

PUBLIC HEALTH

\$8,000,000 Fund to be Used In Guarding Nation's Health

A PROGRAM for spending \$8,000,000 for the promotion and protection of the health of the nation has been formulated by state and Federal public health officials.

The \$8,000,000 fund is expected to be provided by Congress in connection with the Social Security bill just passed. It will allow the local communities of the nation to go ahead with needed health programs to an extent never before possible.

The bill provides that the funds are to be allocated by the U. S. Public Health Service to the various states on the basis of three factors: population, special health problems, and financial needs. When an allotment is made to a state, the funds may then be given out when the state meets certain requirements with regard to health services rendered the public and the matching of Federal funds by the state legislatures.

In preliminary discussion of the program, the health officers emphasized the need for the selection of personnel on the basis of ability, training, and professional standing. Appointments on a political basis will be avoided, it was indicated.

The training of personnel to administer the public health work is one of the problems to be met, and may be aided by the new Federal funds. It will be possible for state health officers to select promising young professional men and women and send them to universities to receive advanced training for this type of work.

Members of the conference indicated that the money, if received, will be expended slowly and with care; returning part of the fund to the treasury if necessary in preference to hasty, unwise spending.

Half of the \$8,000,000 fund, or \$4,000,000 will be allocated to the states on a per capita basis. Of this amount, one half will be used to match, dollar for dollar, existing appropriations and the other half will be used to match new appropriations that may be made by state legislatures as a part of this expanding health program.

Another thirty per cent. of the total fund, \$2,400,000, will be devoted to an attack on the special health problems of

individual states, including the training of personnel so that they will be competent to handle them. The hookworm of the southern states, and the malaria of mosquito-ridden regions are among the special problems that this fund will be used to combat.

Since properly trained personnel is one of the major problems in a battle of this sort, one half of this \$2,400,000 fund will be devoted to the establishment of suitable training centers and the payment of the expenses of young professional men and women to fit them for this work.

Allocation of the remaining \$1,600,000 will be on the basis of financial need. A small part of this amount, \$400,000 will be distributed equally to all the 51 states and territories. The remainder, \$1,200,000, will be used for aiding those states least able to provide funds for adequate health service.

Science News Letter, June 29, 1935

ASTRONOMY

Rare Solar Eclipse Ends In Month Before It Starts

AN ECLIPSE of the sun that begins the month after it ends is the paradoxical event which will happen on June 30. If you happen to be at a point in northeastern Siberia, at latitude 59 degrees 56 minutes north, and longitude 124 degrees 35 minutes east, on July 1, at the time your watch, set to standard time for that part of the world, indicates 2:34 a. m., the sun will rise. As it does so, you will soon notice that a small piece is nicked out of the edge, as the moon is starting to pass in front of it.

But Siberia is rather inaccessible, so instead you may prefer a point in the Atlantic Ocean, north of the Canary Islands, at latitude 46 degrees 43 minutes north and longitude 23 degrees 19 minutes west, not far from the paths of some trans-Atlantic steamers. If you are there on the late afternoon of June 30, you will also see the sun covered by the moon. If your watch is set to the proper standard time, as it reads 7:25 p. m., the sun will be setting, and the moon will be just at that moment pass-

ing from in front of the sun. This will bring to an end the partial solar eclipse that you might have seen start in Siberia early the next morning, and the next month!

The paradox of the times of this eclipse is about the only thing to make it of more than passing interest. At no time, as seen from any part of the earth, will the moon completely cover the sun, producing a total eclipse. It is only at the time of a total eclipse that the astronomers can make the observations for which eclipse expeditions are often sent half way around the earth. Even where the coming eclipse is seen at its height, less than a third of the sun's diameter will be covered. In addition to northern Siberia, it will be seen from the British Isles, Norway, Sweden, Greenland, Iceland and the north pole.

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VOLCANOLOGY

Halemaumau, Lake of Fire, Expected to Erupt Soon

HAWAII'S most awesome volcanic spectacle, the great lake of fire in Halemaumau Pit, in Kilauea volcano, is expected to burst into eruption at any moment. So says Supt. Edward G. Wingate of Hawaii National Park.

Volcanologists had predicted an eruption to occur at about the time of the spring equinox, based upon previous cycles of volcanic activity and current indications such as earth tremors. The expected eruption did not materialize as scheduled, but the great volcanic pit is showing continuous activity and the indications are that the lake of fire may be expected to return soon to the crater.

The walls of Halemaumau are sliding daily, sometimes as separate rocks, sometimes in large masses. Meanwhile a solfatara, or small, geyserlike formation at the foot of the west wall, is pouring out blue fumes and is increasing in area and in brilliancy of color. The majority of the tremors recorded on the seismograph of the Volcano Observatory located on the rim of the crater are originating beneath or close to Kilauea.

The last eruption of this world-famous volcano, which began on September 6, 1934, resulted in the lake of fire remaining in the firepit for over a month. An interesting feature of that activity was the issuance of burning lava from vents in the walls which resulted in fire walls of molten lava cascading down 500 feet of the crater walls.

Science News Letter, June 29, 1935