NUTRITION

Appoint Steering Committee For National Nutrition Program

Recommendations, as Fast as They Are Decided Upon, Go To Agriculture Extension Director for Action

NATIONAL defense will be advanced at American dinner tables under the guidance of a group of the nation's scientific experts on food. This group is the Committee on Food and Nutrition of the National Research Council, appointed at the request of Miss Harriet Elliott, head of the consumer division on the National Defense Advisory Commission.

The English will be eating in their bread more vitamins for health and morale, beginning early next year, as a result of a war health measure advised by their national food research council. Without waiting for war, America is going to have a national nutrition program to improve the health of her population, some 45,000,000 of whom are said now to be eating inadequate diets and consequently suffering from various degrees of malnutrition.

Miss Elliott is determined to do something about this ominous situation. Before starting the program, she has called for the advice of the nation's leading experts on nutrition, dietetics, home economics, agricultural economics and food processing.

Four main aspects of the problem to be studied were decided on at the first meeting of the committee. These are: 1. Improvement of white flour, well recognized to be deficient in minerals and in the B vitamins, necessary for health and morale; 2. Improvement of another American dietary standby, sugar, which likewise has been deprived of the minerals and vitamins contained in the sugarcane or beets from which it is made; 3. Improvement in the nutritional quality of the edible fats; 4. Development of a plan for teaching the population what it needs to know about food and nutrition.

As fast as recommendations can be decided on by the committee, they will be passed along for appropriate action to Dr. M. L. Wilson, director of extension, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who will direct a national program of nutritional education.

Dr. Russell M. Wilder, of the Mayo Clinic, is chairman of the new committee which includes, besides the scientists from civil life, liaison representatives from the American Red Cross and U. S. government bureaus.

This committee, it is pointed out, will concern itself with the nutrition of the general population. Nutritional problems of the Army and Navy are being studied in an advisory capacity by another National Research Council committee. Members of the new committee on food and nutrition are: Dr. Russell M. Wilder, Mayo Clinic; Prof. John N. Black, Harvard University; Dr. Henry Borsook, California Institute of Technology; Dr. F. G. Boudreau, Milbank Memorial Fund; Dr. George R. Cowgill, Yale University School of Medicine; Prof. Joseph S. Davis, Stanford University; Prof. C. A. Elvehjem, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Icie Macy Hoobler, Children's Fund of Michigan; Dr. Philip C. Jeans, State University of Iowa; Dr. Norman Jolliffe, School of Medicine, New York University; Prof. Charles Glen King, University of Pittsburgh; Dr. James McLester, University of Alabama; Dr. L. A. Maynard, Plant, Soil and Nutrition Laboratory, Cornell University; Dr. Helen S. Mitchell, Massachusetts State College; Dr. Lydia J. Roberts, University of Chicago; Dr. W. C. Rose, University of Illinois; Cullen Thomas, General Mills Corporation; Dr. R. R. Williams, Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Dr. John B. Youmans, Vanderbilt University.

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ENGINEERING

Shortage of Engineers For Aircraft Foreseen

IN ARMING America with airplanes and other machines of war, there will soon be an appalling shortage of graduate engineers capable of doing design and production.

What the colleges are able to do to increase the supply through regular courses

SELF-SEALING

When a machine gun bullet penetrates the airplane gasoline tank shown above, there is no dangerous leak, for the hole is immediately and automatically sealed. This, one of the first photographs to be released, shows the tank, a development of the United States Rubber Co., being installed in a bomber under construction in a California plant of Douglas Aircraft Co. A large quantity of these tanks have already been delivered for installation in both American and British planes.

LIFE LIKE

It looks like an actual photograph of the original Maya stela, but is a painting done by Joseph Lindon Smith's striking technique.

will not supply the demand. Engineering educators are now planning to develop short-term, intensive courses to train high school graduates and liberal arts college students to fill the emergency.

Government and educators alike are alive to the serious situation. A report by the New York Committee on Engineering Training for National Defense just issued, is the latest evidence that the nation faces a lack of technically trained men so critical that unless emergency measures are taken the defense program, hardly underway, will suffer.

Aircraft production in the New York area alone, only 21 companies employing 38,300 men or a fraction of the total aviation industry, will need 6,000 new engineers within the next year, whereas all the engineering schools of the nation will turn out only 12,000. In non-aviation industries of the New York-New Jersey area, 1,500 more engineers will be needed, which is more than the engineering colleges in the area can provide.

The New York report, prepared at the request of the U. S. Office of Education, predicts that the full force of the defense program has not yet been felt. There is danger, it is intimated, that the shortage of engineers may be aggravated by the reluctance of industrial managers to secure draft exemption for their essential technically trained personnel.

An attempt may be made to discover engineering graduates in other lines of work and return them to engineering work.

Engineering colleges may hold classes during the summer and graduate in February engineers who otherwise might finish in June.

Schools in the shops themselves may be established to allow employees to fit themselves for better jobs.

In some areas public technical high schools are being used almost on a 24-hour basis to train mechanics to meet the expanding defense program. The engineering colleges may in the next few months find themselves providing the same service for technical engineering education.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Ruins Now Menaced by Bombs Preserved in America in Art

Faithfully Accurate Paintings Are Designed To Show Archaeological Treasures As They Appear In Our Time

IF A BOMB smashes the Acropolis in Athens, America has two faithful paintings of its serene beauty by Joseph Lindon Smith, New England artist, who has spent 50 years safeguarding the world's archaeological treasures on canvas.

"One Acropolis painting is in New York in a private collection and one is at Harvard—I think," said Mr. Smith, in an interview.

He was a trifle apologetic at not recalling off-hand where all of his paintings are preserved. He has done hundreds.

About 200 of this artist's paintings of Egypt's temples, tomb decorations, and other old, old art wonders, also endangered by indiscriminate air war, are preserved at the Boston Museum of Art. In Egypt, only a few miles from Sakkara's famed ruins, is an Australian camp. The Cairo Museum's roof is notedly not very strong. It leaks. Egypt's treasures have thus far escaped bombs, but no one knows for how long.

Here in peaceful, but alert, Washington, nearly 30 of Mr. Smith's paintings of America's own ancient Mayan splendors are holding public court at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Twelve of these paintings have been acquired by the Carnegie Institution, to become permanent exhibits in its headquarters.

Mayan Indians, who gave prehistoric America its greatest aboriginal civilization in Mexico and Central America, were fine artists, Mr. Smith says appreciatively. They are fittingly called the Greeks of ancient America.

"Their early sculptures are as great as those of any early civilized country," in his opinion.

Mr. Smith's paintings bring the observer close to the fine, vigorous carving of Mayan temple decorations and monuments. He paints standing within a few inches of his subject. He likes to paint a piece of sculpture life-size, as it is "in our time." Sometimes that means showing the damage of centuries of neglect and weathering. Sometimes it means showing the exact effect of red, blue, and other gay colors that the Indian artists used in giving life to their work, just as the Greeks colored their statues and friezes.

One of the most recent revelations from buried temples at Chichen Itza in Yucatan is the Jaguar Altar which looks exactly like a Christmas toy animal in its red paint and polka-dots of green jade. Painted by Mr. Smith, the remarkable colors of this image are now shown to people in the United States for the first time. In Yucatan, the Jaguar Altar is guarded in a zoo-like cage. When Mr. Smith was permitted to paint it, a Mexican guard, gun in hand, was locked in the cage with the artist. To Mr. Smith's amusement, the guard counted the valuable jade disks set in the jaguar and announced pointedly, "Seventy - three, Senor." When the picture was finished, Mr. Smith counted them, too, and announced, "Seventy-three, Senor." One of the disks had previously disappeared, hence the super-caution.

To observers accustomed to the stern and warlike scenes that Mayan Indians customarily portrayed in their art, there