

MEDICINE

# Social Security Urged

Members of the medical profession are told that they have no right to remain individualistic until that system works better than security.

► MEMBERS of the medical profession have no right to remain individualistic until individualism can do a better job than social security, Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, State Health Officer of North Carolina and president of the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, told fellow physicians and health officers at the conference meeting in Washington, D. C.

Quoting extensively from the Bible, Dr. Reynolds declared that man must continue striving to regain his biblical heritage of a robust, healthy old age, lost when he listened "to the vain promises of the world's first dictator, the serpent in Eden," and must, if he would survive, follow the admonition to become his brother's keeper.

"Even today," he declared, "we have too many Adam's sons—Cains—in the world of industry, labor and even in our own profession and in our churches that yield not to 'Am I my brother's keeper?' nor 'I am my brother's keeper' and thus failing, forfeit the right to survive."

Charging that "we physicians" are still individualistic, Dr. Reynolds also declared that to regiment medical service would destroy its efficiency. He presented a plan for solving the problem of getting medical care to those needing it as follows:

Organization of a board of directors comprised of the secretary and chairman of the executive committee of the state medical society; representatives from county medical societies; governmental

representation; state and county health officers; representatives from Public Welfare, Public Instruction, Parent-Teacher Associations, Hospital Boards, institutions for the blind, mental hygiene and civic clubs and philanthropic citizens.

This board should devise ways and means to "render service to its citizenry in preventive medicine, medical and surgical care: maternal and child hygiene, crippled children and care for the blind and insane. The financing of such an undertaking," he stated, "should come, not through state medicine, contract practice or regimentation, but through supplemental service."

The problem can and should be solved, he said, whereby the indigent can be cared for, the patient retaining the choice of his physician and the physician receiving remuneration on a fee basis for services rendered.

"It is being done at this time in many states in the case of the indigent crippled child, and to the satisfaction of orthopedic surgeons and hospital authorities," he pointed out. "If it can be done for one group, it can be done for all. What we need is action through organized leadership."

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MEDICINE

## Measures for Controlling Whooping Cough Given

► FOR EFFECTIVE control of whooping cough in any community, three measures are recommended in a bulletin from the Illinois State Medical Society. These measures are:

1. Early diagnosis with early quarantine during the early, most contagious period of the disease. This means the period before the whoop starts when the child appears only to have a cold with cough or bronchitis.

2. Strict isolation of all susceptible contacts for two weeks after last exposure. This especially includes exposed children not members of the household, neighbor children, for example, who have not had whooping cough and who played with the whoopers when they were coming down with the disease.

3. Routine prophylactic vaccination of all infants after the seventh month of life.

"Whooping cough is one of the most dreaded maladies of early childhood, not so much the disease itself as what it does," the medical society officials point out. "It is so prostrating, so depleting that, with younger children, complications may prove disastrous. Epidemics have shown a mortality of 20% or higher among children in the first two years.

A cold with running nose, tight, dry cough and perhaps a little fever in a child who has not had whooping cough should warn parents to call the doctor, particularly if the cough persists and grows worse at night. Every child with whooping cough should be under the care of a competent physician, so that all measures possible can be taken to protect him from complications of the disease. An attack of whooping cough breaks down the defense mechanism of the body to such an extent that other diseases may develop. The physician will advise about keeping the child warm, whether or not he should be kept in bed, and how he should be fed to keep up his resistance.

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INVENTION

## Invention Makes Fuses Safer in Handling

► WARLIKE inventions came to the fore again after a lull of considerable length in this particular field.

Prominent among them is a device for rendering sensitive impact fuses for artillery shells safer in handling, but surer in function after being fired. U. S. patent 2,314,891, issued on this device to Col. Wiley T. Moore of the U. S. Army, has been assigned by him to the government for manufacture and use without payment of royalty.

In one general type of impact fuse, it has been customary to "freeze" the firing pin by embedding it in a solid substance that melts or otherwise vanishes when the shell leaves the gun, setting the pin free to function. It would be better, however, if the pin could continue to have at least slight support until it strikes. Col. Moore accomplishes this by using a mixture of a melting and a non-melting substance, like fire-clay and sugar. Then, when the heat of firing melts the sugar, there is a fragile, easily crushed sponge of the refractory material still left around the pin, steadying it until the target is reached.

*Science News Letter, April 10, 1943*

### ANIMAL BREEDER

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