

**VIENNA FARES WELL
ASSERTS DR. LEWIS**

Director of Phipps Institute
Laboratory Made Ten Days'
Study of Conditions

PRAISES AMERICAN RELIEF

Dr. Paul A. Lewis, director of laboratory of the Henry Phipps Institute, recently sent abroad for the conference of the National Tuberculosis Association, spent about ten days of his visit in making a study of conditions in Vienna.

While being primarily interested in the study of tuberculosis, Dr. Lewis stated that it was impossible to keep his attention centered on that to the exclusion of more general questions.

"There has been some discussion in American magazines recently," he said, "as to whether the situation in Austria has been accurately represented to us. It has, I believe, been flatly stated by at least one prominent magazine writer that there has been gross misrepresentation and that Vienna today is not much worse off than many other cities. I can lay claim to no wide experience enabling me to judge of such matters, and can only say that I approached the city with an entirely open mind as to what I was to see.

Beggars No More Common Than Here
"Certainly one's first impression on reaching Vienna is of a city passing through a period of depression, but in no sense seriously off. People in the streets are more or less universally shabbily clad, but people in rags, street beggars, etc., are no more common than in Philadelphia.

"The windows of the shops are nicely dressed and there appears to be, at first sight, an abundance of merchandise. A few hours of walking about, going into shops, asking prices, and looking at the same time at what the shops contain, serve at once to correct this impression. Pictures, lace, furs, rugs, jewelry, in a word, articles of luxury of all sorts, are freely displayed.

"In many instances, though by no means in all, examination shows that nearly the whole stock is in the windows. Candy appears at first sight to be abundant, but examination shows that it is mostly gum and paste, with very little sugar, and a thin coating of a poor quality of chocolate. Food in any quantity or of desirable quality is not displayed in the stores, on the sidewalks, or in the markets, to any extent whatever.

Little Golf Is Played Now
"Fairly well-to-do people no longer practice golf or mountain climbing, but take a knapsack and go into the country in their off times and try to buy things for their families to eat, or to sell to their neighbors. The actual



DR. PAUL A. LEWIS
Director of Laboratory of the Henry Phipps Institute, who made a study of conditions in Vienna and says Austrian city is faring well

method by which people with money are able to buy food for their families for home consumption, if such methods exist, remained a complete mystery to me throughout my stay. It was evident that much of the eating was done in cafes which would, doubtless, be supplied from wholesale houses and warehouses, and naturally kept up an appearance of activity which was certainly deceptive as an indication of the available food supply.

"People on the streets did not appear to be especially badly nourished. One has to reflect a little and realize that the middle of October—at which time I was in Vienna—is the end of the harvest season, when the nutrition of the able-bodied, independent people in the city would naturally be at its best. With this reflection it was clear that people looked none too well.

"The first day of my stay was a warm day, and the lack of coal did not impress itself upon me. The rest of my stay was bitterly cold and the statement offered by those in a position to know—that the coal ration for the city, to the first of April, was on the basis of seven pounds per head per day, and that this was available to private persons only at a high cost and with considerable uncertainty as to the actual availability of the supply at any particular time—led me to appreciate that it was easy to take a hasty and unfavorable view of any such situation at first.

Conditions Moderately Good
"On the whole, one quickly acquired the conviction that conditions at the

moment were moderately good; that the amount of extreme suffering, in other words, during the particular two weeks that I was there, was minimum, but that this was because of the fact that it was just at the end of the summer season when things were at their best, and because, even through the summer season, there had been continued a great deal of assistance from outside.

"It has been the policy of the Americans to see that the Austrian workers connected with their organization are well fed. This is absolutely necessary as an administrative matter in order to avoid pilfering and the surreptitious use of food. It is in itself a sufficient incentive, so that they are able to secure the most conscientious attention from among the Austrians to carry out their work. Almost any one in Austria today is especially well off if he can get a job about a hotel or any place where a food is handled. That is in itself, I think, a sufficient commentary on the actuality of the situation.

Account For All Food
"The work of the American relief administration is so managed that every pound of food they take into the country is accounted for. It is not only accounted for as having been given to some one, but it is accounted for in the sense that some one connected with the organization has prepared it in a palatable form without waste, and has actually seen it eaten by the person to whom it is given.

"These reports are kept and checked and classified in much the same way that I should imagine the transfers and exchanges on the R. P. M. be accounted for, with the result that if a food ship fails to arrive as per schedule and it is necessary for a given week, or a given month, to reduce the amount of food to be supplied to the children as a whole, it is known exactly which children are best able to spare it, and action is taken on this basis.

"The food is given in the shape of one meal a day, so constructed as to contain all the essential elements of a well-balanced diet; the total amount is about 700 calories, which is approximately one-third of that which is necessary for complete maintenance. It is probably sufficient for temporary maintenance over short periods.

Look After Child's Welfare
"Every effort is being made to see that the parents or, when this is impossible, other agencies do their full duty by the children and supply the other two-thirds of their actual requirement. This effort is fairly successful. I was able to satisfy myself of the effectiveness of this system by visits to the feeding stations. At the time of my visits to those stations it was cold (five to ten degrees below freezing), a few of the children were bare-footed, a few were ragged, very few were definitely warm in clothing. It was stated that most of the clothing was a shipment of second-hand clothing from America; that shipments of heavier clothing and of shoes to supply the remainder of the children were expected momentarily.

"The American Relief Administration is feeding about 150,000 children in Vienna and about the same number in Austria outside of Vienna.

"Nor are the Americans by any means doing all the relief work being done in Austria. The English Society of

Friends has undertaken to look after the needs of the children who are below the age of six years. Most of their money is raised in England, but they have the assistance of the American Friends to a considerable extent. The organization is English; their system of food distribution is necessarily different.

"Because of the ages of the children the food must be sent into the home, and it is quite impossible to distribute food in this way so economically or so efficiently as by the feeding station system, which is employed by the American relief administration. It is the universal belief there that the work is being as carefully done as is possible, and that it is highly efficient and deserving of support in every way.

Meal for University Professors
"As a further commentary on the situation it may be noted that the American relief administration is running a mess for 200 of the university professors. There is supplied to them the same 700-calory meal a day that is given to the children. Arrangements have been made through Austrian sources so that for a nominal sum the professors are able to acquire coffee and dessert and retain a measure of self-respect. I lunched at the mess hall one day and found that the arrangements were most comfortably and tactfully carried out.

"Of course, under the conditions prevailing, tuberculosis has greatly increased in Vienna. Figures which are available show this clearly. It is unquestionably true that they would have been much worse except for the fact that the population has been so much assisted from outside.

"Sufficient work has been done by all concerned so that the exact relationship between the conditions that have prevailed since the armistice and the character of tuberculosis during the same period will become a matter of accepted record and should prove to be very instructive in the future for all who are interested in the fundamental aspects of tuberculosis control.

Relief Work More Efficient
"The work of the American Relief Administration is probably the most efficient charity that has ever been operated on a large scale—when looked at from the American point of view. The money given in America is used to buy food and to transport it. The administrative force paid for from the funds is very small. Estimated on the basis of food actually laid down in eastern Europe, at least ninety-five cents of every dollar reaches the children's stomachs.

"The American Relief Administration quarters of every kind are marked by the American flag. The flag hangs in many of the kitchens and dining rooms. The Austrians I met were most sincere in their appreciation of what is being done for their children and of the tactful, helpful and efficient way in which it is being done. The children sing the Star Spangled Banner and Swanee River as well as school children in our own country.

"Now my idea is that we have every reason to be proud of this work and to believe that it is building the best kind of American influence abroad in a fundamental way. Whatever Mr. Hoover needs to carry out his work should be given him."

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