

PUBLIC HEALTH

Plasma for Civilians

The Red Cross will continue to operate the blood donor service which has successfully supplied blood, plasma and albumin to the armed forces.

➤ ONE ANSWER to the question of where to get blood and blood plasma for civilians now and in the postwar world is given in a new policy announced by the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross will continue to operate for civilians the blood donor service which has been so successful in supplying blood, plasma and albumin to the armed forces.

Victims of accidents and burns, mothers in childbirth and other patients desperately needing blood or one of its fractions will not, as in prewar days, have to depend on finding a relative, friend or professional donor with the right blood type. Doctors who have learned through their war experience to use blood and plasma liberally will not be hampered in their lifesaving efforts by lack of supplies of the vital fluid.

Details of the new Red Cross service are given in a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (July 7).

Red Cross chapters will be authorized to set up blood donor centers in communities requesting it. The centers will be operated in cooperation with a sponsoring health or medical agency which meets standards specified by the Red Cross. Such an agency might be a health department or a medical society. This agency would be responsible for technical operations, staff and equipment.

No charge may be made to patients, hospitals, clinics or physicians for the blood or blood derivatives. Costs of donor recruitment, operating costs and costs of processing the blood must be paid by some other means than charging the patient, doctor, hospital or clinic for the blood. In Michigan, the state is financing such a program and other states have appropriated money for this purpose.

The Red Cross will take part only in a blood donor program that services the entire community. Blood given by members of the community to the Red Cross must be freely available to anyone in the community needing it, seems to be the idea here.

If a community is serving as a source of blood for the Army and Navy, the Red Cross will not cooperate in a civil-

ian service unless the amount of blood required for civilians can be obtained over and above the needs of the armed forces.

Science News Letter, July 14, 1945

AERONAUTICS

Giant Clipper Capable of Five Miles a Minute

➤ A GIANT Clipper capable of cruising at five miles a minute and carrying 204 passengers will provide worldwide air service in postwar days within the means of the average man, it is announced by Pan American World Airways. It is the largest of four new Clippers for which plans are completed

which are designed to meet future requirements of international high-speed air transportation.

This largest Clipper is the Consolidated-Vultee six-engined CV-37, Clipper 11. It will carry a payload of slightly less than 50,000 pounds, made up of 204 passengers and 14,000 pounds of baggage, mail and express. With a speed of 340 miles per hour, it will be able to fly from New York to London in about nine hours. It will be pressurized and air-conditioned for operation at an altitude of 25,000 feet.

A double-decked Lockheed four-engined L-89, Clipper 10, will carry 128 passengers and a crew of 11 at 300 miles an hour with a range of 2,300 miles. Clipper 9 is a Douglas four-engined DC-7 which will carry 108 passengers at 300 miles an hour and will have a range of over 2,500 miles. Clipper 8 is a four-engined Lockheed Constellation for express schedules on medium-range routes of over 1,500 miles. Its speed is 300 miles per hour and its capacity 56 passengers.

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"BRAIN TEST"—The General Electric computer for accurate gunfire in the B-29 bombers is given an accuracy test. Inputs of range, elevation and azimuth, gun position, altitude, airspeed, and air temperature are introduced into the computer. Outputs consisting of elevation and azimuth correction angles are checked against calculated output data. Installed on a B-29, the computer automatically calculates with split-second precision the parallax, windage, gravity drop, and lead corrections and adds them into a total correction. Result is that the turrets are "fooled" into pointing their guns so that bullets and target arrive at the same point at the same time.