

Problems of distributing drugs and vaccines within developing countries are a major concern, exemplified by the 80 million children born each year who do not receive immunizations. The conference participants deplored the lack in many countries of health "infrastructure" to provide care to the majority of the people. Fattorusso said that in many developing countries, health services are "Western-styled," based on city hospitals that, with 80 percent of the health budget, cater to only 20 percent of the population. However, Fattorusso believes that new ideas in health care, beginning in the villages and city slums, are breaking the "logjam" in extending health care. Similarly, Perkins reported that 42 countries are currently developing infrastructures for vaccine delivery.

The purpose of the conference was to guide the Institute of Medicine in recommending an international health policy for the United States. Senator Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) spoke of the moral and humanitarian obligation of this country, as well as the need to act in enlightened self-interest on health matters. Schweiker said he plans to sponsor a bill that will call for development of international health expertise in U.S. academic health science centers, and he proposes that an office of international health be created within HEW. Both Senators Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) said they were introducing international health bills to Congress this session. Gilbert S. Omenn reviewed President Carter's commitment to United States participation in worldwide health efforts and pointed out that Carter included funds in the recent budget for a new federal agency, the Foundation for International Technological Cooperation, to mobilize science and technology for the needs of developing countries. Currently more than 20 separate federal agencies deal with international health problems.

The most basic question, raised several times at the conference, but not discussed extensively on the main agenda, was what should be the priority of providing drugs and vaccines to people whose problems are rooted in poverty, malnutrition and lack of sanitation. In concluding the meeting, Schweiker cautioned that the United States must assess its own strengths and weaknesses in deciding how to provide aid. He said there is no question of the country having a great deal to offer in health technology and scientific expertise. However he says, "I believe it would be fair to conclude that a nation that has traded the health problems of infectious diseases for those of environmental degradation and such unhealthy behavior patterns as overeating, over-drinking and stress, may not be in the best position to offer solutions to complex social and environmental problems in other countries." Schweiker challenges, "We must share our expertise, and not export our mistakes." □

Infectious arthritis in the Midwest

Although several kinds of infectious arthritis are known to occur in Africa, infectious arthritis was not identified in the United States until the mid-1970s, when a clustering of the disease was discovered in persons living in Lyme, Conn. (SN: 6/19/76, p. 389). Hence it was dubbed "Lyme arthritis."

Since then, sporadic cases of the disease have also been found in other areas of Connecticut than Lyme, and in western Rhode Island, Cape Cod, Mass., and Long Island, N.Y. And now three cases of Lyme arthritis have surfaced in the Midwest as well — in Wisconsin — according to a report in the Feb. 2 *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* by Randall F. Dryer, Paul G. Goellner and Alexander S. Carney of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa.

The three Wisconsin cases, like those in the East, were characterized by severe, but self-limiting systemic symptoms and subsequent periodic episodes of arthritis that grew milder with time and that eventually disappeared. These cases, like the nearly 100 already diagnosed in the East, likewise appear to be transmitted by a tick (SN: 6/10/78, p. 375). All three victims had been camping in northwest Wisconsin, and all three had been bitten by ticks prior to acquiring their symptoms. One of the patients, in fact, was found to have numerous ticks in his hair and skin when he saw a physician about his condition.

Although a tick carries Lyme arthritis, the actual infectious agent that causes the disease must be some organism present in or on the tick. Scientists suspect a virus. □

Shuttle: Named and aimed

The first orbital flight of the space shuttle is now being aimed for a target date of Nov. 9, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This is not claimed to be a hard and fast launch date, but a tentative one against which to schedule remaining milestones such as tests and delivery deadlines — assuming that no further mishaps befall the repeatedly delayed program. The vehicle making the flight has been named Columbia, after various historical vessels of exploration including one of the first world-circling U.S. Navy ships and the Apollo 11 command module, which circled the moon during the first manned lunar landing in 1969. Subsequent shuttles will be named Challenger, Discovery and Atlantis. The shuttle Enterprise (named for the starship of television's "Star Trek"), which got off the ground several times with the aid of a 747 jet, is now considered likely to spend its remaining career as an earthbound testbed. □

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THE SHROUD OF TURIN: The Burial Cloth of Jesus Christ? — Ian Wilson — Doubleday, 1978, 272 p., illus., \$10. New research on the Shroud — the recently published findings of the Italian Commission of 1973, the pollen analysis by Max Frei, the author's work on the problems of the history of the Shroud before the 14th century and the research by Drs. Jackson and Jumper of the USAF Academy (See SN: 12/30/78, p. 442).

SOLAR ENERGY IN AMERICA — William D. Metz and Allen L. Hammond — AAAS, 1978, 239 p., illus., \$18.50, paper, \$8.50. Examines the diverse technologies that depend upon the sun for their energy source, evaluates the potential and problems of each and discusses their short-term and long-range prospects.

SOLVE IT!: A Perplexing Profusion of Puzzles — James F. Fixx — Doubleday, 1978, 94 p., illus., \$5.95. Written specifically with young people of above-average intelligence in mind. Most of the problems require an interesting logical leap of one sort or another; they call into play an ability to perform mental gymnastics.

SPONGES — Patricia R. Bergquist — U of Cal Pr, 1978, 268 p., illus., \$25. Sponge organization represents, according to the author, a peculiar, specialized evolutionary strategy and Bergquist takes, whenever possible, a functional approach in describing and interpreting the interactions within the sponge and between the sponge and its environment.

TELEVISION AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR — George Comstock et al — Columbia U Pr, 1978, 581 p., charts & graphs, \$16.95, paper, \$9.95. Sets forth what social and behavioral scientists have to say about the effects of television on human behavior from a survey of 2,500 sources.

THE TORY ISLANDERS: A People of the Celtic Fringe — Robin Fox — Cambridge U Pr, 1978, 210 p., illus., \$16.95, paper, \$5.95. Features of the social structure, such as kinship, land inheritance, marriage, genealogy, are analyzed and their relationships to each other are examined.

WHO GOES THERE?: The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe — Edward Edelson — Doubleday, 1979, 196 p., illus., \$8.95. What has been done, the current research and the possibilities for the future in the search for intelligent life in the universe.

WIND IN THE ROCK — Ann Zwinger — Harrow, 1978, 258 p., drawings by the author, \$15. The author-naturalist explores, mostly on foot, the five canyons of the Grand Gulch Plateau, which empty into the San Juan River in southeastern Utah. The book tells the area's history, describes the moon-like landscape, the plants and the animals of this inhospitable land.

YOU CAN HAVE A BABY: New Hope for the Childless, Including the Facts about Test Tube Births & Other New Techniques — Sherwin A. Kaufman — Nelson, 1978, 206 p., \$8.95. A gynecologist/obstetrician surveys the causes of infertility and presents many new techniques that have been developed to combat it.