

Nasser Is the Man

It is by no means clear whether the attempted assassination of Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser was engineered by Gen. Mohammed Naguib or by Nasser himself as a move against Naguib. Whatever the truth of the assassination plot, it served as the backdrop for the dismissal of Naguib from the presidency of Egypt. Premier Nasser has held the actual reins since King Farouk was ousted in July, 1952, but Naguib for most of the time has been the front man. For a while after the departure of the King, many persons thought that Naguib was the man with the power, and he was adored by the Egyptian people. But all along it was Nasser and the Revolution Command Council of the army that wielded the authority. When Naguib realized what a large following he had, he presumed to question their authority, and the result now is his dismissal for the second time this year.

Premier Nasser has shown a remarkable capacity to govern in the two and a half years that he has held the reins of power. Some of the economic reforms have been successful. He has prevented a situation that might easily have ended in civil war from worsening and he has fended off the powerful and fanatical Moslem Brotherhood. He worked out a satisfactory agreement with the British for control of the Suez—though regrettably there still is no approach to settlement with Israel. Despite the official criticism of United States policy in the Near East, Nasser has welcomed American technical aid and has cooperated with American economic officials. If he can survive the crisis over the dismissal of Naguib, he and his military junta may be able to provide the country with a relatively stable and responsive government.

Helping Secret Children

The last affliction to be brought out from the secrecy of the hideaway treatment has been that of mental retardation. No victim of human handicap has been so surrounded by whisperings, old wives' tales and false stigmas, or so shamefully neglected in education, medical research and public concern as retarded children. Yet three out of every 100 persons in every community suffer from mental retardation, and the affliction is nine times more common than cerebral palsy and 10 times more common than polio.

This week the National Association for Retarded Children and its member units, including the Greater Washington Council, are seeking to awaken the public as to what it can and should do to help—and prevent—mentally retarded children. Experience shows that probably three fourths of the mentally retarded can be rehabilitated and trained so they will be partly or wholly self-sufficient. Yet school doors generally are closed against them and public facilities for their care are tragically lacking.

Medical research now offers much hope in the field of prevention. Researchists know or suspect 70 diseases or conditions occurring in the mother or child during pregnancy, or in the child during and after birth, that can cause this handicap. But both public and private help are needed on a much larger scale if education and research are to give these innocent secret children a chance.