



POLIO'S DAMAGE—Microscopic view above shows the normal nerve cells, the lower view shows the effect of the disease.

been a single large outbreak reported having the well-known characteristics of a water-borne outbreak of disease.

So the medical detectives search on, confident that some day they will solve the mystery of how the disease spreads and then be able to suggest ways of prevention.

Third, fourth and fifth fronts of the polio war are fought by doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, mental hygienists, teachers, parents and, above all, by the patients themselves. On these fronts are concentrated efforts to help the patient recover from infantile paralysis without crippling or deformity.

On this front is that valiant fighter, Miss Elizabeth Kenny, the Australian nurse whose "inherent mechanical ability" is credited by Dr. Gudakunst with having had much to do with the development of her now widely known and revolutionary method of treating infantile paralysis.

Meanwhile, for those already crippled with a short arm or leg or other deformity, surgeons have found many ways of correcting the trouble, such as alterations in the patients' tendons, bones, muscles and joints.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

AGRICULTURE

Need More Food Grown

Annual report of Secretary of Agriculture stresses need for more of all kinds of food except wheat. Steady on cotton and tobacco.

➤ **LESS WHEAT**, more meat; also more vegetables, eggs, dairy products, vegetable oils; steady on cotton and tobacco. This in a nutshell is the array of goals for American farmers in 1943, as summarized in Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard's annual report, just issued.

It is quite different from the agricultural aims of the last war period, when all the accent was on wheat. Ever since 1918, wheat has been produced in excess in this country, and with the war-caused total eclipse of export markets, it has been piling up. The national carry-over as of July, 1942, was 633,000,000 bushels,

to which the year's huge crop of about 984,000,000 bushels was added. The total is enough to meet all our bread needs for two years, even if no wheat at all should be harvested in the meantime.

In response to Department of Agriculture urgings and the stimulus of reasonably good meat prices, farmers and stock raisers have built up their herds to new highs. The cattle population reached nearly 75,000,000 head a year ago, and despite heavy slaughter is being maintained. Pigs topped the hundred-million mark with five million extra to spare—enough for nearly five-sixths of a whole hog apiece for every person in the country, except that we're sending part of our pork chops and bacon overseas to our armed forces and our fighting allies.

Use Surplus for Feed

Use of some of our surplus wheat for feeding livestock and chickens is recommended by Secretary Wickard, so that we may boost meat, milk and egg supplies, all of which need to be maintained at the highest attainable levels.

An additional outlet for wheat is the international pool set up by the four great wheat-raising countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and Argentina, for the eventual relief of war-ruined countries. This pool now consists of 100,000,000 bushels, and is to be increased as need arises.

With a cotton surplus of more than 11,000,000 bales on hand, and the mills unable to spin it up much faster than they are doing now, increases in cotton production are not being encouraged. Instead, cotton farmers are asked to shift over to peanuts (for oil) as far as possible, and also to substitute long-staple for short-staple varieties. Lower yields of the important co-product, cottonseed oil, are to be offset by increased production of other vegetable oils, notably soybean, flaxseed and peanut.

Tobacco stocks on hand are so large that no increase in acreage in this crop has been held justified, except in two types, flue-cured and Maryland, on which lend-lease requirements call for increases of about 10% over the 1942 figures.

Heaviest possible emphasis is being placed on vegetable production, both by large-scale professional growers and home gardeners. Military and lend-lease shipments call for immense quantities of dehydrated vegetables; and an intensive drive for the 1943 Victory gardens will soon be under way.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943