

Uncle Sam, M. D.—No. 1 Health Needs Of Nation Put Doctors on Spot

U. S. Short of Physicians, Surgeons,
But Great Problem Is, What to Do?

This is the first of a series of articles on the Truman medical proposals.

By CHARLES T. LUCEY, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Apr. 2—An America grown to world leadership in medical science faces a big decision on how to apply it.

That decision must be made because spectacular advance in medical science has not been matched by an equal broadening of medical care.

In our country human beings still suffer and die because the enrichment of medicine and surgery by research has not reached down to where they lie sick and injured.

Americans want better medical care. But a bitter conflict today on how to provide it, touch the roots of the American social system. It stems in part from basic changes in the whole practice of American medicine.

Little Black Bag
Before World War I, illness, usually meant a first try at home remedies—turpentine and laudanum for the chest, poultices, castor oil. If cure wasn't forthcoming a doctor was called. He didn't lean on X-ray or electro-cardiograph or basal metabolism tests. His magic blossomed from a little black bag.

In the bag were a stethoscope, thermometer, perhaps a head mirror. Diagnosis meant asking questions and skilled use of eyes and hands. Surgery was rare. Usually the medication necessary and when the doctor left the family was sure the patient would mend quickly.

But that was yesterday. Young men of medicine today are taught to rely on all the science that makes diagnosis and treatment steadily more precise.

Increasingly they specialize in narrow ranges of medicine. This new world of spotless cabinets and chrome and dials costs money—lots of it. In cities it is beyond the means of many Americans. In rural areas it often isn't available at all.

Live Longer Now
We've come a long way toward better health. Average life expectancy was 24 years in the Roman Empire. Just before 1900 it was 47 years—that is, it has increased about one year per century for 19 centuries. Today life expectancy for a boy baby is 65; for a girl baby, 70. In the last 15 years we've added a year to the life span each 23 months.

America has 100,000 doctors—yet that isn't enough. Its medical schools, taxed to the limit, every year turn away young men who would make good doctors. Educating a boy in medicine has become steadily more costly and tuition doesn't pay for it. So medical schools run deficits. But even if they were in clover and could build new facilities, they wouldn't know where to turn for qualified service.

Hospital fees are high. Two or three weeks in a hospital can mean disaster for a family budget. Are hospitals getting rich? Definitely not—many are having a rough time financially.

America has before it a vast amount of unfinished business in medical research. Heart disease kills one out of two yet we haven't found the answer. We are groping in cancer. There is far to go in understanding mental illness.

Medical Neglect
Arthritis, rheumatic fever, the common cold—their cure is for some tomorrow. It is all part of improving the nation's health.

Many medical leaders say we should be giving greater emphasis to preventive medicine—nailing disease in earlier stages. It would mean less "salvage medicine" after disease is far advanced.

Because the young doctor leaving medical school wants fine clinical equipment, and because often it isn't available in small towns and rural areas, he may settle in a larger city. Smaller hospitals cry for internes and can't get them. Many U. S. areas are without public health programs or enough physicians.

By reason of high medical costs, geography, of shortages of doctors and facilities, there is medical neglect.

What to do?

The Truman Administration, through Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing of Indiana, comes up with an answer that infuriates much of organized medicine.

Mr. Ewing would increase, with federal aid, the number of hospitals, doctors, nurses and dentists and develop a broadened public health program—and on these phases he would get much support.

But he caps his proposal with a plan for a system of national compulsory health insurance. That means that all wage earners and employers would be tapped for new tax deductions to buy pay-in-advance medical care.

It would operate much as does the old age pension system now. The difference would be that the new take-off would go into a fund to pay hospitals and doctors for medical care of those insured.

Against this, in a country which frequently has shown it is not frightened by labels and which today demands better medical care, a section of organized medicine raises the cry of "socialized medicine."

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Amateur Hour Contestants Await Network Show

Seals for Broadcast Still Available
By ART WRIGHT

With extra seats added to the Coliseum capacity, choice reserved chairs still are available for the two and a half hour show and ABC network broadcasts which Ted Mack and the Original Amateur Hour will present on Wednesday night.

The tickets are available at the Wm. H. Block Co.

It will be Indianapolis' big night of 1949 for Ted Mack, in presenting outstanding local amateurs over 173 ABC stations from coast-to-coast, will salute Indianapolis as "Honor City of America."

The public will see the actual operation of a network broadcast and watch Hoosier amateurs bid for national acclaim from the special stage in the West end of the Coliseum.

Special Switchboard
A special telephone switchboard with 20 operators on duty will be set up to handle the voting calls.

The show will start at 8:45 p. m. with the usual pre-broadcast "warmup." At 7 o'clock Indianapolis will be "on the air" from the Coliseum as Ted Mack, successor to the late Major Bowes, introduces the first Hoosier amateur.

The final selection of acts which will appear on the broadcast will be made tomorrow at Radio Station WISH. The production staff will arrive from New York late today. The only persons auditioned tomorrow will be those who have been notified by WISH.

The finalists will include Indianapolis amateurs, students from Purdue and Indiana University, war veterans from Cold Springs Veterans Hospital and from Ft. Benjamin Harrison, and residents of Terre Haute, Anderson and other nearby towns.

25 Acts Promised
In addition to the hour broadcast, the public will see a one and one-half hour show presented by the No. 1 traveling unit of the Original Amateur Hour. At least 25 acts are promised.

Proceeds from ticket sales will go to St. Margaret's Hospital Guild to further their community service work at General Hospital and the Flower Mission.

Prices are: Arena Floor chairs, \$2.40; Box and Parquet chairs, \$2.40 and \$2.20; Side Mezzanine, \$1.50 and \$1.20; East End Mezzanine, 80 cents. Prices include tax. All seats are reserved.

There still is time also to order tickets by mail. Orders received at The Times by tomorrow will be mailed out if accompanied by check or money order and stamped, addressed envelope.

Rayburn Expects U. S. To Remain Prosperous
RALEIGH, N. C., Apr. 2 (UP)—House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas said tonight the country is prosperous "and I think we are going to remain so."

"There is nothing in our economy to plunge the country into depression... unless some people talk the country into it," Mr. Rayburn said.

He spoke to 500 Democrats at the North Carolina Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner. Mr. Rayburn said if there had been no planning or vision since the war, as there was not after World War I, the country would have dropped into a depression. But he said national income in 1948 was \$239 billion and asked "does that look like a depression?"

Stubborn
LONDON, Apr. 2 (UP)—Fred Wurm, whose Anti-Women Society collapsed when he got married, announced today that he has started a new organization to be known as the Married Men's Association.

The new group, he explained, will oppose all the inroads made by the Married Women's Association on the rights of men.

AVC Sets Housing Conference Here

Hopes for Cut
In Federal Funds

Indianapolis Chapter of the American Veterans Committee will hold a public housing conference Apr. 23 to prepare for possible organization of a Municipal Housing Authority.

AVC spokesman said last night that organization of such an authority is necessary if the city is to take advantage of funds which would be provided by the federal government if pending legislation survives congressional action.

They referred to a revision of the Taft-Hillender-Wagner bill calling for federal allocations to private building enterprises for construction of low-cost housing.

The proposal stands, the money would be expended through the local agencies, the committee said.

Day-Long Session
The day-long Apr. 23 meeting, to be held in the World War Memorial building, will serve as the start of an extensive survey of actual housing needs in Indianapolis and Marion County, committee planners said.

It is already known, they said, that 1100 families are on the waiting list for apartments in Tyndall Towne, and that some 1200 are waiting for admittance to the Lockefield Garden project. There are other hundreds living in trailers.

Mayor Feeney told the committee he was "pleased" to learn of the proposed conference to determine the extent of the property shortage here.

He added that the committee's findings should be "especially valuable at this time" in view of the possible legislation. The Mayor will attend the meeting.

**Religious Week Opens
At Franklin College**

FRANKLIN, Apr. 2—Religious Emphasis Week at Franklin College will have "The Recovery of Meaningful Living" as its theme. The annual observance will be held tomorrow through Apr. 6 with forums and address meetings to be led by religious leaders.

Guests will include Miss Lexie Ferrell, officer in the Northern Baptist Convention; the Rev. Roger Fredrikson, first national president of Baptist Youth Fellowship; the Rev. Henry G. White, pastor of Woodside Methodist Church; and Ernest Witham, personnel secretary of the Baptist Home Mission Society.

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'Tough Guy,' 14, Discovers Movies 'Could Be Wrong'

Caught After Near-Tragic Stickup Here
Of Cab Driver, He Changes His Tune

By DONNA MIKELS
A 14-year-old "tough guy" who thought he knew all about "cops" and "pans" today is wondering if the movies on which he based his "knowledge" might have been wrong.

Young Florian was arrested by sheriff's deputies here last week for an armed robbery that came within a narrow fraction of being a tragedy.

It was a first offense for the youth who ran away from his home in Chicago with detailed plans of escape "carefully written on his school notebook paper. But the first offense was a brutal one."

He hailed a cab, ordered the driver to take him to "Flackville," a name he had seen on a bus schedule, then sidetracked the cab onto a lonely county road. There he pulled a gun he had stolen from his father, took the cab driver's money and ordered him to put his hands and head on the steering wheel "so I could hit him and stun him and get away before he called the cops."

Then his well-laid plans went awry. As the gun barrel struck a crumpling blow it discharged, the bullet missing the victim's temple only because he saw the blow coming in the rear vision mirror and "rolled with it." A shooting was something the self-styled "tough guy" hadn't expected and he fed in fright.

As he ran across the fields he remembered the other side of the movies he'd seen and the "gang" stories. Police with rubber hoses, three-degree rooms. Once he lost precious moments to remove the clip from his automatic so he couldn't be caught with a loaded gun because "I thought they would rough me up; maybe I'd end up with lead poisoning from my own gun."

But Florian was captured, caught minutes later by deputies. He was taken to a restaurant, his feet and trousers covered by fresh mud. They remembered hearing the broadcast of the robbery on the nearby county road and Florian's description.

It was then that the fantastic working of the juvenile "tough guy's" mind first began to form a pattern. In jail Florian confessed readily to the robbery but identified himself as Floyd Baker, 18, of New York City. He had a 10-cent store identification card, a copy of a telegram to a girl in New York and other identifying matter which deputies later learned he had prepared to obscure his real identity in case he was arrested.

Today Florian is back in Chicago, in custody of juvenile officers there. His crime follows him there and the court there will chart his future. But before he left, Florian had a little chat with the big good-natured Irish sheriff who became his friend and told him:

"Jail wasn't what I expected. I didn't get beat up. Maybe I had it wrong. I don't want to do this any more—it isn't worth it."

**Michigan Hotel
Sold to Chain**

The Milner Hotel Co. of Detroit, chain operator of 221 hotels, has purchased the Michigan Hotel, 127 E. Michigan St., it was announced yesterday. The purchase from Dr. S. B. Friedland was reported at \$125,000.

Francis Landstetler, Milner manager, has taken over management of the Michigan. There will be no other changes in personnel.

Michigan Hotel was erected in 1916 under the name of the Haugh Hotel between Meridian and Pennsylvania Sts. To make way for the World War Memorial Plaza it was moved eight years later to its present site.

It was purchased in 1939 by Dr. Friedland for approximately \$35,000, the first of six hotels he purchased as real estate investments.

**Father Kills Wife
And Son of 5 Months**

EDGARD, La., Apr. 2 (UP)—A husky, 25-year-old veteran told state police today he had to kill his 18-year-old wife and five-month-old son to get rid of a devil.

"She had the devil in her and I had to get him out," Walter J. Nunn Jr., said in confessing the murder of his wife, Hazel, and son, Walter III. "People on the radio told me she had the devil in her and the only way to get it out was to kill her."

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