



A. HOMER SMITH.

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## THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

### PARTS OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT TO CONGRESS FOR 1934.

It is interesting to note that for the calendar year 1933 the general death rate, 10.5 per 1000 population, was the lowest ever recorded in the United States; and the rate for 1932 was next lowest, 10.8 per 1000. While health conditions remained comparatively good for the first half of 1934, the death rates for many localities were higher than those for the preceding year.

In spite of the economic conditions, the number of deaths from tuberculosis continued to decrease. For the calendar year 1933 the death rate was 59 per 100,000 population—5 per cent below the previous low minimum. The typhoid fever death rate was also the lowest ever recorded—only 3.5 deaths per 100,000, which was 8 per cent below the previous minimum. The diphtheria rate dropped to 3.9 per 100,000—also the lowest death rate ever recorded by the Public Health Service for this disease. . . .

Smallpox, the principal scourge of mankind in the last century, still caused more than 75,000 deaths in countries sufficiently advanced in health matters to keep vital statistics records; but less than 40 of these deaths occurred in the United States, although nearly 7000 cases of the disease were reported. Several European countries have advanced so far in preventive activities that they did not have a single case of smallpox in 1933. . . .

The Public Health Service covers a broad field in its research activities in the cause and prevention of disease. Its principal laboratory is the National Institute of Health in Washington, but it also maintains field laboratories in various parts of the country. The subjects of research include, among others, cancer, encephalitis, heart disease, leprosy, malaria, psittacosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularæmia, tick fever, child hygiene, dental conditions, industrial dermatoses and milk sanitation. . . .

By means of animal experimentation, a new method was discovered for the treatment of bichloride poisoning in human cases. It was shown in actual cases that death from otherwise fatal doses of bichloride can be prevented when formaldehyde sulphoxylate is given by mouth and injection into the vein within a reasonable time after the poison has been swallowed. . . .

The Public Health Service was recently authorized by law to conduct two Narcotic Farms, *i. e.*, hospitals for the treatment of Federal prisoners who are narcotic addicts, and to furnish medical and psychiatric care to prisoners in Federal penal and correctional institutions. The first of these Narcotic Farms is under construction at Lexington, Ky., and will be completed by April 1935. The other Farm is located at Forth Worth, Texas, and funds for beginning construction were made available through the Public Works Administration. At the close of the year the Public Health Service was operating 17 medical units in connection with the care of the inmates of Federal penal and correctional institutions. . . .

In the field of public health, new problems constantly arise and new dangers appear, such as those illustrated by the unusual type of encephalitis appearing in St. Louis in 1933, the extensive outbreak of amœbic dysentery in Chicago, and the necessity for the control of distillery wastes which are now being emptied into already heavily overtaxed and polluted streams, thus seriously affecting the water supplies of the country. Constant vigilance is required for the early detection and study of these new continually arising dangers to the public health in order successfully to combat them.

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## THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN DRUG MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

Alfred Homer Smith, reelected president of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, 1934-1935, was born in Smyrna, Delaware, December 17, 1879, the son of Alfred Henry and Emily (Brown) Smith. After completing his studies in Smyrna high school, he engaged in a retail pharmacy and then matriculated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, graduating in 1902. Thereafter he was salesman for H. K. Mulford Company, then district manager and secretary and general sales manager of the corporation.

He received appointment as Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army during the World War and served on the War Industries Board, Council on National Defense and National Advisory Council, Treasury Department, U. S. A.

From 1920-1922, Mr. Smith was secretary and member of the Board of Directors of E. R. Squibb & Sons and is now president of Sharp & Dohme.

Before his election to the presidency of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Smith served on a number of important committees, as secretary and first vice-president of the Association.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science and holds membership in a number of organizations; among them, the Manufacturers, Bankers, Art, Philadelphia Country and Corinthian Yacht Clubs; he is a life member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

February 3, 1908, Mr. Smith married Evelyn Hagen, of Lancaster, Pa. (b. Charlotte, N. C.), they reside in Alden Park, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

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