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AN APPEAL

COMPLAINTS continue to pour into this office about non-receipt of monthly copies of our Magazine and suggesting that the copies are probably pirated in transit. It is utterly impossible for us to despatch copies by registered post, unless the subscribers are prepared to incur extra cost. May we repeat our appeal already issued in these columns that those who are curious to



SCHEMES OF MEN AND MICE;

[Not to be produced.]



VOL. II No. 7

APRIL, 1948

ISSUED MONTHLY

EDITORIAL . . .

"It is as much for the interest of the State that public health should be preserved as that life should be made secure"
The Supreme Court, U. S. A.

WELCOME NEWS

We understand that the Ministry of Health, Government of India, are appointing a committee to survey the whole field of environmental hygiene and put forward proposals for consideration by the Government of India in the formulation of their own programme. This is welcome news.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Our readers might remember our criticism on the Health Survey and Development Report. We drew pointed attention to the fact that the committee while

a separate competent committee for the purpose and completed the task of survey and investigation in this admittedly important aspect. Better late than never. We heartily congratulate the Ministry of Health, Government of India, on their decision to make good their previous lapses.

LET'S WAIT

In the post-war plans which were worked out with great gusto during war period, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, both were active almost simultaneously. In most cases, the provincial Governments did not finalise their plans till the Government of India's proposals were available. Whatever the plans the provincial governments drew up, were finalised in the light of the recommendations from the centre. This is a correct procedure. It is our belief that this same procedure should be followed in the field of environmental hygiene also. Any provincial post-war plans in this respect should not have the hallmark of finality till the proposed committee comes forward with its suggestions. Whatever the provincial governments have now taken on hand, should, unless they are emergent, be held up and their future plans revised in the light of the lead from the centre. Then only there would be co-ordination and cogent planning which will benefit the country as a whole.

"The Strike Fever"

This new epidemic is fast spreading throughout the length and breadth of the country. In the very first number of *People's Health*, Vol. I, No. I, Aswin analysed its causes and suggested methods to immunise the workers against this infection. In the same issue of *People's Health*, a plea was put forward for organising a national public cleansing corps. We now hear of strikes of the so-called 'scavengers' in many municipal areas. The workers in this field of service, in the City of Madras, have already gone on strike, others are probably threatening.

A TRAITOR TO INDEPENDENT INDIA

After long years of trials and tribulations, our country achieved at last her cherished desire of independence. The Prime Minister of India and all leaders who do count, have been appealing in all earnestness that every one in Independent India should put forward his or her best in the service of our mother-land so that the Independence achieved after so much struggle may be retained by us for all time.

It is unpatriotic and anti-social to strike work in any service. Matters not whether it is in the Government service or in Municipal Service. Every one who promotes strikes of workers

suitable persons for essential community services. A decent attractive wage, extra remuneration for special tasks, compensation for accidents or other unforeseen events, monetary dues to cater to family needs, absolute security in service, food, clothing and shelter on adequate lines at public cost—these will attract the proper personnel to essential services. Inasmuch as these are found in the armed forces, they should be found for the community services also. If these are found, then the services will become attractive; they will form a career for the personnel entering the services, it will be easy for the employers to enforce the extra discipline, and it will also be willingly accepted by the employees.

The natural consequences of the organisation of such services on these lines will be a change in the outlook of the employers to the employees. There will be little room for threats of strike; there will probably be no strike at all. In fact, any voluntary absence from work will not be called a strike; it will be deemed a *mutiny*. No employee will think of mutiny. This is the only way to ensure continuity of such services to the public. This is the only way in which the services can be made efficient. This is perhaps also the way in which it can be made cheaper at the same time. At first sight, it might look as though

the amenities may mean heavy expenditure, but with proper personnel entering the services as a career, taking an interest in the work even as the armed forces, *provided with modern facilities required for a good performance of their task*, it will eventually be possible to give the services to the public at a far cheaper cost than is incurred now to give a C-3 service.

RECOGNISE THIS DIFFERENCE

In the case of Industrial Labour the spirit of bargaining between the employers and the employees can hold good. The employer employs labour primarily for his own profit; wherever there is a profit motive, bargaining comes to the picture. It is to facilitate such bargaining that the spirit of trade unionism developed. With the growth of trade unionism, strikes were recognised by the legislators in all countries as a proper weapon for bargaining. Neither trade unionism, nor collective bargaining, much less strike as a bargaining weapon, is entirely out of place for essential services. We do not allow a trade union of the armed services to be formed; we do not allow the armed forces of the country to do any collective bargaining with the Government. We do not think, much less tolerate, strike in the Army or the Navy or the Air Force. Even when the Civil

servants of the Government organised on trade union lines and attempted collective

of the articles of food for sale are uncovered and often flies hover around. Often these foods are stale and made out of cheap and adulterated ingredients. It is most unhygienic and in fact dangerous—an invitation to infectious diseases—to allow children to purchase eatables from these street hawkers. This is a social evil which requires immediate correction. The mid-day school meal scheme would solve this problem. If this is not possible, teachers should educate the children not to purchase from these street hawkers and thus invite sickness. The parents in their turn should do the same and arrange to send with their wards some food or eatables in clean tiffin boxes. In the present survey it was found that as many as 638 out of 1563 students (*i.e.*, 40%) got a pice or two daily or frequently from their parents or guardians for purchasing sweets or eatables from the street hawkers. The better understanding of hygienic principles and of good nutrition would surely eradicate this social evil.

TABLE No 3.

Inferences drawn from the information collected.

Total No. of students interrogated 1696.

1. 68% of the students did not drink any milk.
2. 70% " " take ghee.
3. 30% " " have any drinks not even tea let aside milk, cocoa, coffee, etc.
4. 22% " consumed vegetables only very occasionally.
5. 8% " " fruits " "
6. 13% " " meat/fish/eggs once a week only.
7. 12% " " " only on festive occasions.
8. 23% " " rice alone and no other cereals.
9. 52% " were strict vegetarians.
10. 8% " came to school without the usual morning meal.
11. 43% " did not take anything either in the mid-day school recess or even after going back from the school.
12. 40% " were in the habit of buying sweets or other eatables from street hawkers present at the school gates. They got a pice or two daily or more frequently from their parents for this purpose.

TABLE No 1.

TABLE No 2.

	Municipal Primary School, Nagpur.						
	Mission Board Dharampeth.	Hindi Dharampeth.	Girls Marathi Sitabuldi.	Buti Boys Sitabuldi.	Boys Siraspeth.	Boys Mahal.	Total for all schools.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Numbers of students interrogated in the school.	133	193	232	553	211	314	1696
1. Number of students who drink milk daily	16	52	52	264	47	113	544
2. " " " " bring some food or eatables to be consumed in mid-day recess.	90	116	124	96	67	136	629
3. Number of students who eat something after going home from school.	57	132	115	336	162	163	965
4. Number of students who come to school without the morning meals.	59	74	77	219	72	165	666
5. Numbers who take vegetables at both meals	9	44	18	51	2	11	135
6. " " " " one meal	55	111	74	240	38	96	614
7. " " " " only occasionally	37	40	86	185	72	167	597
8. " " " " fruit daily	25	21	72				

