

control insect pests as well as weeds, and in cultivation we avoid turning the soil over to dry out, or covering its natural protection against erosion.

"It is much more than a new method

of cultivation or of soil conservation we are adopting," he concludes. "It is from top to bottom a new system of dry land farming."

*Science News Letter, November 7, 1942*

## PUBLIC HEALTH

## War on Venereal Ills

U. S. Public Health Service plans all-out attack on menace to war effort. Federal quarantine areas will be established if it becomes necessary.

► THE U. S. Public Health Service is preparing to go to the extreme limits of its authority in all-out war on venereal disease which threatens to sabotage our war effort by its inroads among the armed forces and the army of war industry workers.

Establishment of Federal quarantine areas has even been discussed, but officials are hoping this last resort will not be necessary. Instead they are going into immediate action on an alternate plan calling for State health department co-operation. First steps under this plan include:

1. Appointment of Dr. Udo J. Wile, professor of dermatology and syphilology at the University of Michigan Medical School, as medical director in the U. S. Public Health Service Reserve, to inaugurate and direct clinical work in an intensified drive on syphilis. Dr. Wile has just been released by the University of Michigan for this public service.

2. Establishment in critical war areas of perhaps 25 State-Federal quarantine hospitals for segregation and treatment of prostitutes and other recalcitrant persons capable of spreading syphilis. The Federal health service will staff and operate these hospitals, under Dr. Wile's

direction, with State health departments taking responsibility for rounding up and sending the prostitutes or others spreading syphilis. The Federal health service presumably will also find the hospitals and make them available to States lacking such facilities. CCC camps, it is thought, might be made available for this purpose.

3. Recruitment and training of 25 doctors, 60 nurses and 20 or more record analysts under Dr. Wile's direction. The first training course of six weeks is to start Nov. 15 at Ann Arbor, Mich. The doctors will get additional training in Detroit and the nurses at Cook County Hospital, Chicago. As more hospitals are set up, more doctors, nurses and analysts will be trained to staff them.

Intensive methods of treating syphilis, which apparently cure the patient in a few days or weeks, instead of the 18 months required by earlier programs, will be used in all quarantine hospitals. Part of Dr. Wile's job and the jobs of the newly-trained record analysts will be to determine which of these various quick treatments are most efficient and economical. So far most of them have only been used on small groups of patients and their effectiveness and safety need further evaluation.

The one-day combined chemical and fever treatment for syphilis developed by Dr. H. Worley Kendell and associates of Dayton, Ohio, is already being given a thorough trial under Federal-local health department cooperation at Wesley Hospital, Chicago. Dr. Kendell is in charge of the treatments there. This hospital, however, is not one of the quarantine hospitals, most of its patients coming voluntarily.

The record analysts, besides keeping records for evaluation of the new treatment methods, will also take charge of vocational guidance of the prostitutes

## ● RADIO

Saturday, November 14, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

D. W. Kaufman, chief chemical engineer of the International Salt Company, will discuss salt and describe its uses in war industries.

Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m., EWT

Science Clubs of America programs over WRUL, Boston, on 6.04, 9.70 and 11.73 megacycles.

One in a series of regular periods, over this short wave station to serve science clubs, particularly in the high schools, throughout the Americas. Have your science group listen in at this time.

Monday, November 9, 9:15 a.m., EWT; 2:30 p.m., CWT; 9:30 a.m., MWT; and 1:30 p.m., PWT

Science at Work, School of the Air of the Americas over the Columbia Broadcasting System, presented in cooperation with the National Education Association, Science Service and Science Clubs of America.

"Communications" will be the subject of the program.

after treatment and release. Long-time social and personality rehabilitation of the prostitutes may be undertaken later, but the present plan calls for job placement only. As one public health service worker put it, the idea is to "clean them up and get them jobs."

*Science News Letter, November 7, 1942*

## GENERAL SCIENCE

## German and Other Enemy Books To Be Republished

► SCIENTIFIC books of enemy origin will be made available for America's war and educational effort through the cooperation of the Office of Alien Property Custodian whenever there is a real need for them, according to plans now underway.

Through republication by any appropriate means, including photolithography, and microfilm, it is hoped to supply any research worker or library needing fundamental scientific treatises usually obtained from German or other enemy publishers.

The Alien Property Custodian has asked the cooperation of the American Documentation Institute, Science Service and other scientific organizations in obtaining information on what books of enemy origin should be made available under this new plan.

Research scientists, laboratories and libraries are requested to send suggestions as to books needed directly to the Alien Property Custodian, National Press Building, Washington, D. C.

*Science News Letter, November 7, 1942*

The browning or *rusting* of evergreens so apparent at this season of the year is nature's way of pruning these trees, and is not due to insects or disease.

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