

Your Health
THE FIRST CONCERN.



(Continued from last week.)
HELPING THE STATES

A Federal Board of Maternity and Infant Hygiene, composed of the chief of the Children's Bureau, the surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service, and the United States Commissioner of Education was authorized to approve State plans. The administration of the Act was put in the hands of the Children's Bureau, which added a special division for the purpose. Its part was to help the States by arranging conferences of State directors, by field and office consultations, by lending a doctor or nurse to put on demonstrations or conduct a survey, and by auditing accounts. But the States were to carry out the work themselves, by whatever means they chose. And so they did, forty-five of them eventually, and Hawaii. The establishment of health centers and of health conferences of different types, the distribution of literature, home visits of nurses, prenatal letters and correspondence courses, training courses for midwives, talks and lectures, were the parts of a pattern put together differently in different States. Instead of figures let one or two letters show how human and close a relationship exists between the State Bureaus and the people it serves:

"Dear Friends at Division of Child Hygiene: I will write you folks a letter and thank you very many times for the help of your letters. I sure was glad to get them. I have learned many things out of them. I hope that you are helping all your many other ladies. We have received a wonderful baby girl of which we are very proud."—And another: "I wish to say that I found the free course I took on maternity and infancy a great benefit to me both before and after my second child was born. It made all the difference in the world between my first and second child."

That sounds innocent enough, and yet this modest measure for social service has been the storm center of a great controversy; and no doubt a similar measure next winter will draw fire.

WILD CHARGES

The objections of Sheppard-Towner opponents ran into long and formidable words—bureaucracy, paternalism, and even Bolshevism. It was indeed charged more than once in Congress that the maternity and infancy legislation was nothing more nor less than a huge plot, inspired by Moscow, to take American children away from their homes and nationalize them. Of course this was only hysteria, for it was easy enough to find out that no member of the Government could so much as enter a home without permission, or thrust even advice on any mother who didn't want it.

As for bureaucracy, the administrative staff of the Children's Bureau during most of the seven years consisted of only three doctors, three nurses, an auditor, a secretary, and two clerks. Not much of a bureaucracy in that, especially as the States were free to accept or reject at will.

Then there was the argument first cousin to the one about bureaucracy over the federal interference with State rights. People who object sincerely along this line must logically object just as much to federal interference in the form of aid for roads, farm relief, food inspection, and the like. But four years ago, strangely enough, to take alarm only when mothers' and babes' lives are at stake.

All these bogies rose up when it

was time to get the appropriation extended. However, in January, 1927, it was extended for two years beyond the original five; but only after the friends of the measure had agreed that at the end of those two years the Sheppard-Towner Act should be repealed. Before that date came new bills were introduced to carry on the same program. But none passed, and on June 30, 1929, the Act ended.

THE FATE OF THE "BABY BILL"

The campaign for a new bill went steadily forward. Several measures were introduced in the Seventy-first Congress, and each House passed a reasonably satisfactory measure. The Jones Bill, which virtually continued the provisions of the Sheppard-Towner Act, was passed in the Senate. The House approved a bill that included an appropriation for rural health units as well as for maternity and infancy work. But the bills were too far apart to be harmonized easily, and the work of adjustment lagged. Finally an agreement was reached and the friends of the bill believed it was to be a story with a happy ending before the last gavel banged. But alas, the changed bill reached the Senate in its closing hours and, along with other measures of importance, was sacrificed to a filibuster for a purpose quite unrelated to any of them.

The filibustering Senator shouldn't bear the full blame, of course. Congress had been in session about sixteen months after the expiration of the Sheppard-Towner Act. There was plenty of time.

(Concluded next week.)

LOCUST HORDES WERE EXPECTED DURING 1931.

The sound of the locust heard over this land was the principal worry of the United States Bureau of Entomology in 1931. Dr. C. L. Marlatt, bureau chief, indicates in his annual report to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Unlike the Rocky Mountain locusts of last century, these grasshoppers did not swarm in unexpectedly, says Dr. Marlatt, but were predicted by entomologists. With conditions for their increase highly favorable and at the same time unfavorable for the diseases and other natural agencies which normally check these pests, the numbers always present in the Great Plains area increased tremendously. The onslaught of the grasshoppers came as a direct result of the droughts of 1929 and 1930.

Unfortunately, Dr. Marlatt says, the two known effective measures against grasshoppers were not taken, one method being poisoning the young hoppers, and the other being destroying the egg masses by cultivating the ground, thus exposing the eggs to winter weather.

Throughout the past year new ways of combating pests by insecticides, by parasites that are natural enemies of many insects, and by modification of farm practices, have been devised and tested in the laboratory and in the field. Dr. Marlatt reports progress in preventing or decreasing the farmer's losses from hundreds of dangerous pests.

PENN STATE STUDENTS NOMINATED FOR HONOR

Three students of the Pennsylvania State College have been suggested for Pennsylvania nominations for Rhodes Scholarships. Two are from the School of Education, Harry W. Porter, of Pittsburgh, and George Fisanick, of Bamesboro, while the third, Harry W. Brick, of Philadelphia, is enrolled in the School of Agriculture.

Every year 32 American students are sent to Oxford University, England, for two years on Rhodes Scholarships. To select these men the United States is divided into eight districts of six States each. Each State makes two nominations from the candidates submitted, and from these nominees the scholarship men are selected.

In 63 early sweet corn variety demonstrations conducted on truck farms of Pennsylvania during 1931 Early Market was the growers' choice of earliest white and Golden Early Market their first choice of earliest yellow corn.

STRANGE GOODS IN THE WORLD TRADE

Fuzz from deer horns, choice bristles from pigs' necks, gallstones from steers, human hair, dried beetles, cricket dust, and beef blood are a few of the commodities mentioned in a recent report of the National Geographic Society, dealing with some strange things that enter into world trade.

Chinese fuzz collectors hunt young deer, scrape their newly sprouted horns for a fuzz-like substance, and ship it to Chinese settlements in many foreign countries, where the Orientals use the fuzz for medicinal purposes. In the mixed cargoes from Chinese ports, customs inspectors find cases of pig bristles, destined to foreign brush manufacturers; ground dried crickets, a native Chinese medicine for cancer and fever; dried egg yolks and albumen which find their way into American and European confections, baked goods and medicines.

Down the Yangtze from remote parts of China, native crafts sail with cargoes of tung oil, an important ingredient of oilcloth and varnish that will not waterstain; and sticklac, the sap of an Oriental tree which is used by the manufacturers of shellac and sealing wax. Human hair is still shipped from China to the United States, where it is treated and dyed, returned to China to be made into hair nets, and reshipped to the United States.

China also receives some strange cargoes. Seaweed from the Asiatic coasts is shipped to Chinese and other Oriental ports, where it is prepared for fertilizer, while some of it furnishes ingredients for glue. Gallstones from Argentina are popular as charms among certain Chinese.

Chinese and Japanese importers purchase supplies of beche de mer, sea worms from the waters of the East Indies and Australia, for palatable soap; while there is a steady trade among the people of the East Indies and those of the Asiatic continent in betel nut, the fruit of the betel palm, which is the chewing tobacco of the East. Betel-nut chewing blackens the mouths of many men, women and children of the Pacific islands and continental Asia who indulge in this habit.

Japanese chrysanthemums are bunched and shipped to many parts of the world and used in the manufacture of insecticides. Ethiopia adds to the strange list of commodities a liquid extracted from the civet cat; this liquid is used by perfume manufacturers. The Canary Islands contribute cochineal, little red bugs collected from cactus leaves. They are shipped to England and Germany and used in dye manufacture.

Italy has a corner on the world supply of orris root, largely used in perfumes, sachets, and medicines, and there is a shortage in the supply of the commodity. Dragon's blood, red resinous substance from an Oriental palm tree, used in the United States and Europe to color varnish, is produced and exported by Siam.

Peru is the native home of the cinchona tree, from the bark of which quinine is produced, but Java now produces a large supply for export. The same ships that transport cinchona bark from Java carry cargoes of kapok, used in the United States and Europe as stuffing for pillows, cushions, and lifesaving apparatus.

Argentina is the source of about half of the United States' import of cattle blood, which is used chiefly in

the manufacture of fertilizer. Brazil furnishes the world with large quantities of animal bones, bone dust, hoofs and horns for the manufacture of gelatine, glue and soap.

Human amusement is a boon to trade, particularly to the exporters of Mexican jumping beans. The small brown, pea-sized bean contains a worm. When the worm moves so does the bean. Tons of jumping beans have been displayed and sold in the United States.

Although the United States lumber camps and sawmills furnish thousands of tons of sawdust, the demand for oatmeal wall-paper, linoleum, bakelite, artificial wood, and other products in which sawdust is used requires the importation of this commodity.

"So you use three pairs of glasses, professor?"
Yes, one pair for long sight, one pair for short sight, and the third to look for the other two."

...A Record Storm

TOMMY and Myra peered through the window. Whirling snow blotted out the landscape. Bluffeting wind piled the highway with snow drifts and whistled around Grandma's house.

"We can't go home while it's storming," Tommy observed sagely. Then Grandma answered the friendly tinkle of the telephone.

"Certainly," they heard her say. "They'll be right with me." It was Mother calling and Tommy and Myra scrambled onto the chair to reach the telephone. Daddy would come for them when the blizzard was over, they were told.

For two days the storm raged, but in Grandma's cozy home no one minded. With the telephone handy and Mother at the other end, Tommy and Myra enjoyed every minute of that record storm.

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Farm 1

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A DISASTROUS FIRE DESTROYS RAILROAD SHOPS IN ALTOONA, SUNDAY.

One of the most disastrous fires that ever occurred in Altoona took place on Sunday when the Twelfth street shops of the Pennsylvania railroad were almost completely destroyed. The box shop, the bolt shop, machine and airbrake shops were entirely destroyed, while the larger portion of erecting shop No. 2 and about one-third of erecting

shop No. 1 were destroyed. The loss is placed at from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.

The fire originated in the bolt shop about 9 o'clock in the morning and it was late in the afternoon when it was brought under control. At the present time 1100 men were working in the shops destroyed and practically all of them will be given work in other shops.

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