From Cure to Prevention

A railway spends more money on train and track inspection than on wreck crews. The average automobile owner is on the watch for signs of motor trouble and does not wait until there is a breakdown. The factory manager looks solicitously after his machines and does all he can to guard against interruptions in production. The human body, which is vastly more complex than any machine, is in need of vigilant care and frequent examination. Yet for the most part it is neglected until pain and disability sound an unmistakable alarm. Then the doctor is called in and too often is expected to do the impossible. He is thought of as a wreck crew rather than as a train and track inspector. It is often said that if all available knowledge about the causes of disease were actually applied the world over, millions of lives could be saved every year. This statement is true, but it may easily mislead. One is likely to infer that enough public health officers and sanitary engineers could usher in a hygienic millennium. But the thing is by no means so simple. The public authorities at best can control wholly or in part only about 20 per cent of the diseases by which people are crippled or killed. Valuable as this community protection against contagious diseases is, it must be remembered that about 80 per cent of the menace to life is not dealt with, at any rate directly, by public authorities. The idea of prevention, then, will have limited influence until it is accepted not merely as a government policy but as a guiding principle in individual lives. Education of whole communities and nations, changes in habits of thought, a new attitude toward disease and toward medical service, are essential conditions of progress.

Training the modern doctor

Early medical training was an apprenticeship. The Rockefeller Foundation has decided that in no more fundamental way can it contribute to progress than by helping strategically placed medical schools in various parts of the world to increase their resources and to improve their teaching and research.

Improving English hospitals and university + Belgium one

After a discussion of the entire situation it was agreed that the University, the City of Brussels, and Dr. Depage should draw up a plan which might be submitted to the Rockefeller Foundation with a view to securing its help.

China

It is one thing to give Chinese men and women a modern medical training; quite another to provide the conditions under which that training can be of largest service to Chinese communities. Unless the native physician can have access to laboratory and operating room, unless he can maintain professional and personal relations with competent and high-minded colleagues, unless he can count upon a certain confidence in Western methods among his fellow countrymen, the chances of permanent and worthy success are slight. Conservatism, faith in native medicine, family demands for quick commercial returns, absence of publicly en-

forced standards, temptation to compromise and quackery, beset the path of the Chinese doctor

who undertakes to practise scientific medicine in his native land. The chief agency for helping the native practitioner is the Western type of hospital, which gives him additional education, offers him facilities, aids him in maintaining his ideals, and helps to disseminate in the community knowledge of the aims and methods of both curative and preventive medicine. In carrying out its China plans, therefore, the Rockefeller Foundation is aiding many strategically situated hospitals—for the most part under missionary auspices—to improve their buildings and equipment and to increase the number of their doctors and nurses.

Regarding the School of Hygiene at John Hopkins (p.34)

In establishing the school attention was properly given first to organizing the fundamental

departments which deal with the causes of contagious diseases, vital statistics, sanitary engi-

neering, and the like.

Regarding the scholarshiips page 37

It should be pointed out that these fellowships do not cotstitute in any sense an inflexible system in which any given nation has a vested right. The awards are made only to individuals of outstanding ability who have assurances of opportunities to engage in salaried teaching or public health service in their own countries. No aid is granted to persons who are planning to become immediately private practitioners or commercial laboratory workers.

Progress in malaria control, yellow fever, hookworm, tuberculosis in France

During 1920 the hookworm work, always undertaken in concert with government agencies, went steadily forward in nine states of the South.

It has been the intention from the outset to turn the tuberculosis organization over to the French as soon as this can be done in justice to the work and in fairness to governmental and other agencies

Regarding the cooperation with rep chec page 57

The policy outlined above is based upon the idea that trained personnel, a knowledge of scientific methods, and an appreciation of administrative efficiency are fundamental to any constructive public health work.

Finances page 59

Less than 9 $millions

The commonwealth of Science p 63

The Commonwealth of Science

Science knows no national boundaries. It is a world product, a common fund of knowledge to

which all nations contribute and upon which each may freely draw. To keep open the channels of communication by personal migration and by printed page, to encourage the training of specialists, to foster the growth of institutions to stimulate research, to encourage the application of scientific knowledge to the needs of nations, communities, and individuals, are tasks upon the successful performance of which largely depends the progress of the world in economic efficiency, physical health, and international good-will. It is the aim of the Rockefeller Foundation to have a part in this great movement by helping to increase the common store of knowledge about the causes of disease, and through demonstrations and the services of trained experts to diffuse this information as widely as possible among all peoples. Thus does the Foundation seek to fulfil its chartered purpose "to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world."