

PUBLIC HEALTH

Plans Stress Home Care

► AMERICANS learn from the British when it comes to more effective home care for the sick.

The chief medical officers of both nations' health services in addressing the American Hospital Association in Atlantic City, N. J., found common ground in how to care for the ill outside of hospitals.

The British National Health Service, frequent target of American doctors as socialized medicine, is not "necessarily suitable to another country," Dr. George E. Godber, chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health, said.

But Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, said he was particularly interested in the British idea of comprehensive home care.

Dr. Godber said the British plan for organizing medical care is that the hospital should become a medical and reference center where all doctors in the area meet. Medical care depends foremost on the family doctor, and 49 out of 50 patients have enrolled with one physician. But the specialist works mainly in hospitals.

British physicians are expanding their group practice, he explained. This means

that four or five doctors, working with health visitors, home nurses and midwives, can serve 10,000 people.

"Medical care cannot stand alone," Dr. Godber said. "It is part of a wide pattern of social service in which the doctor must work with many others with different training and experience from his own."

Most of the British chronically ill are old and frail, he said, but through intensive hospital treatment during short periods of acute illness, they can be returned to their homes for geriatric care.

Dr. Godber feels hospitals should be used only for the things they must do to support the greater value of home care.

He predicted a decline by 1975 of mentally ill patients who need to occupy hospital beds in Britain. Through increased use of tranquilizers and psychiatric care, home care can be substituted and patients returned to society to live, instead of merely existing.

Dr. Terry said arrangements had been made with Dr. Godber for a number of United Kingdom this fall to study British methods of caring for long-term patients.

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INVENTION

Patents of the Week

► A SUBSCRIPTION television system described as "unique and inexpensive" has been patented. Paramount Pictures Corporation, New York, was assigned rights to patent No. 3,001,011, awarded to Phil H. Weiss, Panorama City, Calif., and Abraham M. Reiter, Reseda, Calif.

Features stressed by the inventors are the "excellent security" given broadcasters by the equipment used in scrambled program transmission, plus the alleged low cost of the unscrambling coin box attachment for home receivers.

A Federal Communications Commission spokesman said that no applications involving use of the Paramount pay-TV system have been received. Although interest in pay-TV is high, the only application currently on file is from Hartford, Conn., where a test of Zenith's "Phonevision" system is contemplated. Closed-circuit systems such as Telemeter, due for trial in Little Rock, Ark., are not under FCC jurisdiction.

With the Paramount system, non-subscribers or unpaid subscribers see only a "gray-level" signal, transmitted instead of the usual horizontal blanking and synchronizing pulses. The coin box is mounted between the antenna and the set's antenna terminals. When it is activated, a pulse generator reshapes incoming signals into a clear picture.

To foil those who just want to listen without paying, sound is transmitted on two different channels and switched back and forth at irregular intervals. The pro-

gram sound heard by paid viewers is replaced from time to time, on unpaid sets, by "very annoying" sounds from what is called the "nonsense audio," the inventors explained.

A third sound system, called "barker audio," can be used at intervals to tell subscribers what is playing and how much it costs. The "barker" hushes when the fee is paid.

A subscriber can deposit cash, or merely push a button on the box, causing a recording to be made that signifies his intention of "buying" the program and being billed for it later. He can then be told by the "barker" how to set two manually operated controls on the box so that selector switches are in their correct positions.

A method of preparing a vaccine to immunize dogs against infectious canine hepatitis won patent No. 3,000,788 for Jerrell B. Emery, Zionsville, Ind. Rights were assigned to the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich.

The process involves growing canine hepatitis virus in cultures of pig kidney, then harvesting the virus-containing fluids after five to seven days. The discovery that pig kidney cultures can be used in vaccine production is important commercially, the inventor said, because pig kidneys are cheaper and more readily obtainable than the canine kidneys previously used.

An "audible fishing lure," designed to attract fish by duplicating the intermittent sounds produced by small animals such as

frogs, won patent No. 3,000,130 for Henry Pankuch, Los Angeles, Calif. When the torpedo-shaped plastic lure is drawn through the water, a metal propeller turns, causing two small extensions to engage a row of metal teeth and produce an audible tone.

Patent No. 3,000,262 was issued to Jacob Rabinow, Takoma Park, Md., and Arthur O. Morse, Kensington, Md., for a photoelectrically controlled rearview mirror for automobiles.

Operating automatically with no attention from the driver required, the device uses photocells to control the mirror's reflective power and cut down the glare from the headlights of a car behind if the light intensity is too bright.

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