

The course in medical education has been shortened by about a year and a half. Enrollment has been increased in the medical schools by running two shifts. Much of the time gained by shortening the medical course has been at the expense of vacation periods, therefore the curriculum has not been curtailed to the extent that the shortened period of training would indicate. However, such subjects as "The Theory of Race Superiority" continued to hold an important place in the medical curriculum at the expense of essential subjects.

Cultists May Practice

Groups comparable to our medical "cultists," who formerly were not recognized as trained in the science of medicine, have been allowed to practice. They have been recognized by the government as medical practitioners with rights similar to the rights of regular physicians. Unquestionably, this practice has lowered medical standards, although not to the extent one might have expected, since medical "cultists," never have been strong in Germany.

Many physicians, who had been made reserve officers in the German army, had been placed on active duty to care for army cases in local hospitals, but were permitted to continue their civilian practice on the side.

Compared with our American hospitals, German institutions even before the war seemed poorly equipped and poorly staffed as regards sub-professional personnel. The return of sick and wounded men from Russia and North Africa threw a tremendous burden upon the hospitals. As a result of the bed shortage, the sanatoria and chronic disease hospitals have been emptied of their tuberculosis and cancer patients and their nonviolent psychotics. These evacuated patients have been dumped back into the civilian communities and required to work in the war industries, if able to perform any worthwhile work.

A great number of hotels and other similar structures easily adapted to the care of the sick have been taken over by the German government and converted into hospitals and convalescent homes. Buildings chosen for conversion have been located, preferably, in areas away from the war industries and where there would be less danger from air raids.

The epidemics which usually accompany war, and which have been expected in Germany, had not made their appearance up to May 1942. During the early months of the war, when air raid shelters



NAVY GOGGLES—Polarizing lenses filter out reflected glare and sunburn rays to conserve and sharpen the eyesight of American sailors. A control button rotates the lenses to adjust the amount of light admitted as shown in the photograph.

were poorly heated and poorly equipped, an increase in respiratory diseases was noted. After the Russian campaign was well under way, scattered cases of typhus fever among prisoners and soldiers on leave from the front caused concern, but typhus had not reached epidemic proportions when I left Germany.

Little could be learned about reserve supplies of essential medical and surgical materials for the German armed forces, but the supply available to civilian practice had passed the stage of scarcity and reached the stage of inadequacy. Such imported items as iodine, quinine, castor oil, and petroleum products, available only in limited quantities before the war, were shortly thereafter nonexistent in civilian practice. Ointments were being compounded with a non-fatty base and, on the whole, had little clinical value. There was a scarcity of practically every drug in common use, and these drugs—especially the narcotics, sedatives, and cathartics—were available only in small quantities.

Most surgical dressings consisted of a cellulose material resembling our well-known "facial tissues," with one layer of gauze as an outside covering to hold the bandage in place. Cotton was very scarce and adhesive tape was being fabricated of paper. A limited supply of sur-

gical instruments was obtainable in large cities, but their manufacture was discontinued, except for items in everyday use, such as hypodermic syringes. The quality and workmanship of these were very poor. As a result, German pharmacists were apologetic for their inability to supply a doctor, but rather than admit a shortage of products, they placed all the blame on the transport system.

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RADIO

Radio Transmitters Help To Fight the War at Sea

See Front Cover

► ON THE COVER of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are shown long rows of radio transmitters for the Navy.

Many ships have not one but a number of transmitters and receivers of various frequencies and power as well as portable radio equipment and also equipment for detecting ships and planes. These are being built by the General Electric Company.

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The United States normally uses 500 billion matches a year, consuming 500 tons of steel for book-match staples alone.