

Some doubt was expressed as to whether Council officers could be as free in their methods as workers paid by voluntary committees but it is now clear that the experiment has been a success and that in South London the care of these children is even more closely integrated with the schools and with the care committees than it was before.

Five of the district councils in South London have formed sub-committees which raise and administer small voluntary funds as well as assisting individual children, they do all they can to help to improve current moral standards. London north of the Thames is still covered by voluntary committees.

Since the establishment of the Children's Committee, the responsibility for such children as have to be taken to court as in need of care and protection rests with the area children's officer. Besides these children there are many innocent victims of sexual molestation where there is no question of removal from their good homes. What they and their parents need is help to recover from the emotional impact of these experiences. The police and others are most helpful in telling the workers about these children but the majority are brought to their notice by teachers.

Much emphasis is laid nowadays on the need for co-operation between teachers and parents and there is no doubt that the L.C.C.'s care committee organisation plays a vital part in ensuring that this co-operation is effective. The Education (General Purposes) Sub-Committee have placed on record their appreciation of the devoted service given to London children by the voluntary workers.

## The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

WE ARE INFORMED that the syllabus for the examination for the General Certificate of Education of the University of Bristol in the subject of Human Biology has now been approved by the Council for the purposes of exemption from Part I of the Preliminary State Examination.

The complete list of the syllabuses which have now been approved for exemption is as follows:—

Human Biology Syllabus of the University of Cambridge  
Local Examinations Syndicate.

Human Biology Syllabus of the University of Durham  
School Examinations Board.

Human Biology and Hygiene Syllabus of the Oxford  
Delegacy of Local Examinations.

Human Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene Syllabus of the  
University of London.

Elementary Physiology Syllabus of the Joint Matriculation  
Board of the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool,  
Leeds, Sheffield and Birmingham.

Human Biology Syllabus of the Welsh Joint Education  
Committee.

Human Biology Syllabus of the Associated Examining  
Board for the General Certificate of Education.

Human Biology Syllabus of the University of Bristol.

Application for exemption from Part I of the Preliminary State Examination should be made at the time of entry to the Nurse Training School and a certified copy of the General Certificate of Education, which will be retained by the Council, should be sent to the offices of the Council with the student nurse's index form. If the General Certificate of Education has not yet been received at the time of application a statement from the Secretary of the appropriate examination board or from the Headmistress of the School will be accepted; such a statement must contain the candidate's full name and details of the subjects in which she has been successful.

## World Health Organization.

### Executive Board

#### RESISTANCE OF DISEASE-BEARING INSECTS TO INSECTICIDES IS THREAT TO WORLD HEALTH.

THE DEVELOPMENT of resistance of disease-bearing insects to insecticides has become a public health problem of the greatest importance, and the World Health Organization must assume responsibility for co-ordinating and stimulating research against this new danger, according to a resolution adopted by the WHO Executive Board now meeting in Geneva under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Al-Wahbi.

Thirty-two countries have reported insect resistance to DDT and other new insecticides, and approximately 35 species of insects are already involved, Dr. M. G. Candau, WHO Director-General, told the Board. A number of these insects spread some of the world's most dangerous epidemic diseases: various types of malaria-bearing *mosquitoes* show immunity to DDT in some areas of Greece, Lebanon, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Panama and Mississippi (USA). *Body lice* spreading typhus can no longer be controlled by DDT in Korea, and five other countries are reporting that satisfactory control is becoming difficult. *Fleas*, which are responsible for plague, are manifesting resistance in certain parts of South America. Worse still, there has recently come from Trinidad information that a strain of the mosquito which spreads yellow fever has shown itself to be extremely resistant to DDT. (Trinidad had an outbreak of yellow fever 18 months ago.) As to *flies*, their destruction with DDT and other chemicals is no longer possible in almost all countries where these materials have been used in recent years. Resistance of *cockroaches* and *bedbugs* is also well established in many countries.

"Should the degree of resistance in vectors of diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, plague and typhus reach the point where control by the available insecticides is no longer possible, disastrous results from a health viewpoint will inevitably occur in many parts of the world," said Dr. Candau.

It has been suggested at a WHO Symposium in Rome in 1953 that WHO should encourage work on the use of new insecticides, but the new products which have become available since that time are too few and too limited in efficiency to have a significant effect on the trend of events. Moreover, the majority of the materials now being used as alternatives present a higher toxic hazard to man than DDT or BHC.

#### "Apallingly Small Funds Spent on Research"

An extraordinary fact is that no scientist today is yet able to say with certainty "*what causes death when insects are exposed to insecticides*" and what are the biochemical and physiological bases of resistance.

The report submitted by the Director-General to the WHO Executive Board declares on this point: "It is surely an anomaly that, with the vast amounts of money that have been spent during the past decade and the large allocations of funds which are being made for future programmes of insect-borne diseases control by insecticides, and with the almost complete reliance that is being placed on the use of these chemicals by health authorities in many countries of the world in the control of the epidemic diseases, only insignificant funds have been and are being set aside for research on resistance. A survey of the research on resistance being performed in the leading laboratories throughout the world is at present being carried out by WHO. A preliminary report concerning the work of 27 of these centres in the European, East Mediterranean and South-East Asia regions indicates that the amount of money and effort being devoted to work which might contribute to the solution of the problem of resistance is apallingly small."

The same situation seems to exist in the majority of countries in all parts of the world.

The Executive Board agreed that a determined effort

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