

PUBLIC HEALTH

Mass Immunization Urged Where Children Face Bombing

IMMUNIZATION of all school children, in areas most likely to be bombed, against smallpox, diphtheria, typhoid and paratyphoid A and B, scarlet fever and whooping cough, to prevent mass epidemics, was urged by Dr.

G. F. Amyot, Provincial Health Officer of British Columbia.

Speaking in Washington before the annual conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, Dr. Amyot also called for

evacuation of children from schools to their homes instead of attempts to shelter them in one spot. This plan, he explained, would prevent large numbers of children from being killed by a single bomb.

Dr. Amyot suggested that youngsters be divided into small groups of three or four to be led to their homes by an older child in case of an air raid.

In advising the mass immunizations, Dr. Amyot reminded his listeners that sanitary protection against the communicable diseases breaks down during bombing, and that immunization may become the only remaining protection against epidemics.

Organization of plasma supply systems for communities threatened by bombing was urged at the conference by a number of speakers. Dr. William McKay of Utah stressed the importance of plasma in treating shock, the primary condition which seriously burned or wounded patients present to the surgeon.

He described the Utah state program in which the state laboratories prepare the plasma from blood supplied by communities, then provide the community with plasma according to the amount of blood furnished. By testing and processing the blood in state laboratories, plasma banks can be maintained much more cheaply than if the plasma were bought from commercial concerns, Dr. McKay said.

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Man put the *horse* to work as long ago as 3,000 B.C.

Soap and water are the best antidote to contact of the skin with *lewisite* or mustard gas, according to Dr. Joel Hildebrand of the University of California.

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