

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# Need Medical Missionaries

A national institute for international health and medical research would contribute significantly to improving international relations, as well as to national well-being.

"GIVE AWAY" or "do good" are not the right names for the proposed Health-for-Peace bill, a Harvard professor told a House of Representatives subcommittee hearing.

The United States stands to gain as much, or more, than we give, Dr. Fredrick J. Stare, head of the department of nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health, said.

Just two examples of how the U. S. has already benefited from world-wide medical research are arteriosclerosis and a live polio vaccine. Clues obtained in international health studies were largely responsible for the interest in excess dietary fat as a possible cause of arteriosclerosis, heart disease and strokes. Current large scale vaccination programs with a live polio virus vaccine, being carried out in several countries, will be of direct importance to Americans, Dr. Stare pointed out.

From the economic side, the actual financial return on the investment in international medical research—an estimated \$50,000,000 a year—promises to be high. "A healthy, productive people are needed to expand our economy, to make money on which taxes can be levied," the scientist told the Congressmen. Reducing absenteeism, keeping more well people well and buying goods and services, and lightening the finan-

cial burden of medical care can all result with effective public health programs, he said.

"Balancing of the budget, in my opinion, should not be done by decreasing support of health and medical research, or I might add, support of education. To do so is false economy. Healthy people with good brains are what we need more of!" Dr. Stare stated.

He also reminded those attending the House subcommittee on health and safety hearings that the proposed bill for a National Institute for International Health and Medical Research would win friends for the U. S. All nations, including neutral, Iron Curtain and under-developed countries, welcome health and medical research aid and cooperation.

There are three points of "overriding importance in dealing with the massive disease problems in densely populated, less-developed regions," Dr. Stare said. These are: 1. prevention of disease and promotion of health among whole communities; 2. encouragement for the independent researcher, providing him with long-term salary support and teaching funds; and, 3. strengthening of existing institutions that educate key professional personnel for the attack on world health problems.

The Senate version of the bill, Senate Joint Resolution 41, was passed by the Senate on May 20 by a vote of 63 to 17. The House bill, H. J. Res. 211, is expected to come up for vote soon. The Senate bill provides for the establishment of a national institute for international health and medical research that would give the U. S. the "domestic machinery" for the maximum mobilization of its health research resources. Funds would be available to support research training and planning among scientists.

Science News Letter, August 15, 1959

## ROCKETS AND MISSILES

## High Flying Camera Snaps Sun and Earth's Curvature

### See Front Cover

A THOR missile described as having achieved "the first fully stabilized flight without pitch, yaw or spin" has given scientists a photograph showing the sun and the earth's curvature in one picture.

The photograph on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER shows the sun, right, and "piece" of the earth showing its curvature. The photograph was taken from approximately 300 miles above the earth during the July 24 flight of a U.S. Air Force Thor missile from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The 16 mm. camera was embedded in the nose cone which separated from the main stage of the missile as it neared its maximum distance from earth.

Controlled flight was possible through the use of two infrared sensors, which took "fixes" on the earth's horizon, and a detector that took a "fix" on the sun. The information was fed into a computer that controlled six pneumatic jets that, in turn, controlled the missile's flight.

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## GEOLOGY

## "Moonquake" Recorder Slated for Construction

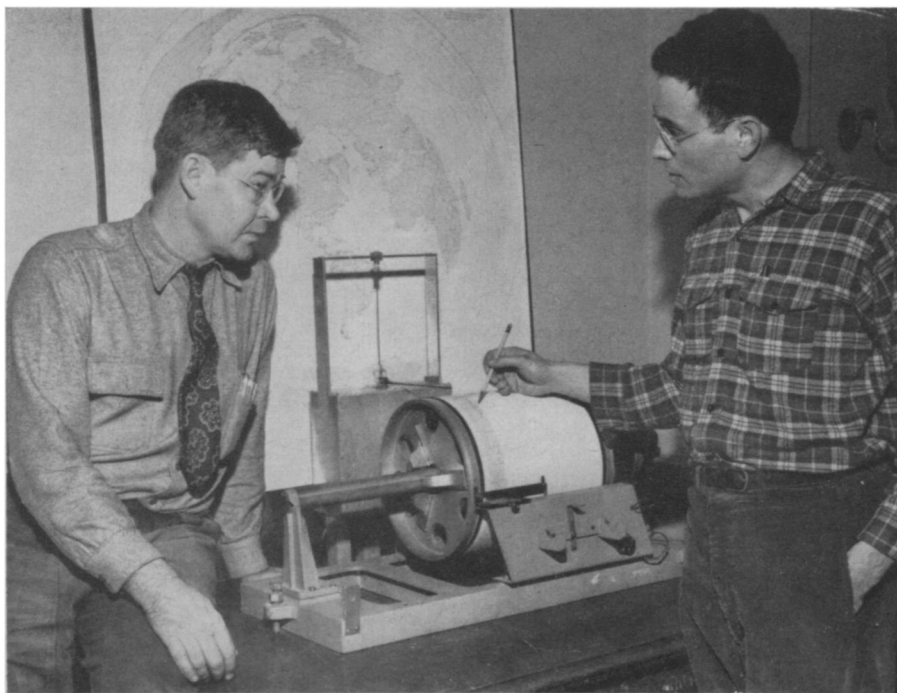
A RECORDER to detect earthquakes on the moon, then radio any information obtained to stations on earth will be built by scientists at Columbia University in New York and the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

Construction of the lunar seismograph, sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, may cost about a million dollars. Aim of the project is to meet space, weight and acceleration conditions encountered during the instrument's rocket trip to the moon.

The Caltech and Columbia scientists will design, build and test either vertical or three component lunar seismograph systems, or both. If the 10- to 20-pound instrument is successfully developed, NASA hopes to land it on the moon within five to six years.

Dr. Maurice Ewing, Columbia geology professor and director of Lamont Geological Observatory, and Dr. Frank Press, director of Caltech's Seismological Laboratory, will coordinate the joint efforts of the two institutions.

Science News Letter, August 15, 1959



**'QUAKE MEASURER**—Dr. Maurice Ewing (left) confers with Dr. Frank Press, director of California Institute of Technology's Seismological Observatory. They are watching a seismograph drum record earth tremors.