

possible, and the opportunity for the working out of a rational, scientific policy for the management of our fur-seal herd has forever passed.

Mr. Clark threw his whole soul into the fur-seal question which without doubt he understood more clearly than any other man. He contributed numerous articles on this subject to scientific, technical and popular magazines. Several of his articles appeared in *SCIENCE* and others in *THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY*. He wrote important parts of the four-volume report of the Fur-Seal Commission of 1896 and 1897, and for the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *Encyclopedia Americana*.

In speaking of Mr. Clark, Dr. Jordan, with whom he was so closely associated for twenty-seven years, said:

George A. Clark was a university official of the very highest type. Exact, patient, courteous, devoted, absolutely unselfish, his services were of the greatest importance to Stanford as a whole and vitally so to the president, who had in the early days, distressing problems of litigation and finance to deal with as well as with the creation of a new university. In every phase of these problems he had the unfailing help of a secretary who never forgot anything; who never gave false color; and whose only thought was the welfare of the institution he served. George Clark was a noble, loyal and capable soul, one to whom I owe personally very much.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### PROPOSED FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAM

*The Municipal Journal* states that complaint has been made by Dr. S. S. Goldwater on behalf of the War Service Committee of the American Hospital Association that the Treasury Department, to which President Wilson referred a comprehensive program of health conservation adopted last winter by a group of leading sanitarians, has so far given no indication of formulating such a program. The President referred the program to the Treasury Department on July 1, said Dr. Goldwater. In the executive order of the President all sanitary or public health activities as carried

on by any government bureau were given over to the Treasury Department. Since the President has ordered the centralization of the entire health program, says Dr. Goldwater, the time has come to give adequate attention to the other recommendations. The program asked for the appointment of an administrative head known as the Assistant Secretary of Health or perhaps the Health Administrator, to hold his place for the duration of the war. It also asked for the creation in Congress of a Committee on Public Health. Among the important features of health control in wartime which were formulated by the committee were the following:

The establishing of standard procedures for the control of communicable diseases, including reporting diagnoses, treatment and sanitary supervision, and the adoption of these standards by local authorities. Particular attention to be paid to malaria, hookworm disease, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, and the communicable diseases of childhood.

A comprehensive program for the hygiene of war industries to be prepared and put into effect. Among the matters for special attention should be adjustment of the hours of labor to obtain maximum production without damage to the health of the workers. Special attention should be given to the diseases which seriously reduce the efficiency of farm labor in southern states.

Standards for maternity care and for the preservation of the health of infants and children should be prepared and promulgated. A plan should be prepared and put into effect for the registration and after-care of men enlisted or drafted for military service and subsequently rejected or discharged on account of mental or physical defects. This should include, for example, extension of facilities for the sanitarium and home care of tuberculosis victims and for hospital and home treatment for mental defectives and drug addicts.

To insure the quality and make reasonable the cost of essential drugs and biological products, standard methods of manufacture and standards of potency should be developed and enforced. A comprehensive propaganda of health education adapted to various localities and all classes of people should be developed.

Steps should be taken to provide for the national registration of deaths, births, and cases of preventable diseases. A program should be prepared

for maintaining an adequate supply of properly trained sanitarians, physicians and nurses during the war. The means for the extension of existing training facilities should be provided by the government.

The members of the conference which prepared the program were Dr. John F. Anderson, formerly director of the United States Hygienic Laboratory; Dr. Haven Emerson, formerly health commissioner of New York; Dr. W. A. Evans, formerly health commissioner of Chicago; Lee K. Frankel, vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. A. W. Freeman, of the Ohio state health department; Dr. Goldwater; Porter Lee, of the New York School of Philanthropy; Dr. W. S. Rankin, state health secretary of North Carolina; Dr. E. G. Williams, state health commissioner of Virginia, and Dr. C. E. A. Winslow, professor of public health at Yale University.

#### WORK OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES

THE *Fisheries Service Bulletin* stated that for years the Bureau of Fisheries has been handicapped for lack of facilities for practical demonstrations and experimentation in the methods of preparing and preserving fishery products. The fishery industries, particularly those concerned in canning and otherwise preserving food products, labor under the serious drawback of ignorance of the scientific principles underlying their operations. There is also an underconsumption of fish, arising in part from the inferior quality of much that is placed on the market and in part from ignorance of the consumer regarding the dietetic qualities and peculiarities of the several species, with consequent improper preparation for the table. As a result there is an annual loss of many millions, probably hundreds of millions, of pounds of valuable fish food. With adequate equipment and personnel provided, the bureau has held that it could render effective aid in developing methods for overcoming such difficulties, and that important results would be achieved in some fields within a short period of time.

The President has approved and authorized an allotment of \$125,000 from the fund for the

national security and defense to enable the bureau to build and equip in Washington a laboratory for the conduct of work of this character and to provide a temporary personnel. Preparations for carrying out this program are being pushed vigorously, and investigations have been started which, it is anticipated, will yield important results in making available larger quantities of fish for food and in educating the public to the merits of the various fishery products.

As large quantities of fish preserved by salting are lost annually by spoilage and still larger quantities of fresh fish, for which there is no immediate market, are thrown away because of the risk of loss if cured, an investigation for the purpose of developing satisfactory methods for overcoming these difficulties has been inaugurated. Donald K. Tressler, well qualified by training and with practical experience as an analytical chemist for a salt-manufacturing company, has been employed for this work. For the present this experimental work will be conducted at Johns Hopkins University, under the supervision of Professor E. V. McCollum.

A trained worker in domestic science has been employed to carry on experiments with new fishes and fishery products to determine the best methods for preparing these products for the table and to begin the assemblage of material for a publication on fish cookery. In addition, quite extensive experiments have been made in the development of methods suited to the canning of fish in the home, and plans have been laid and machinery has been assembled for the conduct of experiments in drying fish in vacuo.

As rapidly as the services of suitably trained persons for a number of other investigations can be obtained such investigations will be taken up. One of these has to do with the increased utilization of fish waste for manufacture into oil and fish meal or fertilizer.

The Bureau's position for work along the lines outlined has been strengthened further by the provision made by the present Congress for an assistant for developing fisheries and for the saving and use of fishery products.