant secretly some cheap and modern Chinese snuff bottles in the tombs.

Archaeologists who found them were amazed. They knew they were working in tombs undisturbed since about the fourteenth century B. C. They did not suspect a fake.

So, they drew the romantic conclusion that ancient Egypt got trade goods from China, thousands of miles away. And they marveled at the enterprise of business men in those distant times. They also pointed with awe to the scrawled writing on the tiny bottles, and whispered that Chinese writing had scarcely changed in 3,000 years.

Meanwhile, Arabs were cashing in on the situation by selling additional Chinese snuff bottles of the same kind to collectors, at fine profit.

It took years for experts on Chinese antiquities to clear up the confusion. Eventually, some one firmly declared the style of writing on the bottles was never used in China before the second century A. D. Moreover, the flowery sentiments scrawled on the porcelain were by poets even later than second century. In time, the truth was known.

The whole story is revived by Elizabeth Riefstahl, who reports that a number of the controversial bottles have come to the Brooklyn Museum, along with a fine collection of real Egyptian antiquities.

The Arab trick has been completely unmasked since 1915. Yet writers are found still taking the Chinese bottle story in good faith.

As Miss Riefstahl points out, the moral is plain. In scholarly work, judgments should not be hasty. A false statement launched into the world may go on almost forever.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938

POPULATION

Japanese Win Place In Brazilian Agriculture

JAPANESE have penetrated into Brazil in the last decade until in the state of Sao Paulo they comprise nearly one-fifth of the population, Prof. Preston E. James, of the University of Michigan, reported to the American Geographical Society (*Geographical Review*, July).

The Japanese immigrants are engaged in market gardening and cotton growing. On only 1.77% of the agricultural land, they raised 46% of the cotton crop and 29.5% of the agricultural products.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938



PLANTED

About a hundred years ago, wily Arabs planted such pretty little snuff jars as these in the tombs of Egypt to fool archaeologists. The hoax was exposed in 1915, but writers are still found taking the "finds" in good faith.

ENGINEERING

Steam-Electric Locomotive Ordered For Union Pacific

Civil Engineers' Meeting Hears of Need for Maps; Flood Control Methods in China Are Explained

A NEW, giant steam turbine-electric locomotive, of a design different from any locomotive now in operation, will soon be placed in service on the Union Pacific R. R., it was reported to the meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers at Salt Lake City.

The huge unit, creating at least 5,000 horsepower, will virtually be a steam generating electric plant on wheels. The locomotive, now under construction, will generate 45,000 pounds of steam an hour at a pressure of 1,500 pounds to the square inch, said Charles P. Kahler, system electrical engineer of the Union Pacific.

This high pressure steam will drive a main turbine spinning at 12,500 revolutions

per minute. The turbine, in turn, will drive an electrical generator at 1,250 revolutions per minute. This electric power will drive the locomotive.

The steam circulates through a closed circuit. After leaving the turbine it goes to an air-cooled condenser, is there turned back into water, and sent back to the boiler.

Planning Ahead on Roads

No more will the nation be caught napping on its highway construction, Dr. L. I. Howes, deputy chief engineer, U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, told the meeting.

During the past ten years the use of America's highways has increased 73