

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

2215 Constitution Ave., WASHINGTON, D. C.

COÖPERATION IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK AND IN RESEARCH PROBLEMS.

THE campaign for stamping out syphilis is well under way because Surgeon General Parran has carried his message to the Public Health groups and also to the general public. He has not been afraid to bring his plan to the press as an undertaking for the control of a very dangerous disease and the subject has been discussed in the papers and magazines with an understanding that a public service is being rendered, for which a tremendous amount of popular education is needed to overcome the accompanying many great difficulties.

Dr. Parran has called upon and enlisted the coöperation of pharmacists and the effort so well begun must not stand still. He was elected president at the recent convention of the American Public Health Association in New Orleans and, prior to that meeting, a largely attended conference was held in Washington. The emphasis must be laid on "continuous effort," and only through that will the Surgeon General receive the support he has asked for and is entitled to for the public service he is rendering. The campaign has, no doubt, impressed the public with the importance of its part and that united and determined efforts have laid low other diseases that were a menace in their day. Some may say that this disease should not be discussed in connection with a disease that is not of its type.

The Surgeon General has said "All of us together—physician, public official and private citizen—must learn that this is everybody's business, that everybody is endangered, that everybody pays for it, whether afflicted by the disease or not, and that no single agency is big enough or clever enough to do every one's job alone."

Notwithstanding the organized efforts to control the spread of tuberculosis, the number suffering and dying because of the affliction, is large.

Cancer is a destructive scourge; it took more than 140,000 lives in the United States last year and, probably, three times that number are afflicted with it. The lives of many can be saved and to a certain extent the disease can be controlled by early recognition and coöperative effort to check its advance. Herein may be an opportunity for research, as stated at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The importance of the affliction was given recognition in Congress by the introduction of a bill by Senator Bone of Washington and all Senators have sponsored the measure, which appropriates one million dollars yearly for research into the causes of cancer. The work will be carried on at the direction of Surgeon General Parran, who is authorized:

"(1) To make grants-in-aid to schools, clinics, hospitals, laboratories and other institutions, and to scientific investigators, whose work has shown promise of making valuable contributions to human knowledge with respect to the cause, diagnosis, control, treatment or prevention of the disease of cancer.

"(2) To purchase radium and lend such radium to institutions, state or privately controlled, for use in the treatment of such disease.

"(3) To establish in any marine hospital or other hospital under the supervision of the Public Health Service, or in any other hospital of the United States, with the consent of the chief executive officers of the executive department or agency under whose supervision such hospital is placed, a department for research and the clinical study of such disease, and

"(4) To pursue any other method which he may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this act."

Turning aside to other research subjects that are not directly in line, the Government has reviewed means of insect destruction and soil study, which may offer suggestions to pharmacists and require the service of pharmacists in divisions of the Government. The U. S. Department of Agriculture in its *press service* advises that the wide-spread and increasing interest in soil conservation calls for a new specialist trained in all phases of erosion control technique. Similar conservation forces in colleges and universities, and adequate work in CCC camps aim to develop these specialists.

The messages of the comment are varied, but pharmacists have contributed to various arts, industries and developments.—See November JOURNAL, 1936, page 963.

"FIRST AID WEEK."

The days for "First Aid Week," have been fixed for May 16th to 22nd; the National Association of Retail Druggists has prepared a proclamation for signature by Mayors or City councils, and for publicity in the newspapers.

A *Bulletin* is published in the July issue of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, for 1928, pages 699 to 701. This *Bulletin*, prepared under the direction of the Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service contains valuable information relating to the subject. It advises that every one become familiar with first-aid methods for treating the injured, and defines "first aid" as the temporary care of an injured person by simple, common sense methods, based on principles of medicine and surgery, that may be applied easily by persons not professionally trained in those subjects. It should be noted that the work of first aid ceases when the injured person has been turned over to the care of a physician. In the May JOURNAL of the same year, page 485, cases are cited which may be of value.

The Surgeon General states that, in addition to the benefits gained by the early care of the injured, first aid has been found actually to tend to lower accidents by making the people more careful.

"First Aid Week" presents an opportunity for pharmacists to make the public acquainted with "first aid" items and household medicines. The publicity may be brought to the attention of the public in the windows and by in-door displays and looked upon, if properly arranged, as a real service to the laity and professional pharmacy. Treatments of insect bites, plant and other poisons are closely related; formulas and means are given in the Pharmaceutical Recipe Book II.

THE PURPOSE AND METHOD OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

A review for 1936 of the Rockefeller Foundation by Raymond B. Fosdick has been published. The purpose of the Foundation, written into its charter, is to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world. "Changing conditions in scientific and social development must necessarily affect decisions as to how that purpose can best be realized. Nevertheless, for a decade or more, the advance of knowledge, with research the chief tool, has been the definite objective and method of Foundation action. The program has extended into the fields of natural science, social science, medical science, the humanities and public health. Except in public health the Foundation is not operating an organization. It conducts no researches of its own. Its efforts are limited to the support of other agencies—universities, laboratories, research institutes—where the promise of results seems particularly bright."
