

see whether there is a cinder or something in them or to apply compresses, should scrub his hands thoroughly immediately afterwards.

At work and at home, use your own towel, handkerchief, wash cloth and do not let anyone else use yours. This cuts

down the chance of picking up or passing along the infection. Make a habit of keeping your fingers away from your eyes. Fingers that touch eyes, to get out a cinder, for example, should be scrubbed before as well as after.

Science News Letter, December 16, 1944

the new electronic devices, supply gun crews with needed information about the guns they are firing, so that front-line batteries can be synchronized.

Science News Letter, December 16, 1944

Cooked vegetables that have been preserved by freezing contain less than one-third their original vitamin value.

Alpacas and vicunas have been crossed in Peru producing hybrids taller than vicunas and very resistant to cold; they have fine, silky, long wool said to be an improvement over the alpaca.

MEDICAL ECONOMICS

Medical Care for All

A group of 29 physicians, economists and administrators, organized as the Health Program Conference, has presented a new nation-wide health plan.

➤ A GROUP OF 29 physicians, economists and administrators, organized as the Health Program Conference, have come forward with a new nation-wide health and medical care program. Details appear in a report published by the Committee on Research in Medical Economics.

All or almost all of the population should be covered by the medical care system, these planners believe. Money for supporting it should come through contributory insurance required by law. It should be levied and collected from individuals and employers by the federal government. Taxation may be necessary to establish hospitals, medical centers and similar facilities and to pay for medical care for the indigent.

Administration of the program, however, should be handled locally, according to the proposed plan.

Policies should be determined by groups representing both the public and the medical profession. Public representation should cover the entire population, not any one class or organization.

Freedom of patients to choose and to change doctors and hospitals and of physicians to accept or refuse individual patients is provided.

Group practice is favored as being a most economical way of providing the best medical care. Health centers where the health department and preventive medical activities, the doctors, the hospital, and diagnostic laboratories and other facilities would all be together seem to be favored.

Voluntary agencies and health insurance plans already in operation, such as the Blue Cross, might be drawn into the nation-wide program and carry on their functions within it.

Three methods of paying physicians should be recognized: salary, capitation and, under certain circumstances, fee-for-

service. The latter method is called "the most open to abuse by patients and physicians" and the most costly to administer. It should be discouraged, the 29 planners believe.

Compensation to physicians should be adequate in terms of annual income and in consideration of professional incomes usual among physicians of comparable ages, specialties and types of community. It should be commensurate with the physician's skill, experience and responsibility. Methods of payment should be such as to stimulate competition among physicians on a professional basis and discourage it on a financial basis. The method of payment should be determined locally by the physicians in a community.

Science News Letter, December 16, 1944

ORDNANCE

Heavy Artillery Aided by New Electronic Equipment

➤ NEW ELECTRONIC equipment in the hands of ballistics experts of U. S. Army Ordnance increases the accuracy and extends the battle usefulness of American heavy artillery.

The new equipment, mounted on 2½-ton trucks, is capable of measuring the speed of projectiles that must hit targets up to 17 miles away within a time tolerance of a hundred thousandth of a second. It helps solve complicated problems involving such factors as the age of the gun, quality of ammunition, curvature of the earth, wind velocity, temperature and barometric pressure, enabling Ordnance men promptly to calibrate all types of heavy artillery weapons.

Old guns and howitzers cannot shoot as far as new weapons, and when guns are being fired together in battery at the same target allowances have to be made for each gun used. Ordnance calibration teams on the various battlefronts, using

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