

MEDICINE - DENTISTRY

Post-War Dental Dream

Freedom from tooth decay in the post-war world may be possible through the use of fluorides in community drinking water supplies.

► EVIDENCE that one dream for the post-war world, freedom from tooth decay, is very likely to come true through use of fluorides in drinking water appeared in reports by Dr. H. Trendley Dean of the U. S. Public Health Service and Raymond J. Faust, assistant engineer of the Michigan State Department of Public Health.

"Carefully made epidemiological studies by the U. S. Public Health Service," Dr. Dean reported to the American Public Health Association meeting in New York, "show that school children using domestic waters containing as little as one part per million of fluoride experience only half to a third as much dental decay as comparable groups using a water that contains no fluoride.

"Lake Michigan, the Ohio, Mississippi and Potomac rivers are illustrations of fluoride-free waters, but of course there are many more.

"Far reaching mass control of dental decay in large population groups," he continued, "begins to loom up as a distinct possibility."

The amount of fluorine necessary to stop dental decay is not enough to cause the disfiguring mottled enamel that is found among users of water with higher fluorine concentrations. In fact, it is no more and in some cases less than the amount in water supplies now used daily by more than a million people in the United States.

Dr. Dean added one word of caution: Communities should not be hasty about adding fluorine to their water supply until careful studies show the safety of this measure in relation to other aspects of community health.

On the practical side, adding fluorine to public water supplies should not prove difficult or expensive, Mr. Faust said. It could be done with chemical feeding equipment of the type already in use and familiar to water plant operators.

The cost per person per year would be about seven-and-one-half cents. For a family of four the cost per year would be about 30 cents.

A simple, accurate color test must be developed, Mr. Faust said, so that water plant operators with little technical edu-

cation could routinely check the water to make sure the right amount of fluoride was being fed into it.

Science News Letter, October 23, 1943

Tuberculosis Threat

► VETERANS of the last World War are a major source of new tuberculosis cases in American communities today, and the situation will become much worse after the present war if its veterans who develop tuberculosis are not better handled, Dr. Louis I. Dublin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company warned at the meeting.

"The control of tuberculosis among veterans is necessary if we are ever to wipe out what still remains of tuberculosis in the United States," he declared.

Even now, 25 years after the last war, about 10,000 veterans with tuberculosis are admitted and discharged each year from veterans' hospitals, he reported.

The hospitals for various reasons lack control over their patients. Veterans with tuberculosis come and go at will. As a result, their condition deteriorates and sooner or later they die of their disease. Meanwhile they have given it to many others in their homes.

This "national tragedy" may grow worse after this war, Dr. Dublin said, because the larger number of men inducted into our armed forces may greatly increase the number of tuberculosis patients among the veterans of the future.

Science News Letter, October 23, 1943

Possible Post-War Plagues

► YELLOW FEVER and typhus fever are the chief war plagues which may affect this nation, it appears from the report of Dr. Wilbur A. Sawyer of the Rockefeller Foundation's International Health Division at the meeting.

Risk of our returning troops bringing with them either yellow fever, typhus fever or the lice that spread the latter seems almost nil. Those going to yellow fever or typhus fever regions are vaccinated against these diseases in advance, and efficient delousing measures are taken by the armed forces.

Infected persons other than soldiers and infected mosquitoes arriving via plane, however, could readily introduce yellow fever into this country. Public Health Service quarantine measures are stringent, but insurance against yellow fever could be increased, Dr. Sawyer suggested, by increased activity of health officers in certain southern states to eradicate the yellow fever mosquitoes we already have.

Typhus also may be brought in by others than returning troops. During the last World War, typhus fever was brought in from Mexico in working men and was widely distributed. Protection against epidemics starting from such importations depends both on quarantine and on keeping communities free of lice.

Science News Letter, October 23, 1943

ENGINEERING

Safety Door Construction For Automobiles Patented

► AMONG the safety devices for which patents were issued recently is a vehicle safety door construction (No. 2,331,340) invented by E. H. Mosher of Merion, Pa.

The door construction is particularly for automobiles to prevent the crushing of fingers when someone slams the door. The inner edge of the door-frame, or the inner edge of the door itself, is bevelled, and the space filled with a felt or other soft material attached to the frame or door. With this arrangement the fingers may be pinched but not crushed.

Science News Letter, October 23, 1943

**PREPARE NOW for
POST-WAR
OPPORTUNITIES
with LINGUAPHONE**

In your own home you can now prepare for peace-time opportunities in many fields by learning to speak in an amazingly short time any of 29 languages by the world-famous

LINGUAPHONE Ear-Eye METHOD
It's quick, easy, correct

SPANISH	JAPANESE	RUSSIAN
PORTUGUESE	FRENCH	GERMAN
ITALIAN	CHINESE	NORWEGIAN

and 20 others.

Successfully used by Army, Navy, Flying and Signal Corps and other services; in thousands of schools and colleges; endorsed by leading educators.

Send for FREE Book—
Call for FREE Demonstration

LINGUAPHONE INSTITUTE
31 RCA Bldg., Rockefeller Plaza, N. Y. (20)