

hand, no budget planning for an airborne operating room has yet been done.

With proper equipment, it could serve also as a forward photographic laboratory to give combat units quick information from aerial photographs. Outfitted as a kitchen, it could provide hot food for fighting men.

The advantage of this new airplane is that it can deposit its cargo compartment, which is bigger in bulk than the plane itself, wherever needed and then take off to pick up another compartment to carry it where wanted.

In its functions the plane is somewhat like the powered units that haul giant trailers on highways. When the tractor unit reaches its destination for loading or unloading, it is transferred to another trailer to start on another highway trip.

In general appearances while in flight, this new plane, built in Hagerstown, Md., by Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corpora-

tion for the U. S. Air Force, is similar to the well-known Fairchild Packet. Its cargo compartment fits snugly to the belly of the long slim plane itself, appearing as an integrated unit.

The carrier plane, as the powered unit might be called, has wing-mounted engines, and struts extending to its landing gear long enough to permit it to straddle a cargo compartment on the ground. When the compartment is attached, the plane takes it off through the air.

Wider use of the cargo compartment is promised with a helicopter carrier under development by the Piasecki Helicopter Corporation, Morton, Pa., according to a Fairchild announcement made within the year. The idea is that the helicopter would be able to straddle a compartment deposited on a nearby airfield and carry it into rough country where airplane runways do not exist but where fighting men need equipment and supplies.

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further the health of the American people.

At the present the Surgeon General, Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, does not think any additional institutes are needed or will be in the immediate future. The rheumatism institute includes "metabolic diseases" which, he explained, takes in a wide variety of chronic diseases such as diabetes and various glandular disorders. Deafness, he added, might well be included in the field covered by neurological institute.

Each of the two new institutes will have its own advisory council, just as the existing institutes now have. Each of the councils, new and old, will in the future have half its membership made up of lay persons and the other half of doctors or dentists or other scientists.

Before passage of the new law, there were six National Institutes of Health dealing with cancer, heart diseases, dentistry, mental health, experimental biology and medicine, and microbiology.

Research into rehabilitation for patients already afflicted with crippling and disabling diseases will be pushed as part of the program of the new neurological institute.

While the new and old institutes will be primarily devoted to attacks on diseases through research into causes, treatment and prevention, some of their work will be carried on through training of future scientific specialists and some will be devoted to fundamental research of the kind that often does not look immediately practical. The value of this kind of research was shown during World War II and, more recently, in the discovery of cortisone for arthritis.

Science News Letter, September 2, 1950

## MEDICINE

# Anti-Disease Bill Passes

**The Omnibus Research Bill which declares total war upon disease has passed. Two new research institutes will be established.**

► THE U. S. Public Health Service is set to fight total war against disease, now that the so-called Omnibus Research Bill has been signed by President Truman and become law.

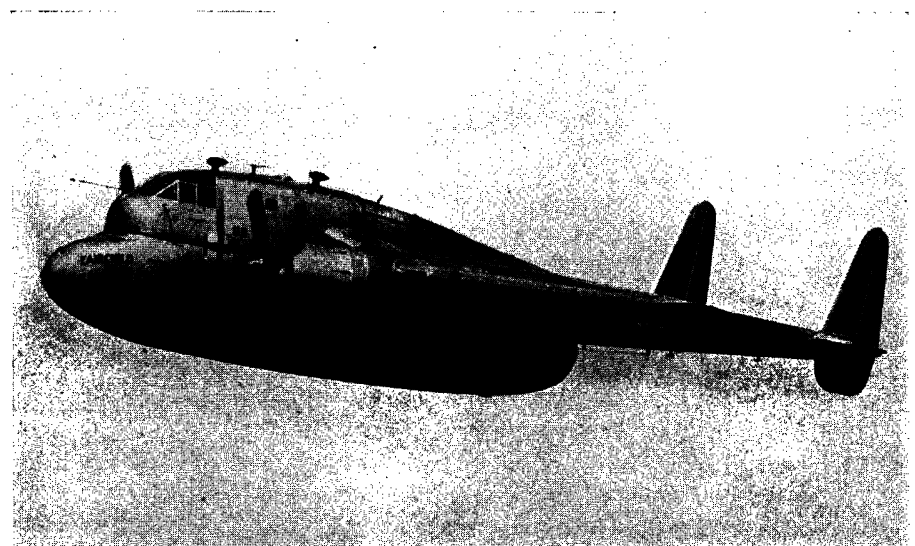
As a result, your heart may beat longer, your joints may never stiffen with rheumatism, your children may never know the pain of toothache, you may be spared the anguish of seeing a child or grandchild forced to grope through life with blind eyes or chained to a wheel chair because of some disease like multiple sclerosis.

The new law authorizes the federal health service, through its National Institutes of Health, to attack disease on a broad front ranging from cancer and heart trouble to blindness, deafness and some of the mystery diseases in which nerves, muscles and bones fail to work properly.

The hopes and prayers of millions of sufferers from multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, rheumatism and arthritis, are one step nearer fulfillment because of the broadened range of research and training which will become possible if funds are appropriated to put the provisions of this law into effect.

Specifically, two new national research institutes are authorized. These are: 1. National Institute on Arthritis, Rheumatism and Metabolic Diseases, and 2. National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. But the new law also authorizes

the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service to establish one or more additional institutes dealing with other diseases, for example, poliomyelitis and leprosy, whenever he considers these needed to improve



**FIRST DETACHABLE FUSELAGE**—The giant detachable cargo compartment in a military transport allows for faster ground handling and loading times. The compartment can also be fitted out as a surgical operating room or a forward photographic laboratory for advanced areas.