Let's Have More Safe Milk—As part of a public works program the suggestion is made that new municipal pasteurizing plants, and additions to present ones, to the tune of $8,000,000—not counting country pasteurizers—would prevent a lot of milk-borne disease, increase milk consumption, and help get people back to work. Small change, these days, but an important expenditure, for there were 408 milk-borne epidemics involving 16,000 cases in a recent decade.


And Safer Drinking Water—Prepared by the Public Health Service, this manual is for the guidance of local health officials to secure greater uniformity and safety in the control of water supplies.


Here's a Brave Man for You—Direct treatment of the teeth with fluoride-containing solutions will reduce dental caries. Probably this is a better method than adding fluorine to public water supplies, concludes the writer who adds without any face-saving qualification, "The immediate possibilities for the control of caries are extremely bright."


New Ideas Department—For a rank layman to annotate a paper of which he understands not a quarter of the words is the height of something or other, but here goes: It seems you take some spleen and rib marrow of a fresh human cadaver, grind the tissues and dry them. This antigen is diluted and injected into animals, much as we do to obtain antibacterial sera. The titer of cytotoxins is determined by complement-fixation. In small doses this anti-reticular cytotoxic serum stimulates the connective tissues of the body to intensify active immunity against all sorts of infections.


Present-day Pneumonia Experience—Among 90,000 shipyard workers in 1943 there was a pneumonia frequency rate of 9.5 per 1,000. Of 864 patients over 70 per cent had pneumococcal pneumonia. For some of these patients, both serum and sulfonamides were given, the gross mortality being 8.2 per cent.


Had This Occurred to You?—When birth rates vary considerably, the infant death rates, as ordinarily computed, may be no longer accurate, for many infant deaths will be from among babies born during the previous year. Hence a rapidly declining birth rate may produce a fictitiously high infant death rate. This paper suggests how corrective adjustments may be made.

How Many Have Cancer and What Kinds?—About 4 of every 1,000 city dwelling Americans have, or have had, cancer. About a half million people are under treatment for cancer at any given time, 300,000 new cases being diagnosed each year. Case rates are higher among women and, in both sexes, increase each decade of life. In almost half the males and three-quarters of the females, cancer occurs in either the digestive or genital systems. These are only a few of the arresting answers to our questions.


Care for the Needy Sick—New York State has worked out a practical pattern of public medical care for the needy which supplants archaic "poor doctor" practices, places medical men in charge of medical aspects, and builds a whole new approach to government-physician relationships, in some respects, out-Beveridging the Beveridge plan itself.


Strep Types and Scarlet Fever—All epidemiologists who may be struggling with the problem of controlling streptococcal infections will be interested in the findings of this army experience in which soldiers with pharyngitis-tonsillitis were hospitalized regardless of existence or nonexistence of scarlatiniform rashes. The study of streptococcal types is most revealing.


Health Service vs. Medical Practice—Why did you join the local health services? a British M. O. H. asked his colleagues. Nearly half said they joined because of their interest in some specialty. Also nearly half liked the idea of regular hours and fixed salary. A fifth had tried general practice and didn't like it, and 43 per cent believed that they could best serve the community through preventive medicine. A comparative poll of American health officers might produce illuminating comparisons.


This Paper Is about the Blue Cross—Sanitary engineers, chemists, bacteriologists, inspectors, and educators will view with some curiosity the following resounding and unqualified declaration, "American medicine, American dentistry, American nursing, and American hospitals have given our people the world's finest health service. With respect to education, service, and research, American health service has reached a degree of perfection never realized in any other country on earth." The theme of the peroration is: Everybody in the Blue Cross by 1960.


They Are Still Being Born One a Minute—Medical departments in five industrial plants, widely scattered, conducted a large scale demonstration of the value of cold vaccines, of all sorts, and found no evidence of effective prophylaxis against the frequency or the severity (including complications) of colds. Do you suppose this experience will have any influence upon the makers, the givers, or the gullible receivers of cold vaccines?

McGEE, L. C., et al. "Cold Vaccines" and

One State Is Awake at Any Rate—Brave new plans for an ambitious health and welfare service for the State of Maine should serve to inspire similar agencies to bestir themselves to do something to anticipate post-war health problems in the other 47 states.


A Desire to Save Babies Is Needed—Methods employed by the city of Chicago to reduce neonatal deaths are described. Adequate care for premature infants, better obstetrical practice, prevention of infection are the chief infant life saving measures. If they were employed throughout the nation 40 per cent of all infant deaths might be prevented. Three additional papers by Sage, E. C., Torpin, R., and Tyson, R. M., complete this timely and useful symposium. Child hygienists won’t neglect this series; many others of us should not.


Health for War Workers—War has introduced a host of new chemicals of unknown toxicity and has accelerated the use of older substances known to be hazardous. Modern industry rests on a chemical base and is constantly creating new problems in industrial hygiene. You will recognize the truth in these observations of the joint authors of this paper, if you read it.


BOOKS RECEIVED


