

# NEWS DIGEST

## © © © *Salamanders and Rural Spring Water Supplies*

THAT salamanders may pollute rural spring water with *B. coli* has been demonstrated by a special study carried on by the Cattaraugus County Department of Health with the support of the Milbank Memorial Fund. Two recent articles report the details of this study: (1) "Salamanders and Water Hygiene," by William G. Hassler, published in the May-June issue of *Natural History*; and (2) "Interpretation of Laboratory Findings in Rural Spring Water Supplies," by Edmund K. Kline and Nelson M. Fuller, published in the July issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*. The role that salamanders play in infecting Appalachian spring water supplies is outlined in the latter article as follows: "The salamanders live in large numbers buried deep within the shale along the underground streams.

At certain seasons they come out from the deep recesses to the surface and travel distances of at least sixty-five feet overland. Here they feed on insects, worms, fly larvae, or similar living food. Should these be infected with *B. coli* through improper protection of the area from direct fecal pollution or surface drainage the salamanders become infected. Then they return to the depths and throw off *B. coli* for a considerable time."

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## © © © *New Study of Negro Migration to Urban Centers*

AN interesting study of Negro migration from cotton country to cities, made by Clyde V. Kiser, has just been published by the Columbia University Press, New York, under the title "Sea Island to City." The author, who is a Research Fellow on the staff of the Milbank Memorial Fund, has investigated local conditions on

St. Helena Island, off the coast of South Carolina, and subsequently interviewed about 300 Negroes, former residents of the Island, who had migrated to Savannah, Charleston, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. In addition to its value for light thrown on the motives for and consequences of Negro migration, the book is an absorbing human document because of its citation of personal testimonies.

The volume contains 272 pages, and sells at \$3.50.

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© © © *Proceedings of Second International Population Congress Published*

THE complete text of the scientific papers read at the Second General Assembly of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems held in London in June, 1931, is now available in a book edited by G. H. L. F. Pitt-Rivers entitled "Problems of Population."<sup>1</sup>

The Union, which since its inauguration in 1928 has re-

<sup>1</sup>Pitt-Rivers, G. H. L. F. *Ed.*: *Problems of Population, Being the Report of the Proceedings of the Second General Assembly of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems*. London, George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1932.

ceived its principal financial support from the Milbank Memorial Fund, was organized to initiate population studies depending on international cooperation and to facilitate the exchange of scientific deliberation on these problems. Many leading economists, sociologists, biologists, physiologists, anthropologists, geographers, and statisticians representing the national committees of the adhering countries participated in the London meeting, which was devoted to discussions of population and food supply, differential fertility and sterility, and the trends in structure of populations. Among the papers presented to the Assembly and included in the proceedings is "The Relation of Social Status to the Fertility of Native-Born Married Women in the United States," by Frank W. Notestein, a member of the Fund's staff and the American delegation.

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© © © *Peiping Union Medical College Begins Cooperation with Ting Hsien Rural Health Experiment*

ACTIVE cooperation between the Peiping Union Medical College and the Ting Hsien rural health experiment of the

Chinese National Association of the Mass Education Movement has begun under a formal agreement recently signed. This provides for exchange of services and for reciprocity in the use of facilities. The arrangement is highly satisfactory and promises important results.

Students of the College will get field training at the Ting Hsien Center. Qualified members of the Department of Health of the Movement will in turn hold fellowships at the College. Investigations of health problems in the district will be carried on by the College in co-operation with the Movement. Additions to the senior personnel of the Movement will be made in consultation with the College. Members of the public health staff of the Movement will from time to time serve on the College faculty, either as teachers or research workers. Specialists on the faculty will in exchange give field service.

As far as possible the hospital of the College will serve as the base hospital for the medical relief work of the Movement. The College will further aid the Ting Hsien Center by purchasing books, drugs, and other medical supplies for it, without any charge for this service, the mate-

rials being supplied at cost plus transportation.

During the past two years the Fund has aided the Mass Education Movement in its inauguration of the health work at Ting Hsien, which is China's first experiment with a rural department of public health.

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◎ ◎ ◎ *Ting Hsien, China, Health Report is Reprinted*

THE paper by Dr. H.-Y. Yao, "The Second Year of the Rural Health Experiment in Ting Hsien, China," which appeared in the *Quarterly Bulletin* for October, 1931, was reprinted in full in the February, 1932, issue of *Health and Happiness*, published in Calcutta, India, with the following note by the editor, Dr. Kartick Chandra Bose:

"India's teeming millions live in her 70,000 villages of India. The problems of rural India are more or less due to the same four fundamental factors, viz., ignorance, poverty, physical weakness, and selfishness, against which the Chinese National Association of the Mass Education Movement has been waging a well-laid-out campaign. Many prominent persons in India, including governors of provinces, have exhorted the young growing generation to go back to the villages for

the purpose of mass education, sanitation, and rural reconstruction in general. The following article by Dr. Yao, who is the head of the Department of Public Health, Chinese National Association of the Mass Education Movement, taken from the *Bulletin* of the Milbank Memorial Fund, will be read with interest by all workers engaged in rural uplift movement in Indian villages and should stimulate them to venture on a more comprehensive program of work than has, heretofore, been employed in India."

◎ ◎ ◎ "Medicine and the State" is Praised by Reviewers

SIGNIFICANT testimony to the public interest in the recent survey made by Sir Arthur Newsholme for the Milbank Memorial Fund is presented in reviews of his "Medicine and the State," which was published last May and is widely hailed as an important study of the relation between the private and official practice of medicine with special reference to public health and the prevention of disease.

Among the questions discussed by the reviewers, three are outstanding, namely, Sir Arthur's freedom from prejudice, his philosophy about the important function of the family physician, and the appeal of the book for all classes of readers. Typical reactions are illus-

trated in the following excerpts from reviews.

The *Sheffield Independent*, Sheffield, England, says: "The book is one of the most important and comprehensive of recent years, and is written without bias or prejudice. It deserves the most careful study." The *Press and Journal*, Aberdeen, Scotland, comments as follows: "Many opinions expressed will arouse controversy, for, as the author says, 'I fully realize the perplexing and sometimes conflicting factors which appear to impel observers to opposing conclusions.' None will deny, however, that all his proposals are carefully considered, and most will agree with him that 'the maintenance of health is worth all expenditures incurred in its maintenance or renewal under efficient administrative conditions.'"

Dr. Charles V. Chapin, formerly superintendent of health in Providence, Rhode Island, makes similar comment in a letter to the secretary of the Fund. He says of Sir Arthur: "His wide practical experience in many lands, and in many types of medical work, the thoroughness of his studies and his scientific fairness, give him a unique position. He is no propagandist

and quite often fails to satisfy either side to a controversy, but he has learning and common sense, and this book is sane and helpful to all."

Regarding the position of the private physician, the *Scotsman*, Edinburgh, says: "Special note should be taken of the concluding remark in the introduction that while his aim throughout is to favour what conduces most to the public welfare and through that of each member of the community, the author is profoundly convinced that what is found best for the public and best for the patient will also be found best for the private practitioner of medicine."

The *Medical Officer*, London, calls the book "a statesmanlike representation of the present position of the medical profession in relation to the problem of sickness and its prevention." "Sir Arthur," it continues, "whose long and intimate knowledge of questions of public health in an urban community and of the wider problems of national policy has not diminished his sympathy with those whose sphere of work lies in the domain of family practice, has earned the gratitude of us all."

Commenting on the same subject, the *Friend*, London, says:

"Sir Arthur Newsholme's volume is a valuable contribution to the steps which need to be taken to weld into an organic whole the practice of medicine in its threefold function of the maintenance of health, the prevention and the treatment of disease. We are evolving and must continue to evolve a new type of general practitioner trained to meet these new demands, but a condition of his evolution is the reconsideration of the medical education needful for his proper functioning."

That Sir Arthur's study has an appeal for the layman as well as for those professionally connected with medicine is emphasized by several reviewers. "The book is of absorbing interest from cover to cover," writes Dr. J. Johnstone Jervis, Medical Officer of Health of Leeds, in the *Yorkshire Post*, "and I strongly recommend its perusal by lay and professional readers alike." A contributor to *The Listener*, London, goes still farther. He says: "The book is addressed to the plain man, and I can only admire the art with which this is done." After reviewing Sir Arthur's main contentions, that same writer concludes: "But the real question remains. What does our master

—the man in the street—think of all this, and what can he be induced to do? For if we want a healthy nation we can have one; if we do not really want this, then all the wise men will preach in vain.”

Dr. Haven Emerson, in *The Survey*, New York, says that “when the spirit and sense of this book are accepted into the physician-and-patient relationship and absorbed into the conduct of public and personal medical care for sick and well, we shall be a people not only saner but by that token nearer to a practical social Christianity. The book is timely, its message will be widely welcomed, its effect cannot fail to be permanent and beneficial to all that is worthy in the social aspects of medical care.”

“Medicine and the State,” it may be added, is published by Allen and Unwin, London, and Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Maryland. This volume is an interpretation of factual findings in Sir Arthur’s survey of health work in eighteen European countries, which has appeared in three volumes published by the same firms, under the title “International Studies on the Relation between the

Private and Official Practice of Medicine with Special Reference to the Prevention of Disease.”

### Who Reads the Quarterly Bulletin?

THE *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Milbank Memorial Fund reaches an audience of widely diversified interests, located in many different quarters of the globe. Every state in the Union and nearly fifty foreign countries are represented on the *Bulletin* mailing list.

Of the 1,500 copies of the *Bulletin* sent out each time it is issued about one-fifth go to foreign countries; nearly a quarter to New York State; and 57 per cent to other parts of the United States.

Half of each edition is sent to libraries, including medical, state, public, and university. Through these 740 libraries the *Bulletin* reaches an even wider group of readers. About 10 per cent go to public health organizations and their executives; an equal percentage to educational institutions and teachers. Twelve per cent of the edition is addressed to social agencies and their staffs.