

relative values of health work has estimated the value of food sanitation (exclusive of milk) at 10 on a scale of 1,000. He adds:

The small value here assigned may arouse protest, but who will argue that the laboratory is not five times as important, or baby nurses eight times as important, or the direct control of contagious diseases ten times as important as is food sanitation?

The prevention of food-borne infection at present can be best effected by (1) thorough heating, including especially milk pasteurization; (2) employment of healthy persons for food preparation and serving; (3) examination of food animals at or shortly before slaughter; (4) general cleanliness of surroundings where food is prepared or served; (5) use of food in a fresh condition. EDWIN O. JORDAN

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE GENERAL MEDICAL BOARD OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

THE general medical board of the Council of National Defense held a regular stated meeting in Washington on January 13. The meeting was an unusually enthusiastic one, even despite the fact that not a few members caught snowbound in the blizzard en route were unable to reach Washington on schedule time. The following members responded to the roll call: Dr. Franklin Martin, member of the advisory commission of the council, chairman; Dr. W. F. Snow, secretary; Surgeon General William C. Gorgas; Surgeon General William C. Braisted; Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson; Dr. Victor C. Vaughan; Dr. William H. Welch; Dr. Thomas S. Cullen; Dr. Edward P. Davis; Dr. Robert L. Dickinson; Dr. Philip Schuyler Doane; Dr. Joseph R. Eastman; Dr. John G. Clark; Dr. Duncan Eve, Sr.; Dr. S. McC. Hamill; Dr. W. H. G. Logan; Dr. Fred Bates Lund; Dr. John D. McLean; Dr. Rosalie Slaughter Morton; Miss M. Adelaide Nutting; Dr. Albert J. Ochsner; Dr. Hubert A. Royster; Dr. J. Bentley Squier; Dr. George David Stewart, and Dr. W. C. Woodward.

For the Army, Colonel Deane C. Howard, dealt at length with the recent perturbing epidemics of measles and pneumonia, but furnished the comforting news that both of these epidemics were at the present moment under adequate control. The admission rate for the past week was lower than it had been in some time, and it was hoped that both morbidity and mortality would in the very near future show a corresponding drop. Colonel Howard also pointed out the satisfactory status of the troops in regard to the venereal problem.

Admiral William C. Braisted, for the Navy, furnished assurance that the health conditions were all that could be desired, considering the factor of seasonal disease. The Navy also has been troubled with pneumonia, and was not a little concerned regarding the question of meningitis. Admiral Braisted expressed great gratification over the fact that his request for a meningitis segregation camp in Florida had been granted. It is hoped to isolate in this camp all meningitis carriers, and to care for them until they are once again safe and serviceable individuals.

Dr. Joseph Schereschewsky, for the Public Health Service, submitted a report detailing the health conditions in the various cantonment zones and what the Public Health Service has been doing to maintain these various zones in a state of good health.

Dr. T. Clark, who reported for the Red Cross, described the establishment of the four sanitary units that are cooperating with the other sanitary forces of the government in a most worthy attempt to aid in the maintenance of a high tone of public health, in addition to cooperating with those officials concerned in the direct maintenance of a low morbidity rate in the Army and Navy proper. Dr. Clark made it perfectly plain that the Red Cross was glad and willing to expend all that was legitimately necessary to accomplish any worthy purpose. If more than the present appropriation called for were needed, it would be forthcoming. If less were needed, there would naturally be a curtailment.

Major William F. Snow reinforced the earlier remarks of Colonel Howard on the prob-

lem of venereal disease in the Army, pointing out how easy it was to misinterpret statistics as applied to this topic, and emphasizing the need for continuous effort in the hope of maintaining the present standard of low morbidity.

For the Army General William C. Gorgas expressed satisfaction with the present state of health in the Army, although he emphasized the importance of the winter epidemics of measles, pneumonia and meningitis. He cautioned against the possible mistake of referring the pneumonia epidemics solely to the cold weather, and was inclined, rather, to feel that this was only an indirect cause. As a result of winter the men naturally segregate and are more closely housed. This may be the important factor, and not the cold weather itself. The general pointed out how this certainly is the case in smallpox, which is also a cold-weather disease, although not directly referable to winter itself, and how, during his service in the Tropics, he lived through epidemics of pneumonia among the troops much more severe than those that the Army health authorities are at present combating.

Major M. G. Seelig explained the principles involved in the daylight saving propaganda, and to aid in the passage of this bill through the House, the following resolution was approved:

Resolved, That the general medical board of the Council of National Defense indorse the plan of daylight saving and lend its influence in securing the passage of a law directed toward this end.

Dr. S. McC. Hamill reported for the committee on child welfare. This committee is made up of the following members: Dr. S. McC. Hamill (chairman), Dr. Fritz Talbot, Dr. H. T. Price, Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, Dr. J. Whitridge Williams, Miss Hannah J. Patterson, Mrs. Josiah E. Cowles, Dr. Grace L. Meigs, Mrs. Stanley McCormick, Miss Ella Phillips Crandall, Miss Julia C. Lathrop, Mr. Philander P. Claxton and Miss Dorothy Pope. They reported that it was decided for the present to center the attention of the committee on the preparation of a program covering the welfare of the mother, provision of intelligent obstetrical care, and the protection of the life

and health of the child during its first two years. The program of the committee in full covers all forms of child-welfare work, placing special emphasis upon maternal and infant mortality, and in this relation centering on details of birth registration, prenatal, obstetrical and infant care. Dr. Hamill presented a resolution directed toward securing the closer cooperation of the medical schools of the country along lines of child-welfare work. This resolution was referred to the executive committee.

Dr. Francis D. Patterson, chief of the division of industrial hygiene and engineering, Pennsylvania department of labor and industry, spoke on the subject of reconstruction, detailing at length the experience of England in reconstructing, rehabilitating, and reeducating her disabled men. Dr. Patterson pointed out the four distinct lines of effort essential in solving the problem of reconstruction. 1. Medical and surgical treatment of the injury and disease. 2. Vocational training. 3. Securing of employment. 4. Maintenance of medical supervision of the man after he has gone back into industry. He also emphasized the necessity of more or less planning of work in educating employers up to the point of recognizing the need of cooperation on their part in the proper utilization of the reconstructed soldier.

Dr. Joseph Schereschewsky made a report for the committee of industrial surgeons, outlining their aims as follows: To provide against unnecessary human waste in industry and society during war. To offset the drain on industry of man power caused by the raising of military forces. To meet the need for greatly increased production. To avoid preventable deaths and disabilities from accident and disease. To restore to full producing power in the shortest possible time sick and injured workers. To increase output by maintaining workers in good health. To provide healthful places in which to work. To provide healthful homes and communities in which to live. To meet shortage of medical service induced by military needs.

Dr. Edward P. Davis, of Philadelphia. sub-

mitted a report advocating the establishment of an auxiliary medical service corps. This corps is intended to utilize the services of those men who, either by age or physical disability, are disqualified from receiving a commission, but who nevertheless are potentially of service to the country and who greatly desire to render this service. The method of election to the medical service corps as recommended by Dr. Davis was as follows: The applicant is to apply by letter to the secretary of the state governing body, who shall mail to the applicant a printed form which, when properly completed, will give full information concerning the applicant and enable his proper classification according to training and special fitness. The name of the applicant, with information concerning him thus obtained, shall be submitted to the committee on elections. The final acceptance of a candidate for membership in this organization is to be by the national governing body. The committee considers it of the utmost importance that members of this organization be suitably designated, and for this purpose recommends that a brassard with appropriate insignia be provided.

Dr. A. Homer Smith reported on the drug situation, detailing important data regarding chemical glassware, digitalis, alkaloids used in ophthalmic practise, novocaine, mercury, and other drugs. He pointed out the urgent need of supply and conservation, and pleaded for complete coordination of all branches of the government on all subjects pertaining to drug and chemical need.

Dr. Philip S. Doane, of Chicago, who has been assigned to duty with the Shipping Board, submitted a report outlining the medical activities carried on in connection with this board. The Shipping Board has at present under its supervision 170,000 men, and it is expected that this number will reach 350,000 within the year. Dr. Doane detailed how these men were being looked after, both as regards the conservation of their health and the treatment of accident and disease prevalent among them, as well as the provisions made for their general welfare, amusement and comfort.

For general surgery, Dr. J. Bentley Squier, of New York, submitted interesting data on the progress that is being made in classifying the various surgeons of the country. These men were classified in accordance with data that they furnished on their own questionnaire, but in addition to this, the surgical committee, in order to code the men in such fashion as to furnish real, valuable data to the government, obtained information by personal investigation both of the personality and of the professional qualifications of the men constituting the various surgical groups of applicants.

Up to date, 21,000 applicants for the Medical Research Corps have been coded in such fashion that at a moment's notice the medical authorities of the War Department may secure almost any desired type of information regarding any individual in the service of waiting for commission.

Miss Ella Phillips Crandall, of the nursing committee, reported on the efforts being made by this committee toward maintaining the nursing standard at a high level, while at the same time securing an adequate number of nurses. This committee has also made inquiries into the question of suitable provision for the nursing care of returned soldiers and sailors in the reconstruction hospitals. This latter work, of course, is being done in close cooperation with those divisions of the War Department and of the Red Cross which have similar work in mind and hand.

Major John D. McLean, reporting for the committee on states activities, announced that the committee had formulated and secured the approval of the Surgeon General's Office for rules of procedure for medical advisory boards.

Dr. Rosalie Slaughter Morton reported for the committee of women physicians that this committee now had on its register the names of 1,796 women physicians, or approximately 33 1/3 per cent. of all the women physicians registered in the United States. It is hoped that these women physicians may be used to help meet the need of internes, laboratory workers, radiographers, and anesthetists. The women physicians of the country are enthusi-

astic and ready for service along these lines, and truly feel that their services would be of aid in winning the war.

For the medical advisory boards, Major McLean stated that all the governors' aides have been appointed, and have been received with hearty accord. It has been the universal report that the services of these governors' aides have been invaluable, and in many instances the governors have requested permission to attach the aides to their offices for the period of the war.

Dr. Victor C. Vaughan submitted the final report of the meeting, emphasizing the necessity of close cooperation between civilian authorities and military authorities in the regulation of health matters concerning both these branches. In the state of Michigan, where very close cooperation exists, infectious diseases occurring in the civilian population necessitates immediate report to the military authorities in the nearby cantonment by telephone or telegraph. This enables the military authorities to institute efficient quarantine against any particular quarter in the state where communicable disease is known to be present. Dr. Vaughan expressed the hope that, were it practical and feasible, close cooperation would be established between all civilian and military health authorities throughout the country.

UNITED STATES DYESTUFFS

THE United States is the only country that has succeeded in establishing a successful dyestuff industry since the war began, and it has been found that American dyes are as good as German dyes, according to a report made by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Formerly importing annually as much as \$10,000,000 worth of aniline dyes alone, this country exported during 10 months of last year \$12,500,000 worth of dyes to 21 foreign countries, and exports are growing rapidly. The largest purchaser last year was Britain, which used over \$3,000,000 worth of dyes in 10 months.

In view of her situation as to dyes, Britain is congratulating herself on the recent cap-

ture of the recipes of 257 German dyes. It is said that these were secured with great danger and difficulty by British textile firms, assisted by the British foreign office. Professor Philip B. Kennedy, commercial attaché of the American Embassy in London, who cabled the news to the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, says that it is reported that all the recipes have been tested in Switzerland by F. M. Rowe, of the Manchester School of Technology, and certified by a British consular officer. The recipes will be given to the British government, which will establish a dye industry in England.

Delegations from the greatest British dye firms and from those in Switzerland are now in this country to obtain information about the American dyestuff industry, with a view to coordinating their efforts with this country's in covering the world markets after the war.

In this connection it is regarded as particularly significant that some 200 manufacturers of dyestuffs from all parts of the country planned to meet at the Chemists' Club in New York on the twenty-second and twenty-third of January for the purpose of forming a national association. This association when formed will pay particular attention to the high quality of American dyestuffs and the standardization of colors.

Throughout this meeting it is hoped that some coordinated plan may be reached by American manufacturers to cover the foreign field for American dyestuffs in the future.

Among the developments in American-made dyestuffs has been the perfecting of vegetable dyes and mordants. One which has served a particularly useful purpose has been the osage orange dyes, first exploited by the Department of Agriculture, and developed for utilization as khaki dyes for uniform cloth.

THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

THE last session of the State Legislature of Illinois adopted a Civil Administrative Code which provided for a very complete reorganization of the civil administration of the state government in order to secure greater econ-