EDITORIALS

Come to Minneapolis

The current Journal contains the preliminary program for the Minneapolis meeting of the Association. The program promises to provide many items and sessions of interest for all those concerned with the present and future of community health. In addition, Minneapolis and Minnesota have many attractive and interesting aspects in addition to those concerned with health, and so we urge all of you to come to Minneapolis in October.

A Balance Sheet of Preventive Medicine in an Industrial Society

Health programs are for people and acceptance of public health measures depends on individual responses. This is the basic dilemma of designing a preventive strategy for an industrial society. Scientific, epidemiologic, and statistical accomplishments zoom way ahead of clinical practice because people remain much the same—blithely disregarding measures for health conservation while they are well, following a “Russian roulette” philosophy when they indulge in dangerous health behavior. Folks seek a pill, not a regimen for healthful living.

Meanwhile, increasing numbers of people compound health problems; the human milieu is deteriorating from our own behavior, and the pace of living has become so rapid that man cannot keep up with his own accomplishments. The pressures generated put a premium on youth. The health professions too often have lacked vision—planning for immediate gains without weighing their ultimate impact. Smallpox has been controlled in our area by rigorous vaccination programs; yet, at a time when international travel is commonplace, we are debating whether or not routine childhood smallpox vaccination is necessary in the United States. DDT controlled mosquitoes and reduced malaria, but the effects of the ensuing population increase have not yet been fully gauged. It is high time to design a preventive strategy for our sophisticated society!

We can look at a preventive balance sheet over man’s life span. There is clamor for legalizing abortion, obviously not the ideal solution for unwanted pregnancies. Current contraceptive techniques play an important role in current sexual mores. Are coeducational dorms and permissive sexual behavior conducive to the well-being of our youth? While deans and faculties re-