

constitute truly a revolution in our understanding of the properties of matter," Prof. Lawrence said.

"We see that the production in the laboratory of accelerated particles in the 100 million electron volt range has opened up a rich domain for investigation. Perhaps, therefore, we should now be content to devote all our attention to the experimental attack on the problems in this field. But the very richness of the atomic phenomena already apparent in the 100 million electron volt level surely beckons us on to green pastures—the domain of billions of electron volts.

"It is, therefore, understandable that as soon as the synchrocyclotron was well

launched on its operating career, W. M. Brobeck, who was chiefly responsible for the engineering design of the great machine, should give some thought to the next step up the energy scale.

"It did not take him long to reach the conclusion that it was well within the realm of practical feasibility to construct a great proton accelerator for the 10 billion electron volt level. Indeed, he has already completed preliminary engineering designs."

Prof. Lawrence did not indicate any immediate plans for the machine's construction.

*Science News Letter, October 25, 1947*

*For other news from the Sheffield Centennial see pages 261, 262, 264.*

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## War on Cholera Mapped

Quarantine experts, who just met in Geneva, planned strategy to stop cholera in Egypt and wipe out this disease, if possible, to prevent future outbreaks.

► IMMEDIATELY needed in Egypt's fight against cholera are 100 more ambulances to transport patients and suspected cholera victims to hospitals, Dr. Mohamed Nasib Bey, undersecretary of state for quarantine, Ministry of Health, Alexandria, reported to the World Health Organization's special committee on quarantine which met in Geneva.

The cholera epidemic in Egypt is essentially limited to rural areas, and rigorous control measures are being taken to prevent its further spread, Dr. Bey reported.

Measures to prevent importation of cholera into countries connected with Egypt by land, sea and air already taken by those countries are more rigorous, the WHO committee found to its surprise, than those recommended by international sanitary conventions and even more rigorous than the situation apparently calls for.

With hospitals in Egypt under virtual military control and travel there limited to official business, the world's chiefs of staff for epidemic control met to map further strategy in the war on this disease.

They had really two fights to plan. One is the immediate battle to stop cholera in Egypt and keep it from spreading to other parts of the world. The other is the war to wipe out this enemy, if possible, so there will be no future outbreaks to endanger world health. This

war will be a long one, since it must involve improvements in sanitation in many parts of the world.

The possibility of cholera spreading to Palestine to add to that land's troubles is believed remote. So far, no cholera has been reported to the World Health Organization from either Palestine or Saudi Arabia.

Reason for Egypt's military control over hospitals is to keep patients from leaving while they may still be discharging cholera germs in their body wastes. Steps must also be taken to find cholera carriers outside of hospitals and bring them under control.

Guards have been posted, as well as placards, to keep people from using water supplies that have been found contaminated with cholera germs.

Part of the million units of cholera vaccine being made available by China will be flown to Saudi-Arabia. It will be used to vaccinate the local population in and near Jidda, seaport where thousands of Moslem pilgrims converge during their trips to Mecca and other Holy cities in Arabia. The pilgrims are required to take cholera vaccination and other health safeguards before they are permitted to leave their homelands on these pilgrimages.

U. S. foreign quarantine regulations to prevent cholera getting into this country from abroad require that boats and planes take certain precautions before

departure and while en route from regions where cholera exists. Not only must passengers be vaccinated, but luggage and any other articles shipped on the boat or plane must be inspected to make sure they are not contaminated. Sterilization of such articles may be required. Food and water supplies for the trip must be safe and food handlers must be instructed in proper precautions to avoid contamination. In case of doubt, water must be boiled and all food cooked. On arrival in this country, Public Health Service officers take over. They make sure that no case of cholera is aboard and that all have been vaccinated. If there is a case aboard, passengers and crew are held in quarantine for five days. This is the time it takes for cholera to develop.

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