

PUBLIC HEALTH

Physical Rehabilitation of Young Men Declared Vital

Commission Reports That Army Must Lower Standards Or Men Must Be Rebuilt Before or After Induction

THE NATION'S reservoir of young men able to pass Selective Service standards of physical fitness has been drained to the point where: (1) either the Army must lower its present standards, or (2) it must undertake physical rehabilitation of the men after induction or (3) a government-supported program of voluntary rehabilitation must be undertaken, the commission on physical rehabilitation reports. (*Journal, American Medical Association*, July 19.) Newly appointed chairman of the commission is Dr. George Baehr.

The commission "is authoritatively informed that the Army will maintain its present high physical standards of eligibility for military service and will not undertake rehabilitation after induction of men classified by Selective Service and Army induction boards as having remediable physical handicaps."

The commission therefore proposes a plan for voluntary rehabilitation which includes provision for special classification of the men by Selective Service and Army induction board physicians to indicate those having remediable physical handicaps. Registrants so classified are to be told of the condition causing the classification, advised to have it corrected, and given a date for reexamination and reclassification after a time allowance for correction of the defects.

Since it believes only a small proportion of the population will be able or willing to pay for corrective measures

to make them available for military or industrial service, the commission recommends Congressional action to defray the cost through federal defense appropriations to the Federal Security Agency.

"Action is required," the Commission declares, "along the lines of one or other of these alternatives (voluntary rehabilitation, Army rehabilitation, lowering of Army standards), for the present standards of physical eligibility have reduced the nation's reservoir of eligible registrants to a number far lower than had been anticipated."

Science News Letter, July 26, 1941

RESOURCES

India, Home of Sandbags, Seeks New Uses for Jute

INDIA, source of millions of sandbags used in air raid defense, is struggling through a jute crisis, in the topsy-turvy confusion of world trade. New uses for jute are being evolved and sought, as a development of the war.

India has shipped 912,000,000 sandbags made of jute for war purposes and has orders for 60,000,000 more, according to reports received at Washington, D. C. The United States continues to receive shipments of this cheap and useful sacking material, imported for gunny sacks, sandbags, camouflage and other purposes. But India's outlets for marketing its

annual five billion pound jute crop are so reduced that the crop this year is drastically restricted to about one-third of last year's, and research to find new uses is being pressed.

A cotton-jute fabric with cotton warp and jute weft, produced in India, has proved so promising as material for canvas for hose-pipes, tarpaulins and similar articles that 3,000,000 yards have been shipped to the United Kingdom. Jute fabrics as road building material are being tested.

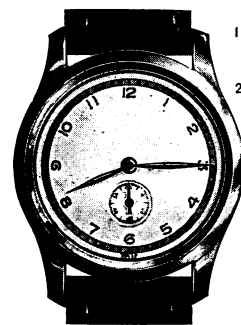
Scientists in India are being urged to study chemical processes for producing rayon and paper from jute, and also mixed fabrics such as jute-wool, which would be a source of cheap winter clothing for India.

One scientist comments that Germany probably used a good deal of pre-war jute she imported in producing woolenized material. The French army is said to have used some jute-wool uniform cloth. Since Germany has been cut off from jute sources—98% of the crop

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