

PUBLIC HEALTH

## Six Dollars a Month

Will pay the family's sickness bills, including hospital, visits to the doctor's office and specialists, under new plan of the United Medical Service.

➤ ALL the family's bills for sickness, injury and childbirth can be paid for \$6 a month under a new, expanded medical care plan launched by United Medical Service, in New York.

The \$6 monthly cost breaks down into \$2 for hospital care under the Blue Cross plan and \$4 for the doctor's bills. This covers visits by the doctor to the patient in the hospital or in his home and visits by the patient to the doctor's office. It also includes payments for the services of qualified specialists when the patient's own doctor refers him to one.

Including payments for home and office visits and specialist's services is a new feature in medical care plans. This provision makes the United Medical Service plan the most comprehensive so far offered by any plan for meeting the costs of sickness.

For the present, no more than 25,000 persons will be able to participate in the expanded service, which is being offered to persons enrolled in groups of 50 or more in Associated Hospital Service of New York. If experience during the trial period justifies it, the service will be extended.

Individuals under the new plan will pay 80 cents a month for the hospitalization feature and \$2 for the doctor's bills. The family plan serves mother, father and all unmarried children under 18 years. Subscribers will be entitled to one visit a day from a general practitioner up to as many as 20 visits for any one illness, injury or pregnancy case. Additional visits may be authorized by United Medical Service.

The service provides full coverage for families with annual incomes up to \$2,500, and individuals up to \$1,800, and partial coverage for other enrolled subscribers. Unlike previous plans, contracts for the expanded service will be issued to employers instead of to individual subscribers. United Medical Service hopes employers will pay the medical service part of the contract if the employee is paying the Blue Cross hospitalization service.

United Medical Service will pay the participating physician \$2 for each visit from a subscriber to his office and \$3 for each visit he makes to the patient at

home or in the hospital. For any call after 8 p.m. the physician may make an additional charge which will not exceed \$2 for subscribers in the lower income brackets. For this group of subscribers such payments will constitute the participating physician's entire fee.

Specialists will be paid 50% toward an established base rate fee and will not charge more than the remaining 50% to subscribers with family incomes under \$2,500.

More than 8,000 physicians are cooperating in the combined services of United Medical Service, which is sponsored by the Medical Society of the State of New York and 17 county medical societies in the greater New York area.

*Science News Letter, September 15, 1945*

CHEMISTRY

## DDT Was First Given Suspicious Reception

➤ WHEN the first shipment of DDT was received in the United States it was given a somewhat suspicious reception, for fear of possible Nazi scheming to let Americans poison themselves with the then strange chemical, Dr. Fred C. Bishop, assistant chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, stated in an address before an audience of physicians.

Not that the shipment came from Germany; it was known to be authentically Swiss in origin. But it appeared to be a nerve poison, and it was thought that the German authorities might have given permission for the shipment to pass through territory which they controlled, in the hope that we might do ourselves some harm with it.

Subsequent tests demonstrated that in the forms in which it was prepared for insecticidal use, DDT is relatively harmless to human beings and other warm-blooded animals. In its first large-scale tests, in a louse-killing dust blown into the clothing of the inhabitants of North African and Italian cities, it stopped a menacing typhus fever epidemic; no subsequent harm to the people has been reported.

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**"SUNFLOWER SUE"**—A friendly little song sparrow selected the rakish rim of a turned-over sunflower head for her nesting site, (top). The cozy nest, lined with animal hairs, contained four bluish white eggs. Out of them came four hungry young. At times it seemed necessary for the mother bird to take time out from her bug-hunting routine. Photographs by George A. Smith, Quarryville, Pa.