

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## THE SHORTAGE OF PHYSICIANS IN THE UNITED STATES

THE acute shortage of physicians in the United States, which has become critical in certain areas due to the added requirements of the Army and Navy and defense industries, is discussed in a report by the National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians, published in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association. For almost three years this committee, of which Dr. David L. Edsall is chairman and Dr. Tracy J. Putnam, vice-chairman, has been assisting qualified emigré physicians to adapt themselves to American standards and resettling them in those medically under-manned areas of the country where they can be most useful.

Fifteen hundred qualified emigré physicians are available for placement in rural districts or in hospitals which are in serious need of internes. The committee already has a record of more than twelve hundred successful placements, seven hundred in hospitals and five hundred in rural practice. Four thousand physicians have registered with the committee out of the total of fifty-five hundred foreign physicians who have come to the United States in the past eight years.

American medical authorities may well follow the plan which the British have adopted to take advantage of the services of emigré physicians. Our own needs are no less urgent. The Office of Production Management and other agencies estimate that within the next six months there will be a ten per cent. decrease in the number of physicians available for civil wants. Certain states will be more seriously affected than others. The steady shift of American physicians from rural to urban areas in the past fifteen years has resulted in a serious disproportion in the ratio of physicians to the population. Only twenty per cent. of the medical graduates of 1920 to 1925 have settled in communities of 5,000 or less, even though such communities contain nearly half the population of the country. The general proportion of physicians in cities of 100,000 or over increased from 37.9 per cent. in 1923 to 46.2 per cent. in 1931.

The committee urges that serious consideration be given immediately to the problem of speeding up the resettlement of emigré physicians. The House of Delegates of the American Medical Association has officially recommended the use of these physicians. Federal Public Health authorities have recorded similar opinions. Under the present circumstances, it would be unwise to overlook any opportunity to supply medical services to those areas which need them most.

The American Medical Association and the Public Health authorities should take up this task, in the opinion of the committee. The successful records of the men and women placed by the committee are proof of their adaptability to our national needs. Proper resettlement and the acceptance of some qualified emigrés for Army and Navy needs, the Indian Service and other public agencies will protect native Americans against permanent loss of practice, if called to military service. This will also avoid overcrowding and undue competition in many cities.

## THE NATIONAL MALARIA COMMITTEE

At the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the National Malaria Committee, held at St. Louis, Mo., from November 11 to 13, held conjointly with the Southern Medical Association, an amendment to the constitution was adopted whereby the name of the organization was changed to the National Malaria Society. Plans were developed for the publication of a periodical, to appear initially as an annual, which will be known as the *Journal* of the National Malaria Society. Publication will be in charge of an editorial board appointed for staggered three-year terms. The initial board includes Colonel Charles F. Craig, M.C., U.S.A., Ret., Dr. Justin Andrews and Nelson H. Rector. The officers elected include:

*Honorary President*, Dr. L. O. Howard, Washington, D. C.

*President*, J. H. O'Neill, New Orleans, La.

*President-elect*, Colonel J. S. Simmons, Washington, D. C.

*Vice-president*, Dr. H. W. Brown, Chapel Hill, N. C.

*Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Mark F. Boyd, P. O. Box 997, Tallahassee, Florida.

The president appointed Dr. H. C. Clark, Panama City, representative from the society to the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The unexpected death of Dr. J. N. Baker, Montgomery, Ala., the chairman, three days before the meeting, was deeply felt by all in attendance.

## RESIGNATION OF DR. RAPPEYE AS COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THE following resolution has been passed by the council of the New York Academy of Medicine:

When Dr. Willard C. Rappleye agreed to assume the duties of Commissioner of the Department of Hospitals of the City of New York, it was with the understanding that it would be for a year and three months, that is, to