

ARMY SURGEON URGES WAR ON VENEREAL GERM

More Than 500,000 New Cases of Syphilis Diagnosed Yearly, He Says.

Editor's Note—United States Surgeon General Thomas S. Parran is a leader in the struggle to control the ravages of venereal disease. In the following dispatch he discusses accomplishments of the First National Conference on Venereal Disease Control, just concluded.

BY DR. THOMAS S. PARRAN
Surgeon-General, U. S. Public Health Service
(Written for United Press)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—More than 500,000 new cases of syphilis are diagnosed each year. Where search is made, an equal number of untreated cases is found.

In the nation's military forces there are about three cases of gonorrhea for every case of syphilis. These represent only a small segment of this menace to the nation's human resources presented before the National Conference on Venereal Disease Control.

The conference has laid the groundwork for the first concerted fight to keep the disease in check.

Physical Cost Heavy

It is to be hoped that all citizens will seek from their health officers information as to the cost to their community of the luxury of maintaining the syphilis germ in the bodies of its citizens. A successful program will require additional appropriations especially by state and local governments.

The conference, which had a registered attendance of more than 900 health officers, physicians and other scientific workers for every state in the Union, has served a most useful purpose in bringing to the scientists and people of the country the most modern information available on the public health control of syphilis and gonorrhea.

To this extent it has served temporarily to meet a great need. It is hoped that this important public health problem will not only be discussed but that the principles and policies enunciated by the conference will find prompt application in every state, county and city of the nation.

Control Inadequate

A development of a major significance was the adoption by the conference of a statement that the percentage of Federal money invested in the disease should not be less than the percentage expended in the care of dependents. The conference also recognized the utter inadequacy of present control efforts by specifically recommending that the Federal government provide \$25,000,000 to supplement further state and local efforts for control.

It was agreed that education and more widespread dissemination of information concerning the disease were major factors in successful control.

In this connection, I would like to say that success of the conference was due largely to the excellent co-operation of the press in putting aside old taboos during the past year and making the public aware of the menace and economic losses from venereal diseases.

SHORTRIDGE SOCIETY LEADERS ARE NAMED

Dan Flickinger is the new president of the Shortridge High School chapter of the National Honor Society. Martha Nell Plopper was named secretary-treasurer. Vice presidents elected were Anna Combs, group A; Anne Holmes, group B, and Val Nolan, group C.

Miss Plopper was named Senior Class project committee chairman and Mary Bell chairman of the colors committee.

Dick Wilson and Don Husted have won most of the model airplane contests sponsored weekly by the Shortridge Model Club.

INSTALL NEW OFFICERS

New officers installed by Catherine Merrill Tent 9 of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War include Mrs. Mary Alice Short, president; Mrs. Lena Blonden and Mrs. Cora Bernhardt, vice president; Mrs. Lucy Laitner, chaplain, and Mrs. Anna Davis, treasurer.

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