

MEDICINE

59 Hospitals And Medical Schools Respond To Call

Chief Object of Organizing Now Is To Prepare Groups Used To Working Together; Limited to Officer Personnel

FIFTY-NINE of the nation's hospitals and medical schools have responded to the War Department's request to organize war hospital units for M-Day.

In all but a few of these institutions the units are now being organized. Formal notification that units will be organized is expected from the rest as soon as board or staff meetings can be held. Commissions in the Medical Corps Reserve of the U. S. Army are being prepared for some 1,500 physicians and surgeons now on the staffs of medical schools and hospitals who will serve as officers of their units when or if M-Day comes.

The 50 hospital units supplied by medical schools and hospitals during the World War were the backbone of our hospital service overseas in 1917 and 1918, Army medical officers state. Remembering the valiant service performed by these units at that time, the Surgeon General about a year ago decided to call on their sponsoring institutions again to prepare for another military emergency.

At the time of the World War, these hospital units were organized through the American Red Cross and equipped themselves. Today they are being organized through the Army which will also equip them. So far as possible, the units will carry their old names. Bellevue Hospital in New York, for example, which organized Base Hospital No. 1, is now organizing the 1st General Hospital.

Base hospitals are now called General Hospitals. M-Day plans call for 32 of these, 17 Evacuation Hospitals and 13 Surgical Hospitals to be organized by medical schools and large hospitals to serve as affiliated units of the medical department of the Army. The total of 62 such hospital units is called for by the Protective Mobilization Plan.

Peacetime organization of the affiliated hospital units is so far limited to officer personnel. Nurses, enlisted men and technicians will be enrolled later, the nurses and technicians probably through the American Red Cross, although insti-

tutions sponsoring the affiliated hospital units will probably be asked to make recommendations for some of these.

Chief object of organizing the officers now is to have ready at the very beginning groups of men used to working together. The efficiency and precision of a surgical team in the operating room has been perfected in most institutions to the point where the surgeon's assistants know so well how he operates that even in emergencies they will put into his outstretched hand the exact knife or forceps or other instruments he needs without a word being spoken.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientists And Physicians Listed For Defense

NATIONAL defense censuses of scientists, engineers and physicians are in prospect as a part of the accelerating mobilization of science and research to aid the government's gigantic military program.

Just as England, Canada and other nations listed their technically trained men and women in anticipation of war demands, steps are being taken to survey the available technical brain-power of America.

With the establishment of registers showing just what each scientist, engineer and physician can do and whether he is available for service, the government could bring to bear upon any problem the talents and skill of the best-equipped experts.

Most nearly mobilized is information upon the physicians of the nation. In the files of the American Medical Association at Chicago is information on all qualified physicians, hospitals, etc. By resolution adopted at the AMA convention in New York these facilities are put at the disposal of the nation as a matter of medical preparedness. It is likely that the more than 117,000 AMA physicians

This smooth teamwork will go forward even under the trying conditions of war surgery as a result of the way hospital units are now being organized. Another advantage of organizing units among men used to working together is that men working long hours with furious haste to repair war's grim ravages will be spared the added strain of taking orders from another doctor whose methods, because unfamiliar, may seem all wrong.

Organizing military medical services during peacetime has other angles. To take care of an army of 4,000,000 men, 30,000 doctors will be needed. The 15,000 medical reserve officers are sufficient to take care of immediate medical needs on M-Day, but more would be needed for a long war. To meet this need, without disrupting hospital and medical services behind the lines, and without getting any square pegs into round holes, the Surgeon General has asked the American Medical Association to assist in selecting physicians for war service if needed.

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will receive an inquiry asking them specifically about their availability for duty in an emergency. Many physicians are reserve officers in the medical corps of the Army and some 60 hospitals have organized hospital units that will be ready for service when and if army mobilization takes place.

A nation-wide census of 115,000 engineers and architects skilled in design and supervision of construction is underway by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Institute of Architects. Engineering and architectural firms, partnerships and individuals

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