

PUBLIC HEALTH

Disaster Medical Care

► **MEDICAL SELF-HELP** training useful in any disaster situation will soon be offered to the American people. Whether or not present nuclear war dangers continue, free instruction will be provided by medical and health specialists for possible use in shelters all over the country.

Aimed at teaching families how to survive a national emergency, a student handbook of 12 lessons has been prepared along with an instructor's guide to be used by persons trained under doctors' supervision.

Dr. Carruth J. Wagner, chief, division of health mobilization, U.S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Frank W. Barton, secretary of the American Medical Association Committee on Disaster Medical Care of the Council on National Security, supervised the compilation of the training material. They will help initiate three nationwide workshops this fall and winter to introduce the lessons.

The first workshop was at Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, N.Y., Oct. 16-19. The other two will be at Alameda, Calif., Nov. 19-22, and at Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 4-7.

Approximately 100 professional health leaders will be oriented at these workshops. They will obtain training kits and return to their states to develop state programs.

Simple health lessons such as how to get rid of cockroaches and bedbugs will be

taught along with the less familiar techniques of caring for people and handling objects covered with radioactive dust.

How to deliver a baby; to immunize against such diseases as smallpox, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis; to care for various types of burns, are among the lessons.

The always useful techniques of artificial respiration, both mouth-to-mouth and the back-pressure arm-lift method, will be taught, along with methods of stopping bleeding, how to bandage wounds and take care of persons in shock.

Fractures and splinting, how to transport the injured and other techniques one needs

PUBLIC HEALTH

Gains in Latin America

► A **DROP** in the number of reported cases of six major diseases in Latin American countries was reported at the annual meeting of the Pan American Health Organization's directing council in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, council secretary and director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, listed leprosy, yellow fever, tuberculosis, polio, malaria and yaws as occur-

ring less frequently.

He also said that distribution of Incaparina, a low-cost health food developed by the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), has helped enrich the diet of poor families in Central America.

Incaparina is made from corn meal, sorghum, cottonseed flour and yeast. As a substitute for milk in the diet, it is particularly effective against malnutrition in children. The daily cost per child is about four cents.

A locally grown base food other than corn can be substituted in areas where corn is not available.

The council is comprised of health authorities from the United States and 20 other American republics, along with France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom on behalf of their territories in the Americas.

The organization will have a \$13,178,869 budget in 1962, a 7.9% increase over the 1961 figure. The money will be used to assist American republics with 303 health projects—49 more than the number carried out in 1961.

Funds come from quota assessments to member states, United Nations technical assistance allocations, the World Health Organization, and other sources.

Next year's plans include more work on malaria eradication, nutrition, and improving community water supplies.

Better statistical services to make planning less difficult and better health legislation are major needs in Latin America, Dr. Horwitz said. He pointed out that a 2.6% increase in population has not been accompanied by a proportional increase in economic resources and personnel to meet health needs.

He said the member states have made a significant contribution by recognizing that public health is a basic component of economic and social development.

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ZERO GRAVITY CELL—An electrolytic cell produces oxygen for space travel independent of natural gravity. The bottles demonstrate production of hydrogen and oxygen within the cell. (See story opposite page.)