

as well as children can get measles, and the Central and South American countries report higher death rates than those of some other countries where nutrition and medical facilities are better.

As recently as World War I, measles was among the communicable diseases that struck American soldiers.

In the sixteenth century the disease was epidemic in England, but it was not until the seventeenth century that Dr. Thomas Sydenham, an English physician, positively distinguished measles from other diseases with puzzling rashes.

Another physician mentioned in medical histories is Dr. Francis Home, a Scottish surgeon, who in 1765 reported mitigating the effects of measles and smallpox. He vaccinated children with material from measles patients and apparently produced some degree of immunity.

But the first known reference to measles in medical literature was in the tenth century by an Arab physician named Rhazes. He wrote a classic work still preserved, which he called a "Treatise on Smallpox and Measles," the first monograph on the subject.

In comparing the two diseases, Rhazes said "inquietude, nausea and anxiety are more frequent in the Measles than in the Smallpox." Ten centuries later, the anxiety may be laid to rest for both.

• Science News Letter, 80:306 November 4, 1961

AGRICULTURE

Soil Bank Senseless in Face of World Food Need

► THE WORLD'S population growth makes restrictions on United States farm production senseless "except as a stop-gap measure," and an inadequate policy for the 1960's, George McGovern, the director of the Food for Peace program, said at New London, N. H.

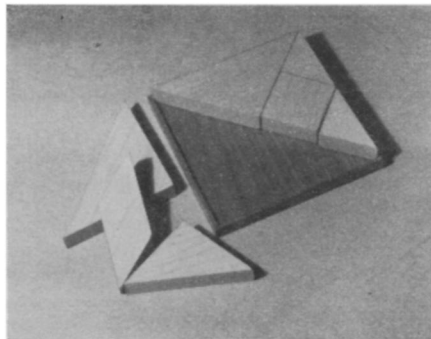
Instead of placing unused farmland in a soil bank, he urged that the U. S. do more to gear farm output to world needs, producing "more milk, more soybeans, more poultry meat, more rice, more fats and oils."

He said the U. S. should teach underdeveloped countries how to farm more efficiently, call upon private industry to help these countries develop better food handling and processing methods, and give our field technicians a better working knowledge of nutritional problems.

Mr. McGovern, speaking at the Food and Nutrition Conference at Colby Junior College, said future historians probably will be puzzled because so many Americans regarded their agricultural abundance as "a national headache" during the past decade.

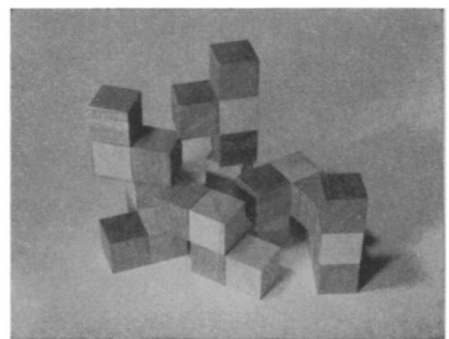
Soviet Premier Khrushchev, he said, is keenly aware of "food production as a high priority goal," and has reserved his sternest lectures for farmers with poor records. Mr. McGovern pointed out that the American farmer now produces enough to feed himself and 25 others, while the Soviet farmer is barely able to feed himself and four others.

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