

PUBLIC HEALTH

Master Postwar Plan

Following standards of medical and public health professions in giving peoples of the world food and housing needed will solve economic and agricultural problems.

► “LOOK TO the public health and medical profession for a master plan of world reconstruction,” Sir John Boyd Orr, director of Great Britain’s Imperial Bureau of Nutrition, declared at the meeting of the American Public Health Association.

If we bring to all the peoples of the world food and housing that meets the standards which the public health and medical professions have set for health, we shall have no economic, political, agricultural or trade problems or depressions after the war, he predicted.

This will mean great sacrifices for the wealthy nations for a long time after the war is won, but, Sir John declared, “the nation which gives most and quickest after the war is the nation which will attain world leadership and which will gain for itself agricultural and economic relief.”

Sir John indicated that the idea of many people that we need a spiritual goal to fight this war is nonsense. If we must look to a spiritual concept, he said, we should turn to the greatest Physician of them all and remember that He fed the hungry.

“Thy kingdom come,” in the daily prayers of millions of people throughout the world, does not, Sir John declared, refer to any future spiritual world but to this earth on which we live.

We must get away from abstract “isms” and down to concrete terms such as tons of food in post-war planning.

We must, Sir John said, literally beat our broken tanks and guns into plows and tractors and houses, schools and sanitation facilities for people all over the world if we want to win everlasting peace.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

60-Hour Week Maximum

Little would be gained by longer hours, but much would be lost in health and efficiency, Safety Congress was told. Women present special problem.

► THE AMERICAN work week may increase to 60 hours, but if this is exceeded little will be gained and probably more will be lost in both output and health, Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, declared at the National Safety Congress meeting in Chicago.

“Today industry works at tremendous speed. The stress placed on men, associated with the emotional conditions inevitably occurring in times of war, brings about physical and mental breakdown in a higher percentage than in peacetime because men are driven in many instances far beyond their capacities,” Dr. Fishbein warned.

Illnesses of women in industry outnumber those of men. To maintain maximum health and production efficiency, Dr. Fishbein believes that women workers should have one day of rest in seven,

an eight-hour day except for temporary emergencies, sufficient meal and rest periods, and adequate medical care and other safeguards for health and safety.

Care of women in industry who are going to have babies is an important problem.

“In order to insure adequate medical supervision during this period,” Dr. Fishbein said, “particularly when the woman is a worker in industry, in order to provide the necessary prenatal care, to prevent sickness and disability of the mother and possible death of the child before birth or at the time of birth, in order to maintain for the nation as a whole an adequate birth rate in relation to the great number of lives that will be lost in the war effort, the medical profession and public health officers might well consider at this time the desirability of having a report made to



STUDY—Non-commissioned officers of the British Royal Air Force are studying gun turret equipment in a course conducted by the General Electric Company to make United Nations representatives familiar with American-made aircraft armament.

the health department of the city or county at the time when the diagnosis of pregnancy is made so that public agencies may insure adequate prenatal care and medical supervision to prospective mothers.”

By such planning and organization on the part of physicians it is expected that proper medical care can be maintained for civilians as well as the armed forces.

Today we still have better than one doctor for every 1,500 people, compared to a doctor for every 2,700 people in England, and reportedly as few as one for every 12,000 Germans.

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BOTANY

Mold That Makes Molds Moldy Found in Britain

► A VEGETABLE version of the old jingle about “big fleas have little fleas upon their back that bite ’em” might be based on a report of a mold that makes other molds moldy, by Prof. C. G. Dobbs of King’s College, London. (*Nature*, Sept. 12)

The parasitic mold has been identified as belonging to the genus *Piptocephalis*. It preys upon the blue-mold group, various members of which ripen cheese and spoil fruit. It has also been found able to attack the black molds known commonly as bread-molds.

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