

than the environment counts the most." Manitoba has more pupils in high school and college, in proportion to the population, than any other province of Canada, excepting Ontario, and the University of Manitoba has a student body of over 2,400 with 1,500 additional in attendance on short courses and summer school, under the instruction of 195 professors and lecturers, and situated in a city of over 200,000. May I inquire why the reviewer chooses such an environment to point his platitudinous conclusion?

J. W. SHIPLEY

QUOTATIONS

WAR ON DISEASE

IN his Annual Report for 1925 on "The State of the Public Health," Sir George Newman strikes a new note. He is not concerned with the rival claims of those who believe in a state medical service and of those who oppose this service, because he sees that a truly national effort against disease, in which health officers and doctors and citizens will all take part, is the inevitable solution of present difficulties. Nor does he attempt to place any one of these partners before the other. They are equal; they are, and must remain, free; yet each, for the sake of all, must consent to give something both of personal liberty and of independence of action. This, it is contended, is made plain when the practical circumstances of the effort against disease are considered. Sickness is never a single event. Even a cold in the head is a problem of preventive medicine, a research problem, a problem in epidemiology and in therapy, and a problem of domestic and of personal hygiene. And what is true of a cold in the head is true also of every industrial accident, of each of the ailments which threaten child life and the lives of mothers, of cancer and tuberculosis and heart disease. The connection between the new regulations for the Insurance Medical Service, the rules governing the use of preservatives in food, and the plans to control atmospheric pollution may not be immediately apparent, but it is real and of vital importance. Last year, for example, in England and Wales there was lost to the nation among the insured population only, and excluding the loss due to sickness, for which sickness or disablement benefit is not payable, a total of twenty-five million weeks' work (480,770 years), or the equivalent of twelve months' work of nearly half a million persons. It is actually possible to-day to ascribe a great part of this loss to causes over which only the citizen himself has any control, to causes, that is to say, which lie beyond the scope of the medical profession.

This is obvious when the nature of the ailments responsible for the loss is considered. Common colds,

bronchitis and bronchial and nasal catarrh stand easily first as causes of disablement among the working population. Sir George Newman produces important evidence to show that these ailments and also pneumonia are more prevalent and more fatal in the industrial north and north-west than in the south, and he is able, to some extent, to exclude the weather as the sole or even the chief cause of this difference. The purity of the atmosphere is probably the chief determining factor. In other words, smoke abatement—a matter for engineers and householders—is a department of preventive medicine. It is, moreover, a department of preventive medicine in which every doctor and every citizen, to say nothing of every employer of labor and every approved society, has a vital interest. Diseases of digestion, again, rank very high as robbers of health and of industry. These may seem to lie outside the sphere of preventive medicine altogether; but this is a narrow view, as those realize who have followed the controversy on the chemical purity of foodstuffs.

Nor can the research worker be relegated much longer to the obscurity of his laboratory. He too is needed in every home into which disease has been able to penetrate. Last year heart diseases ranked first among the "killing ailments." The cause of them is but imperfectly understood. Cancer had third place. It is manifest that in the fight with these two most deadly enemies the resources of prevention and of cure are largely unavailing until new knowledge has been obtained. Sir George Newman is therefore entitled to his vision of the "mutual aid and interdependence which should obtain between improved environment (including housing and industrial conditions), the care and nurture of the body, and the social life of the community." He is unquestionably right when he demands a closer partnership between all those who are engaged in, or who are interested in, the war against disease. The great voluntary hospitals have set in the past a conspicuous example of the spirit of cooperation between different types of workers, and for that reason alone deserve all the support which on this "Hospital Saturday" a generous and deeply interested public is likely to give them. The war on disease, curiously enough, is likely in the near future slightly to change its character. Owing to the fact that the birth-rate and the death-rate have fallen in this country side by side, the average age of the population has increased. The death-rate can not, in the nature of things, fall much further, but there is no sort of assurance that the fall in the birth-rate will not continue. Consequently old age may for a time go on increasing numerically at the expense of youth. The effect must be to make youth more valuable in an economic sense and to make the

burden of preventible disease more and more intolerable. As the army of active workers diminishes, its working power must be conserved if disaster is to be avoided. Longer working lives and stronger working lives can alone discount the loss of numbers of working lives.—The London Times.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING GEOPHYSICS

The following resolutions were adopted by the American Geophysical Union during its Seventh Annual Meeting, April 30, 1926.

RESOLUTION ON THE VARIATION OF LATITUDE (Submitted by Section of Geodesy)

WHEREAS, The problem of the variation of latitude concerns not only astronomy, but also geophysics in its broadest sense, as is evidenced by the appointment by the International Astronomical Union and the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union of a joint committee consisting of astronomers, geodesists and geophysicists to confer with and advise the officers of the organizations conducting the present latitude-variation stations on an international cooperative plan, and

WHEREAS, The accepted method of studying this problem is by the operation of a chain of latitude stations on the same parallel, all using a common program of observations, and

WHEREAS, The great extent of the United States in longitude suggests that its contribution to this important piece of international work should include more than the maintenance of the present single station at Ukiah, California, and

WHEREAS, The original number of latitude-variation stations on the thirty-ninth parallel of latitude has been reduced from six (three of which were in the United States) to three, a number found to be too small for the adequate study of the many elements that are now known to enter into this problem, and

WHEREAS, Of the abandoned latitude stations that at Gaithersburg, Maryland, would be the easiest to reestablish and the most useful, and

WHEREAS, The importance of reoccupying this station is recognized by experts and has been urged many times in the unanimous reports of committees of the American Section of the International Astronomical Union, duly adopted by the section, and

WHEREAS, The International Astronomical Union, meeting at Cambridge, England, in 1925, has urged the Director of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey to endeavor to secure the reoccupation of Gaithersburg; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Geophysical Union strongly recommends that observations be resumed at the Gaithersburg latitude station, preferably under the direction of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, which now supervises the work at the latitude station at Ukiah, California; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of Commerce, to the Director of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, to the President of the National Academy of Sciences, to the President of the American Astronomical Society, to the President of the Geological Society of America and to the President of the Seismological Society of America.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING OF THE UNITED STATES

(Submitted by Section of Geodesy)

WHEREAS, Accurate knowledge of the geographic positions, elevations and configurations of the ground is essential to the efficient carrying on of geophysical investigations, and

WHEREAS, The results of these investigations have great scientific and practical value; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Geophysical Union heartily endorses the plan of the United States Government to complete the topographic mapping of this country in the near future; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RESOLUTION ON GREATER UNIFORMITY IN PYRHELIOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS

(Submitted by Section of Meteorology)

WHEREAS, In the interest of convenience to investigators, greater uniformity in pyrheliometric measurements is desirable; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Meteorological Section (c) of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics be requested (1) to authorize its Commission on Solar Radiation to encourage in every way possible the maintenance of an international network of pyrheliometric stations for obtaining directly comparable measurements of the intensity of solar energy, (2) to include as many high-level stations as practicable in this network and (3) to provide that especially at high-level stations attention be given to the measurement of the ultra-violet radiation and the ozone content of the atmosphere, and

Resolved, That the above-named commission be authorized to cooperate with the Commission on Solar Radiation of the International Meteorological Committee in arranging for the intercomparison of sub-standard pyrheliometers for use in different countries, in preparing a program to be recommended for daily observations and in securing prompt publication of monthly summaries of results, and

Resolved, Further, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the General Secretary of the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union (Colonel H. G. Lyons) and to the Chairman of the Committee of the International Research Council for the Study of Solar and Terrestrial Relationships (Dr. S. Chapman, Imperial College of Science, London, England).