

sulted in fire danger, for the insulation is highly inflammable with so much oxygen present.

Carrying out Navy suggestions, Paul Gayne, president of the Colvinex Company, of New York City, developed the new suits. These are insulated with fibreglas, which is cloth woven of thin glass fibers, and is non-inflammable. The wires are insulated with glass, and they are sewn with glass thread between two

layers of fibreglas cloth in the diver's underwear.

The use of helium-oxygen was one of three important advances that resulted from studies initiated by the U. S. Navy after the submarine S-4 sank off Provincetown in 1927. The others were the Momsen "lung" and the McCann Rescue Bell, which saved the lives of 33 trapped men from the Squalus in 1939.

*Science News Letter, October 26, 1940*

PUBLIC HEALTH

## To Protect Health of Army In Case It Goes to Tropics

### Rockefeller Foundation in Cooperation with U. S. Health Service Preparing Much Yellow Fever Vaccine

OFFICERS and men of the U. S. Army will be protected by vaccination against yellow fever if they are sent to Central or South America on a hemisphere defense mission, Col. George C. Dunham, speaking for Surgeon General James C. Magee, U. S. Army, announced to the American Public Health Association.

To prepare for this potential need of the Army, enormous quantities of yellow fever vaccine are being prepared by the Rockefeller Foundation in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service. The vaccine, developed by Dr. Wilbur Sawyer and associates of the Rockefeller Foundation, has already been given to some two million persons in South America. Difficulties in preparing large quantities of the vaccine have so far limited its use largely to the protection of scientists, explorers and others especially exposed to the disease or to groups of civilians taking part in studies of the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Enough vaccine will be ready, it is expected, to protect the Army from the dreaded Yellow Jack which plagued U. S. troops during the Spanish-American war before Walter Reed and his associates discovered that the disease was spread by mosquitoes.

Protection of American soldiers by vaccination against cholera and diphtheria is also planned if war conditions make this necessary, in addition to the routine protection now given our troops against smallpox, typhoid fever and tetanus or lockjaw.

New vaccines for protection against pneumonia, typhus fever and influenza,

plagues of the World War, are now being given field trials, Col. Dunham said, to find whether these protective measures can also be used for American soldiers in event of war.

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### Prostitution a Fifth Column

GENERAL Charles R. Reynolds, recently retired Surgeon General of the U. S. Army, warned against prostitution as a "fifth column in our midst" which threatens the new national defense army that will start for training

camps shortly after the peace-time draft next week.

Syphilis and gonorrhea will attack the men in training camps unless prostitution, both commercial and clandestine, is controlled, General Reynolds warned. A plan for such control was given by General Reynolds before a special session of the American Public Health Association.

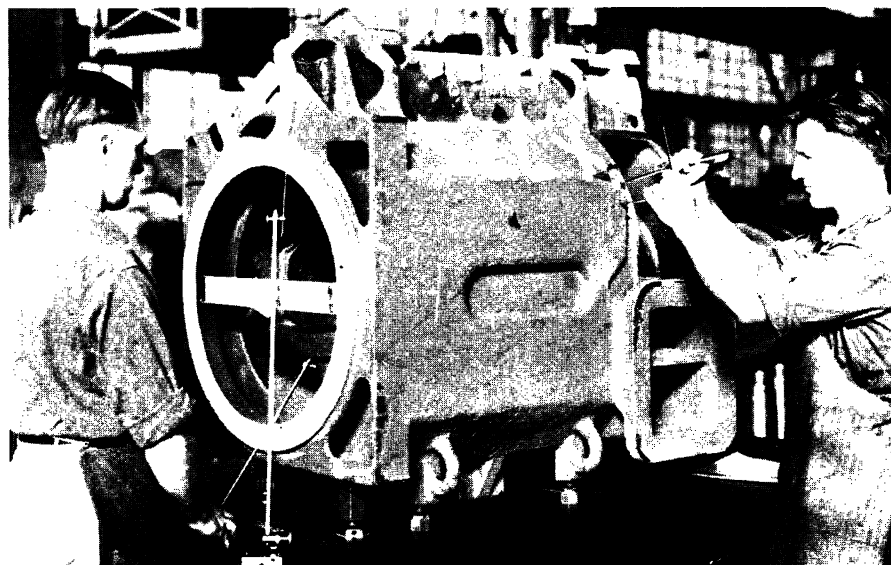
Outbreaks of syphilis and gonorrhea among the men on maneuvers near two southern cities last spring were immediate results of prostitution in those localities, General Reynolds reported. In one of the cities, among 85 prostitutes examined by health officers, one-third were found to have syphilis and one-half gonorrhea, and many had both.

Protection of the men against venereal diseases will be possible, he believes, because military and civil authorities will cooperate in this vital defense project and because of the "awakened public attitude toward this menace which provides an ally to the military forces which never before has been adequately mobilized."

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Petroleum engineers say that more than 99½% of the recoverable oil known in underground reservoirs can ultimately be recovered.

A zoologist at the American Museum of Natural History who recently was asked to examine George Washington's dental plate reported that an elk or wapiti had contributed the teeth.



#### IN QUANTITY PRODUCTION

*Casting for a motor frame to be used on one of the Diesel-electric locomotives is marked for machining.*