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Science and Manpower Shortage

DR. EVARTS A. GRAHAM, writing in the Saturday Evening Post, has made a provocative contribution to the literature on our current manpower problems in an article titled, "Have the Armed Services Crippled Medical Education?"

Dr. Graham is professor of surgery at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis and past president of the American College of Surgeons. In the last war he was a major in charge of an evacuation hospital. In this one he served on a committee which surveyed the Army's medical needs.

His article presents two chief indictments. One is that the armed forces have half the nation's doctors, though there was only one military death to every 32 civilian deaths from December, 1941, through October, 1944.

The other is that the armed forces, by shortening the hospital training of all young specialists today, are sending into the service a group of medical replacements who haven't even a smattering of surgical or other specialized knowledge.

DR. GRAHAM credits surgery at least equally with plasma, sulfa drugs, penicillin, and quick evacuation of wounded, for the truly remarkable saving of American lives in this war. He cites statements by Army Surgeon General Kirk to bolster that opinion. But he expresses the fear that, if the war continues long, three will be a dangerous deterioration in the quality of military, and later of civilian, medicine and surgery.

This situation which Dr. Graham deplures is one of the most serious aspects of our manpower problems, but it is not unique. Similar worry is being expressed in other quarters, for all fields of science are beginning to feel the pinch. And though as Dr. Graham points out, other things can be postponed where treatment of life-or-death illness cannot, a general dearth of scientists may hamper our postwar recovery.

It takes four, five or six years of graduate work, perhaps to make a first-rate specialist in chemistry, physics or medicine. Many gifted students of these sciences will not survive the war. Those in the service who do may find at the war's end that their best years for study are gone, and that time and added obligations have made the resumption of study difficult or impossible.

This seems a minor tragedy of war, but it may become important. Age and mortality will continue to take their toll of civilian scientists as the war drags on. If it continues for two or three years, we might find the good health and technical progress necessary to full employment blocked by a serious deficit of doctors, researchers, engineers, and so on.

Perhaps it might be wise if the Army and Navy would re-examine its students-in-uniform and its manpower needs and give further educational deferments to the comparative handful of brilliant students so that they might become our first line of scientific reserves.

A Brand New Hara-Kiri Method



SON OF LORD HALIFAX

Lt. Richard Wood, son of British ambassador Lord Halifax, lost both his legs in North Africa. A German dive bomber attacked a motorized British column, and planted a bomb square in the lap of Lieutenant Wood. Fortunately the bomb was a dud, but it crushed his legs, and they were immediately amputated well above the knee.

Wood has been in Washington for some weeks, with his father and mother, at the British embassy. (Incidentally, his brother Peter was killed in action, and the third Halifax son, Major Charles Wood, heir to the title of Halifax, is a member of Parliament, now serving on active duty with the British army.)

The other day—an icy day in Washington—young Wood was being taken to the convalescent wing of Walter Reed hospital, just outside of Washington—not for treatment, but to talk to convalescent veterans. He has artificial limbs, and has mastered the difficult business of walking.

But his car got stuck on an icy hill leading to the hospital. Lieutenant Wood wanted to get to the hospital to keep his engagement with the American soldiers. So he climbed out of his car, and hobbled up the icy hill with the help of his cane. He reached the hospital and gave his talk to the soldiers.

VETERAN'S HOSPITAL

Although the army boasts of its Walter Reed General hospital in Washington as the finest in the country, hundreds of servicemen come out severely critical, except of the actual surgery performed.

Head of Walter Reed is 64-year old Major General Shelly U. Marietta, General Pershing's close friend and personal physician. General Marietta is a renowned doctor, but not so strong as an administrator, with the result that the hospital morale is extremely low, especially among enlisted men.

One failing is that the army's vaunted rehabilitation program has never been properly installed at Walter Reed. The only serious attempt at rehabilitating veterans is for men who are to remain in the service. Those scheduled to get discharges are practically ignored.

One result is that war attendants are doing a thriving business selling liquor from five to fifteen dollars a quart. Visitors have often noted that the innocent-appearing pitchers alongside hospital cots contain liquid much stronger than coca cola, while nurses have been known

to go through a ward distributing ice cubes.

Recently the men in ward 32, most of them in traction splints which require absolute quiet, drank so much and became so noisy that an MP appeared to restore order and was beaten up by the patients. Several patients were set back several weeks in their recovery as a result of leaving their cots to jump on the MP.

At the Forest Glen convalescent home, under Walter Reed administration, the situation is perhaps worse. Most of the G.I.'s here are able to get out and visit Washington. Classes in mathematics, language and other academic subjects are offered by volunteer teachers, but no attempt is made to give the men psychological tests to aid them in choosing a post-war trade or profession.

The Army Morale Service is permitted to work at Forest Glen only at the invitation of the Medical Corps. Last summer a group of psychologists from the Morale Service prepared an analysis of the hospital's needs and recommended a reorganization. This group was ordered overseas before its report was completed—and the report never has been finished.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Interest in the Senate Commerce Committee's session with Henry Wallace was so great that even Capitol employees had difficulty getting in. Bob Fokes, secretary to Senator Claude Pepper, a member of the committee, showed up at the door with a message for his boss and identified himself. The harassed guard recognized him and let him through, remarking, "I recognize you, you can go through. But you'll be interested to know that four secretaries to Pepper have showed up already with messages for him and none has come out yet."

One of the private laughs at the White House is that Jesse Jones is the only cabinet member who didn't go through the formality of submitting his resignation as the President completed his third term.

New York's ex-lieutenant governor, Charles Poletti, has been doing an A-1 job in Italy. But at first he got many a cold shoulder from Italians before somebody tipped him off to change the form of the proclamations he issued as Military Commissioner in Rome. Poletti began his proclamations with "Io, Carlo Poletti..." for a score of years Italians were fed up reading proclamations which began "Io, Benito Mussolini."

EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON
 NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Only a welter of conflicting impressions and unanswered questions comes from sitting in on the two-day Wallace-Jones hearings before the Senate Commerce Committee. No one can judge this sanely. It is an issue which will be decided only by prejudices and emotions. Partisan followers of the two men cannot even talk about it rationally.



The Committee is supposed to be deciding merely whether it will divorce the Department of Commerce from RFC and the other Federal Loan agencies built up by Jesse Jones in the last 13 years. Actually these Senators—there were more than 30 of them present and they lapped up every word with far more attention than they ever show during debate on the floor of Congress—are trying to judge the business ability of Henry Wallace. What is the combined business experience of the 30 Senators? Chairman Bailey was for 14 years editor of the Biblical Recorder before he became a collector of internal revenue and lawyer in North Carolina. Burton was mayor of Cleveland. Welch-born Robertson a Wyoming rancher, Vandenberg a Grand Rapids editor and publisher. Most were small town lawyers—George in Vienna, Ga.; Pepper in Perry, Fla.; McClellan in Camden, Ark.; Brewster in Dexter, Me.; Bilbo in Poplarville, Miss.; Ellender in Houma, La. O'Daniel was a Texas flour salesman. What are the rights of these to pass on who is a big enough business man? Answer: These are the duly elected representatives of the people and through them the people pass judgment on how things shall be done.

BUT what about this letter of the President's to Jesse Jones, in which the President said that Wallace thinks he could do the greatest amount of good in the Department of Commerce? Is this just getting even with Jesse Jones in the belief that it was he, Jones, who inspired the Texas revolt against the fourth term? Or is this another kiss of death letter like the one Roosevelt wrote Democratic National Chairman Bob Hannegan at the Chicago convention, consigning Wallace to the political wolves?

A strange character this Wallace. Is he being vindictive in wanting to take Jones' job away from him? Is this sweet revenge for their last bout, which Wallace lost?

WALLACE, in fact, again outlines the President's eight-point Bill of Economic Rights. The right to a job, to food, to a home, to produce, to buy and sell, to health, to old age security, to education.

Yet Senator Bailey asks Wallace shrewd and pertinent questions. How's he going to get all those things? Wallace's answers aren't sharply to the point. He missed here.

This is the battle of the century—the next century—the next generation at any rate. The theme song for this two-day side-show might well have been, "Where do we go from here?" Into new fields with Wallace, or back over the conservative paths trod by Jones?

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



In line with the increasing number of women in Congress, the Congressional Secretaries Club has elected its first woman president. She's Merle Whitford, secretary to Emily Taft Douglas of Illinois. Miss Whitford was secretary last term to Will Rogers, Jr., of California, and before that—for six years—to Laurence Arnold of Illinois. One reason for the supply difficulty on the western front last month was the shipping space used for Christmas parcels. (Copyright, 1945, by the Bell syndicate, Inc.)

The DAILY WASHINGTON
MERRY GO ROUND
 TRADE MARK REGISTERED

BY DREW PEARSON

(Lt. Col. Robert S. Allen now on active service with the army.)

Drew Pearson says:—British propose keeping Emperor Hirohito after war; Lord Halifax's son keeps his date; Bad morale in veteran's hospital.

Washington—Very little appeared in the papers about it, but highly important policies regarding future relations with Japan were discussed at the recent Institute of Pacific Relations at Hot Springs, Va. Most important of all was a proposal by the British to retain Emperor Hirohito and the Japanese ruling classes in the post-war setup of Japan.

Sir Paul Butler, leading adviser to the British Foreign Office led the appeal for Hirohito.

Behind closed doors at the swank Homestead Hotel, Butler made this blunt pronouncement: "No alternative to a monarchical system, under the present emperor or some other member of his family, is likely to provide the focus of stability which will be essential if the state is not to dissolve into chaos in the impending crisis."

Sir Paul's tender concern for the Japanese monarch brought a tart reply from Dr. Huh Shih, former Chinese ambassador to the U. S. A. who suggested that Hirohito be exiled to London "along with the other discredited monarchs."

Other United Nations delegates also were vigorously opposed to the British policy of appeasing the emperor. Most significant of all was the position of the British dominions—Canada, Australia and New Zealand—which split with the delegation from the British Isles itself. The Canadians demanded a complete house-cleaning in Japan and the dominion delegates from "down under" agreed with them.

Note—U.S. delegates at the Pacific conference included Admiral Thomas Hart, former commander of the Asiatic fleet; John Carter Vincent, Chief of the State Department's Chinese division; and Congresswoman Frances Bolton of Cleveland. At the end of the hush meeting, Mrs. Bolton remarked: "This is one conference Drew Pearson won't find out about."

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