

THE ASSOCIATED HOSPITAL SERVICE OF NEW YORK

ACCORDING to an announcement made by Dr. S. S. Goldwater, president of Associated Hospital Service of New York, the hospitals and the medical profession of Greater New York and of twelve adjacent counties have been invited to participate in a new non-profit prepayment plan which will provide hospital ward service and all medical services needed for satisfactory clinical treatment.

Affiliated with the service is Community Medical Care, Inc., a new non-profit medical indemnity corporation which received a permit from the State Department of Insurance on June 4. It is under the presidency of Dr. I. Ogden Woodruff, and will be managed by a board of directors consisting of sixteen physicians and eight laymen. The physicians include six past-presidents of County Medical Societies in Greater New York.

The promulgation of the new plan follows more than a year of careful study on the part of the board of directors of the service with the aid of the medical profession, hospital executives, representatives of labor and industry, insurance actuaries and social workers. It has been approved in principle by a special committee of the Coordinating Council of the five County Medical Societies of Greater New York. Details have been submitted to and approved by the State Insurance Department and by the Department of Social Welfare, as required by law.

As soon as a sufficient number of hospitals and physicians signify their willingness to participate, the plan will be offered to groups of workers in industry, many of whom have been asking for a prepayment plan within their means which offers the combination of hospital service and professional care in illnesses requiring hospital admission.

The new plan differs from and supplements the present 3-cents-a-day plan in important respects. The 3-cents-a-day plan, which now has more than 1,250,000 subscribers in the metropolitan area and which during the past six years has paid out benefits amounting to more than twenty-five million dollars, provides hospital service only, in semi-private accommodations. The three-cents-a-day plan was devised for persons of moderate means, who after thus providing for their hospital expenses through a common fund, undertake individually to pay their physicians. Subscribers to the 3-cents-a-day plan pay a subscription rate of \$9.60 per annum on a group payroll deduction basis for individual coverage, or \$24 per annum for family coverage. Under the new plan, which is known as the community ward plan, comparable subscription rates for hospital service will be only \$6 per annum for individuals, and \$13.50 for families. To cover medical fees, which are excluded

under the 3-cents-a-day plan, and which are a distinctive feature of the new combined plan, subscribers to the community ward plan will pay to Community Medical Care, Inc., subscription rates identical with those paid to Associated Hospital Service for hospital care. Thus the rates for combined coverage, including hospital service and all necessary medical care during the subscriber's hospital stay as provided for in the contract, will be \$12 per annum for individuals, and \$27 per annum for families, regardless of the number of dependent children under eighteen years of age.

Because of the reduced or "community" rates which participating hospitals are expected to offer under the community ward plan, subscribers to the plan will be limited to single persons with incomes of \$1,200 or less; subscriptions providing maternity care as well as general medical and surgical service will be available to husbands and wives with combined incomes of \$1,680, and to families including children with incomes of \$2,100 or less. Under the new low-cost plan, hospital service and medical care will not be offered separately but only under a combined contract. Administrative costs will be kept at a minimum. Expenses will be shared equally by the two organizations.

According to Dr. Goldwater, the community ward plan involves no necessary change in existing relations between patient and physician, or between physician and hospital. Subject to hospital rules, subscribers will have free choice among participating hospitals.

The Associated Hospital Service offers its new low-cost plan at the conclusion of its sixth year of successful operation, and at a time when it is in a stronger position than ever before. On May 31 the organization reported to the State Insurance Department total admitted assets of \$6,166,753 and a surplus of \$2,472,247, in addition to a special reserve fund of \$1,000,000 for epidemics and other contingencies.

THE SCHOOL OF NUTRITION OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THE establishment of a School of Nutrition at Cornell University, offering a two-year curriculum for students who have completed three years of preparatory work at the college level, has been announced by President Edmund Ezra Day. Within the scope of the new unit will be all phases of animal and human nutrition. The new school will cut across college lines and will bring to bear on problems of nutrition facilities now distributed in various departments of five colleges of the university, and in the U. S. Nutrition Laboratory, recently established at Cornell.

According to Dr. Day, "the recent National Nutrition Conference at Washington brought out the fact