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AN INTERESTING REPORT ON WORLD HEALTH CONDITIONS; GREAT IMPROVEMENT SHOWN

Surgeon General H. S. Cumming of the Public Health Service, in an interesting report recently submitted to the U. S. Congress, has pointed out that the development of public health organization, national and international, is now such that it is practicable to keep advised currently of the prevalence of epidemic diseases and the health of populations throughout the world. This is brought about through the interchanges of information with State and local health authorities of the United States, diplomatic and consular officers abroad, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, at Washington, the International Office of Public Hygiene, at Paris, and the Health Section of the League of Nations at Geneva. In no previous year have there been better facilities for the collection of information regarding contagious and infectious diseases and matters pertaining to the public health.

These facilities are not wholly adequate, however, for all countries, nor, indeed, for all States of the United States.

Health is Better.

The health of all the population of those parts of the world for which dependable reports are available, was generally better during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, than for any previous year for which we have records. While epidemics occurred here and there, and preventable and fatal diseases were present everywhere, to an appalling degree in some countries the past year has witnessed no disheartening spread of infectious diseases into areas where public health administration is well established. On the contrary, notable progress has been made not only in confining diseases of this type within endemic areas, but in the dissemination of knowledge for their prevention and the mitigation of the effects of other diseases controlled by environment.

On the whole, the first half of the fiscal year 1927 was characterized by unusually low death rates in foreign countries from which reports were received. In Germany, for instance, the 1926 urban death rate reached the low level of 10.3 per thousand. It is necessary to emphasize, however, that favorable mortality rates such as these do not prevail throughout the world. No view of the world health conditions is in perspective without proper emphasis on the mortality rates of India and Egypt, which are three times as high as ours, or upon mortality rates of certain cities and areas in Spain, Russia and South America, which are double those prevailing in northwestern Europe, Great Britain and the United States. In most of the countries having higher mortality rate, however, the year was signalized by unusual freedom from epidemic diseases.

The Influenza Epidemic.

The most serious condition that interfered with the attaining of even lower mortality rates was the epidemic of influenza which affected the greater part of Europe in 1925-26. Slight epidemics of this disease following the increased prevalence in the winter of 1925-26 in the United States and elsewhere, had been reported in widely separated places, including New Zealand, the West Indies and South Rhodesia during June to November, 1926; in Denmark in September and in England in November. In March 1927, the epidemic was practically at an end. While the cases were generally mild, the wide geographic distribution of the epidemic resulted in a gross mortality in Europe that was estimated by the Health Section of the League of Nations as not less than 100,000 deaths. Influenza was also epidemic in Japan and China, but apparently not in India or in Africa.

Although bubonic plague occurred here and there in Asia, Africa, and South America, it was less prevalent than during the preceding year, and much less than in the previous four or five years. As usual, India remained the principal focus of infection, having over nine-tenths of the cases reported throughout the world, but there fewer cases were evident in 1926-27 than any year during the past three decades. By reason of its wide geographic distribution and the method of its spread, it remains one of the major pandemic diseases which will

require the constant vigilance of health authorities in all countries.

Scourge of India.

Cholera, still the scourge of India did not greatly diminish there, and appeared with much more than usual prevalence in countries eastward as far as Korea and Manchuria. A severe epidemic occurred in Siam in 1926 reaching its peak in July. In China Cholera was present at various periods during the year in most provinces, and epidemic in a number of localities. The most serious epidemic a port was at Shanghai, where more than 1,200 cases were reported in the international settlement from the latter part of July until the middle of September, 1926.

It is significant that yellow fever was confined to one section of the continent of Africa. Cases were reported on the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, the upper Volta, French Sudan, Togoland, and Dahomey. The disease was most prevalent on the Gold Coast during the first half of 1927 than for six or more years. With the exception of one case, which occurred at Bahia, Brazil, July 4-10, 1923, the disease was not reported in the Western Hemisphere during the year. This highly satisfactory condition is of the greatest importance to all of the American republics.

While devastating epidemics of typhus fever which swept Russia after the World War, have definitely passed, that country and the countries on its western and southern borders still constitute an area in which the disease is endemic. Some increases in incidence of this disease were also reported on the North African coast, especially in Algeria. The decline of typhus fever incidence in Chile since 1920 continued during the past twelve months. Sporadic cases were reported in Mexico. In the Irish Free State a slight epidemic of 24 cases was reported in April, last. However, there has been no marked spread of the disease from any of its endemic centers in any part of the world during the year 1926-27.

Decrease of Smallpox.

Smallpox has markedly decreased in continental Europe. Even in Spain where the death rate from this disease has been high, a definite improvement has been evident. In England and France, however, a mild type of disease was more prevalent than in the preceding year. Whether the mild type of the disease will supplant its severe form, or the severe vaccination exists, it is impossible to say. The fact remains that smallpox is endemic throughout the world, and undoubted evidence accumulates from countries where vaccination is enforced that the disease in any of its forms can be prevented by vaccination.

Generally speaking, the record of typhoid fever during the past year in countries where some sort of health administration has been established, has not indicated any great degree of further progress in effective control. On the contrary, two serious local epidemics have occurred. A water-borne epidemic last September in Hamburg, Germany, and the milk-borne epidemic in Montreal the past spring.

Except for small epidemics in England and Germany in the late autumn of 1926, infantile paralysis was less prevalent during the past twelve months than for some years. So far as can be judged from available reports, the influenza epidemic in Europe was not accompanied by epidemic encephalitis.

Diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough have not manifested an unusual prevalence during the past year, except a somewhat higher than normal incidence of scarlet fever in Poland, Germany and the Netherlands.

Available statistics of tuberculosis mortality in the larger European cities indicate a decline in the tuberculosis rate in 1926. The decrease in deaths in 1926 and 1925 in a considerable group of widely separated cities in Europe was 7.5 per cent. The decrease in German towns since 1923 has been remarkable. The tuberculosis death rate in 1926 being 99 per 100,000. While increases in the tuberculosis death rate in several Spanish cities, Manila and Bombay were in sharp

LORD ESHER'S MEMORIES OF THE VICTORIAN ERA ARE INTERESTING

(Gerald Barry in The Observer, London.)

Lord Esher uses the great houses of Victorian England as backgrounds for these biographical sketches. Wootton Bassett, where he spent much of his boyhood in the time of the third earl, was typical of that spacious and dignified age:

William Earl of Lonsdale appeared to us children, at that time his guests, to be of an age so advanced as to make him already an historic figure worthy of a place among the personages familiar to us from our school books, mystical beings long since passed away—Napoleon, who had been our host's contemporary, the Marlborough, who may well have been for all we knew.

A personage he certainly was, and had been from his youth; companion of the Prince Regent after the death of Fox, when the prince finally deserted his old political friends; a Minister who had served under Lord Liverpool, a colleague of Wellington and Peel.

It seems a different world from ours. But Lord Esher can take us still farther back.

As a child, in a poplin frock, I had been seated on the lap of a little wizened old man who once had played the violin before Marie Antoinette. Later, in my great aunt's house in Paris, I had been presented to a stout, dark, skinned man, with masses of grizzled hair, an enormous hat held curiously between his knees. It was Alexander Dumas. And, again later, I had been treated with sympathetic kindness by a dignified, charming gentleman, perfectly dressed in what seemed to me the fashion of a prehistoric age. It was Lord Lansdowne's grandfather the Comte de Flahault, who, as Napoleon's aide-de-camp, had accompanied the emperor home from Moscow, and ridden that tragic ride alongside of his master away from the field of Waterloo.

When Lord Esher left Cambridge he became private secretary to Lord Hartington, of whom he draws a delightfully human portrait. Hartington was dragged through life triumphantly by the duchess, who with her "ruthless beauty" would have made a success of anything or anybody she sat her mind to. Yet the duke is not made to seem a dullard; under Lord Esher's skilful and kindly pen his shortcomings become endearing.

No book of Victorian biography would be complete today without a sketch of Disraeli, who is extremely fashionable, and not at all regarded as a "mugwump"—the word used by Lord Esher to connote the contempt in which he supposes that statesmen to be held by neo-Georgians. He gives us two characteristic sidelights on Dizzy's success. Walking with Lord Esher and his father in the garden at Longleat he remarked: "I never contradict, I never deny; but I sometimes forget," but not often, where his enemies were concerned. "I never trouble to be avenged," he said on

contrast to this rate, the general trend of the disease is encouraging abroad, as well as in this country.

CITY OF FREDERICTON—NOTICE OF SALE OF LANDS

NOTICE is hereby given, that pursuant to the provisions of the City of Fredericton Assessment Act, 1926, there will, for the purpose of satisfying taxes assessed and levied in the said City of Fredericton, for the years mentioned hereunder, against the parties hereinafter named, unless the several sums due, together with the costs of this notice are sooner paid, be sold at Public Auction in front of the City Hall, in the City of Fredericton, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the 21st day of January A. D. 1928, all the right, title and interest of the parties hereinafter named in and to the lands and premises in the said City of Fredericton, hereunder mentioned and set opposite their respective names.

Property to be Sold	Name of Person Assessed	Arrears for Years	Total Due
Lot of land and building, eastern side of Carleton Street, leased from His Majesty the King in right of Dominion of Canada by said Company.	Arctic Rink Company Limited.	1925-1926-1927 Interest	\$ 416.57 37.63
Lot eastside of Smythe Street, near line of Valley Railway, described in deed from H. J. Patterson to said August Lofstrum dated February 20th, 1918.	August Lofstrum	1925-1926-1927 Interest	\$ 151.23 11.10
1.—Lot at Corner of York and King Street, 43 feet 2 inches on York, and 92 feet on King. 2.—Lot on south side of George Street, deed from Isabella Staples, October 2nd, 1916, to Alonzo Staples. 3.—Lot on Northumberland Street west side, south of Aberdeen Street, 100 feet, 45 ft. front.	Alonzo Staples	1925-1926-1927 Interest Water Rates	\$2159.13 126.32 169.75

Dated the 17th day of November, A. D. 1927.

FRED I. HAVILAND,
City Treasurer of the City of Fredericton.

have pointed with pride to the differences. But already these attacks are losing zest; gibes at Victorians are now vieux jeux. Where the same fingers, as in the pose of mock-Victorian decoration affected by very modern young people, it is but the first unconscious step toward a wider rehabilitation. When the paper-hangers arrive the furniture vans are not far off.

(Montreal Star)

If Capt. Morden, official representative of the Ski Club of Great Britain in the United States ever meets Rudyard Kipling he can tell him a strange story about "My Lady of the Snows." Capt. Morden like the other 3,500 members of his club specializes on down hill racing in preference to the cross-country endurance type developed in Norway. He requires a certain amount of snow in order to do his stuff, so he set out from New York City in search of the white beautiful.

His first stop was Lake Placid in New York State. He found very little snow there. He thought Montreal, lying so far north would supply the bountiful snow and cold weather which are needed for the sport.

Capt. Morden arrived in Montreal this morning, and to his great disappointment, found the weather almost humid, dark foggy skies reminiscent of London—and no snow. He drifted into Winsor station to seek advice in his dilemma.

After a conference with Major Ashley Edwards, Capt. Morden announced that he was going to Gaspé Peninsula on tonight's train. "I do hope I shall find snow and hills down there," he said. "But I have had so many disappointments in my search for snow in this north country that I shall believe it only when I see it."



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