

PUBLIC HEALTH

World Health Problems

Health-restoring tasks of World Health Organization include prevention of epidemics, centers for typing disease, and surveys on malaria.

► HALF A DOZEN urgent health restoring and perhaps life saving tasks face the World Health Organization now being planned by the United Nations Health Assembly in New York.

Studies of the migrations of infantile paralysis and of fluctuations in the severity of polio epidemics need to be made.

Maps need to be made showing the amount in countries round the world of virus diseases, such as atypical pneumonia and infectious hepatitis, known to the layman as jaundice.

Diseases like diphtheria, dysentery and influenza should be routinely typed in as many centers as possible. The new influenza vaccine gives protection against types A and B 'flu virus, but health authorities need to know, before advising vaccination of a population, whether A, B, or some other type is starting up in epidemic form.

On tuberculosis, venereal diseases and disorders resulting from malnutrition, extensive information must be gathered so authorities will know the problems to be faced and overcome.

New surveys on malaria are needed.

These necessary postwar tasks for preventing epidemics in Europe are outlined by Knud Stowman, chief of UNRRA's epidemiological information service. Reading his report, it is clear

that they are the sort of tasks the World Health Organization may be expected to take on, though Mr. Stowman does not himself make that suggestion.

When plans were drawn up for a new international health organization after World War I, he points out, not enough data were available for an exact appraisal of the epidemic situation in the whole of Europe. The situation is much better at present. The records, though in some countries less complete than before the outbreak of World War II, have been put to good use.

"The epidemic situation would certainly have been far worse than it is, and also far more uncomfortable to countries which had to protect themselves," Mr. Stowman declares, had not these records been made available.

"We may go back 300 years to the end of the Thirty Years War to find misery and social chaos comparable to that now prevailing in many parts of Central and East-Central Europe. Even so, material destruction is far greater now than then."

Modern preventive medicine alone, he declares, has prevented a 300-year relapse in the epidemic situation. As it is, the relapse has been to 50 years ago, when diphtheria and typhoid fever dominated and tuberculosis was epidemic.

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AERONAUTICS

Supersonic Flight Suit

► A PRESSURE suit that will support life in a vacuum and allow for complete mobility has been developed by the Army Air Forces for high-altitude, supersonic flight. The new suit will be available in two years, Brig. Gen. Malcolm C. Grow, air surgeon for the AAF and inventor of the famous flak suit used in World War II, predicted.

Gen. Grow said the new suit was designed to protect airmen from possible rupture of pressurized cabins at extremely high altitudes. He said that the ultimate development for safe escape from high speed planes at high altitude would

be a pressurized cabin or capsule that can be ejected with the person inside. This capsule would have its own parachute.

Tests have shown, he reported, that airmen can be forcibly ejected from a plane only up to a maximum speed of 450 miles per hour. After that, the human body cannot withstand the terrific pressure of the air.

Identifying future high-speed planes will pose another problem, the air surgeon said. He announced that tests are now being made with films at the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field,

Tex., to determine how fast a plane can be identified by the human eye. The films show a plane flying at 350 miles per hour and are stepped up to 1400 mph.

Describing the difficulties encountered in developing new equipment for changing conditions, Gen. Grow cited the light-weight AAF flak helmet as an example of improved equipment for protecting airmen. The flak helmet, using cold-rolled manganese steel instead of the heat process used in the M-1 infantry helmet, was produced only after many months of study, he said.

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ANIMAL NUTRITION

Corn Tassels Good Feed For Poultry, Livestock

► CORN TASSELS, normally discarded after being clipped from plants in producing seed for hybrid corn, make excellent feed for poultry and livestock.

Tassels taken just before pollen begins to shed contain approximately 12 times the vitamin A, eight times the vitamin B₂, twice the vitamin B₁, three times the niacin and three times the pantothenic acid potency of corn kernels. The protein level is also almost twice that of corn, J. M. Van Lanen, F. W. Tanner, Jr., and Shirley E. Pfeiffer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture discovered by analyzing tassels at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill.

Although tassels comprise a relatively small part of the corn plant, an acre of corn planted for hybrid seed production is estimated to yield around 270 pounds of dry tassels. Thousands of tons of feed material could be saved each year by collecting these tassels that, in producing hybrid corn, must be removed before the pollen begins to shed.

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the House Committee on Military Affairs for further consideration. None of these attempts succeeded.

Ten amendments were voted. Their general effects are: (1) to increase the weight of military representation on the Control Commission, (2) to relax somewhat the provisions for government ownership of all patents pertaining to the production of atomic energy, and (3) to increase security precautions. The amended bill went to a conference committee of the Senate and House.

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