



Nature No Nudist

"MOTHER Nature is not a nudist by choice. If left to her own ways, she will clothe herself in a lovely smock of forest trees, or at least in a sarong of weeds or prairie grasses."

So declared Prof. Raymond J. Pool of the University of Nebraska in his address as retiring vice president of the section on the botanical sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"I have been intimating that man, for thousands of years, has been running away with her clothes so persistently and so completely that she has had the greatest of difficulty to preserve her modesty. Perhaps the egocentric complex that has for so long time dominated white man in his attitudes toward nature and her primitive ways has finally felt the impact of such shocking demonstrations that we, in America, may pave the way for better times."

The "shocking demonstrations" to which Prof. Pool referred were such disasters as drought, dust storms and mud-laden floods, resulting in part at least from man's boasted "conquest of nature"—which backfired in his face when the climate took a turn for the worse after boom years of prairie-ripping.

Denying any claim that by resodding, reforestation and engineering works man can control all floods, check all dust storms, Prof. Pool nevertheless stated as his belief that such measures, coupled with more intelligent utilization of plowland and rangeland, can do much to reduce such phenomena.

"I would merely insist," he concluded, "that white man should cease to boast of having conquered nature. We should set about the humble task of learning more at her feet."

Science News Letter, January 20, 1940

MEDICINE

Physicians' Committee Formed For Medical Service Extension

Non-Profit, Non-Political Organization Intended To Educate Public Concerning Preventive Medicine

ORGANIZATION of the National Physicians' Committee for the Extension of Medical Service is announced by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Dec. 2), which describes its work as "of the nature of public relations activities."

Objectives of the new organization are said to be covered in the statement that it is "a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization for maintaining ethical and scientific standards and extending medical service to all the people . . . and for . . . cooperating with lay and medical institutions and groups, interested in the preservation of national health, to make more generally known the achievements and to safeguard the independence of American medicine."

The organization, officially launched in Chicago on Nov. 18, the day after the American Medical Association board of trustees held its fall meeting, is headed by an executive board which includes past-presidents and members of the board of trustees of the A.M.A.

"The organization is not, however, officially connected with the American Medical Association itself," states an editorial note in the *A.M.A. Journal*.

"Information elicited from the officials of the National Physicians' Committee," the *Journal* editor continues, "indicates that this group has been organized voluntarily to carry on the education of the public regarding the extension of medical service and preventive medicine. Their work is of the nature of public relations activities."

"The National Physicians' Committee," it is further pointed out, "is in a position to accept contributions from industrial and other organizations in order to aid this campaign. The American Medical Association itself has not in the past and does not now accept such contributions."

Among reasons for forming the new organization, stated by the management committee, are the following:

"If the ethical and scientific standards are to be maintained, the independence

of American medicine preserved and the public interest best served, American physicians must:

"1. Make possible the providing of medical service to the indigent and those in the low income groups, and insure the most widespread distribution of the most effective methods and equipment in medicine and surgery.

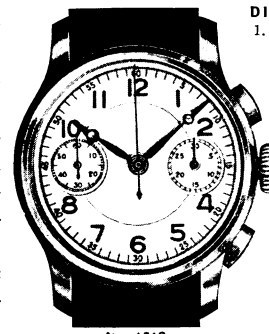
"2. Assume the responsibility of countering destructive propaganda by familiarizing the public with the facts in connection with the methods and the achievements of American medicine."

Officers of the new organization are: Dr. Edward H. Cary, Dallas, Texas, chairman; Dr. Austin A. Hayden, Chicago, secretary, and Dr. N. S. Davis III, Chicago, treasurer. Other members of the executive board are: Dr. Irvin Abell, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. F. F. Borzell, Philadelphia; Dr. William F. Braasch, Rochester, Minn.; Dr. John A. Hartwell, New York; Dr. Roger I. Lee, Boston; Dr. Alphonse McMahon, St. Louis; Dr. E. H. Skinner, Kansas City, Mo., and Dr. Charles B. Wright, Minneapolis.

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