

system had been forced by the necessities arising during the Boer War; so, he said, the United States Military Medical Service is being developed by the exigencies now confronting us and would continue after the war. He said he gained from the British service ideas of value for his administration.

Dr. William H. Welch read a statement showing that in February there was an exceedingly satisfactory decline in the admission rates for communicable diseases, as well as for all causes. In the force afloat, the situation as to pneumonia and cerebrospinal fever is very satisfactory. Scarlet fever has been slightly more prevalent than usual but in no sense epidemic; a very satisfactory decrease in measles; mumps continues as heretofore.

For the committee on surgery, Dr. Charles H. Mayo told how data on 21,000 physicians had been gathered and placed on cards convenient for the ready selection of individuals and groups suited for any given task, a duplicate set of which cards has been prepared for the use of the Surgeon General's office in France. Dr. Mayo emphasized the need of reconstructing wounded men, not only for field service but also for labor after the war, inasmuch as the usual tide of immigration has ceased. Citing the many government activities in which medicine enters, he said these relations, he believed, could be coordinated in no way except by having a medical man as a Cabinet officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Victor C. Vaughan, reporting for the committee on legislation, told of the request of the Army medical officers for higher rank and greater authority, and of the Owen-Dyer bill (S. 3748 and H. R. 9563) now pending in Congress. He cited instances which he said indicated need for greater rank, and then read the following letter from President Wilson to Dr. Franklin Martin, indorsing the bill:

I read very carefully your memorandum of February 27 about the rank accorded members of the Medical Corps of the Army, and have taken pleasure in writing letters to the chairman of the Military Committees of the House and Senate, expressing the hope that the bill and resolution may be passed.

LECTURES ON AGRICULTURE

It has been arranged that a group of prominent agricultural speakers shall travel through the northern and western states, after conferences in Washington with Secretary of Agriculture Houston and Food Administrator Hoover to impress on the farmers the necessity of producing large crops during the coming season. A similar campaign already has been conducted in the southern states. The following have consented to take part in the campaign:

Dr. W. O. Thompson, president Ohio State University, speaking in Idaho and Wyoming.

Alva Agee, secretary of the New Jersey board of agriculture, speaking in Ohio.

Dr. A. H. Jordan, director of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., speaking in Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

Dr. J. L. Hills, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Vermont, speaking in New Hampshire.

Dr. C. F. Curtiss, director of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and dean of the Iowa Agricultural College, speaking in Kansas and Nebraska.

Dr. Eugene Davenport, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, speaking in Wisconsin.

Dr. W. J. Kerr, president of the Oregon Agricultural College, speaking in Oregon and in Idaho.

Professor William M. Jardine, president of the Kansas Agricultural College, speaking in Missouri.

Dr. C. A. Lory, president of the Colorado Agricultural College, speaking in Colorado.

Dr. S. C. Mitchell, president of Delaware College, speaking in New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Dr. E. C. Perisho, president of the South Dakota Agricultural College, speaking in South Dakota and Montana.

A. J. Glover, editor of Hoard's Dairyman, speaking in Minnesota.

Dean Alfred Vivian, of the College of Agriculture, Ohio State University, speaking in Iowa.

Dr. T. F. Hunt, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of California, will go direct from California for speeches in the state of Washington early in April.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held at the Smithsonian