

more persons in the United States are disabled by illness"—Miss Roche.

"There must be one standard of medical care for all"—Dr. Irvin Abell, president, American Medical Association.

"For \$1.98 per case per month emergency care of illness can be provided"—Miss Dorothy Caroline Kahn, director, Philadelphia County Relief Board.

"Compensation should be provided

for loss of working time due to illness"—William Green, president, A. F. of L.

"Some medical service today is shoddy at any price"—Dr. Hugh Cabot, Mayo Clinic.

"I rise in defense of the medical profession. We know what the problems are."—Dr. Olin West, Secretary, American Medical Association.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938

PUBLIC HEALTH

Incipient Uprising Among Consumers of Medical Service

"Consumers" of Medical Attention Feel That Better Service Can and Should Be Provided By the Profession

AN AIR of incipient uprising on the part of the consumers of medical service hovered over the National Health Conference.

Contrasted with the dogged insistence that all's well in the medical world as seen by American Medical Association representatives, the farmers, labor representatives the parents and the liberal faction in the medical profession made it very plain that all who are ill in mind and body are not being served as they could and should be.

This is largely an economic matter. Obviously scientists must learn about the cure and prevention of disease and there must be more accent on prevention in the future national health program, as Surgeon General Parran of the U. S. Public Health Service urged. But the

major immediate problem is how to get medical service to all the people and who is to pay the bills.

Among the consumers—"patients" to the doctors—which means you and me, there is a growing feeling that medical care is something that can be paid for under some insurance scheme, without any loss of quality of service or income by the average physician.

Over a hundred representative leaders of medicine, government, labor, agriculture, press, social service and other fields sat in this deliberative congress called by the committee coordinating federal health and welfare activities, headed by Miss Josephine Roche, Colorado industrialist and former assistant secretary of the Treasury.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938

PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Care Has Become A Major Political Issue

The Call for the Doctor and the Problem of How To Pay Him Have Become the Concerns of the Nation

THE GREAT problem of medical care for all has been projected by the three-day National Health Conference into a major position among the issues before the nation.

When political parties and candidates begin to build their platforms, hardly any who hope for success will dare to leave out a plank for some sort of pro-

gram for health and protection and medical care. The voice of labor, agriculture, and other consuming groups will be raised too insistently not to be heard and heeded.

Some phases of the \$850,000,000 per year health program outlined by the government experts will undoubtedly come before the next Congress, and

some provisions may rush to enactment with unanimous approval just as anti-cancer funds were voted by the last Congress.

Medical insurance, modeled along the lines of job insurance under social security is now emerging as a matter discussed by the people as well as the experts. In some American form, a new kind of compulsory, government administered "life" insurance for the living, paying the medical bills when the great disaster of illness comes, seems almost sure to become a part of our social order. How soon, is a question. Three years? Five years? A decade?

The prevailing feeling among physicians, as crystallized by leaders of the American Medical Association, is opposed to any change in the usual system of individual engagement of doctors on a fee basis. "State medicine" is anathema to most of them, although a leaven of growing hundreds, the informal Committee of Physicians, favor many general ideas of the conference.

Many physicians will join these liberals when they realize that it is the duty of the medical profession to respond to this national cry for the doctor, just as the family practitioner traditionally arises in the middle of the night to bring a new baby into the world.

Organized medicine at the conference just closed undoubtedly had impressed upon it the extraordinary fact that there is more demand for their commodity of disease prevention and treatment than they can supply. They were told that hundreds of practicing physicians are partially unemployed—with office hours too often leisure hours—while ill millions go untreated. It is a gigantic problem of distribution.

The public is calling for the doctor and trying to work out the best way to pay him. This is an old personal problem that is becoming a national issue. It is one that everyone will hear more about in the months to come.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1938

ARCHAEOLOGY

Arabs Misled Excavators With Chinese Bottles

ABOUT a hundred years ago, wily Arabs played a trick on tomb explorers in Egypt. And echoes of that trickery, which for a long time was not detected, still plague historians.

The trick worked in this fashion. Arabs around Thebes, where archaeologists were exploring Egyptian tombs,