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ALLIED DOCTORS DISCUSS CARE OF MOTHERS
IN POST-WAR EUROPE

Emergency equipment for midwives, supplies for improvised maternity homes, and special treatment for victims of tuberculosis and typhus are three of the matters affecting post-war Europe which have been discussed in London by the Technical Advisory Committee on Medical Supplies and Services.

The Committee is composed of medical men officially representing each of the Allied Governments in London, the United States of America, Great Britain and the British Empire. Its chairman is Dr. Melville D. Mackenzie, of the Ministry of Health.

A report on requirements for mothers and babies and for midwives in the emergency period immediately following liberation was presented by the Chairman of a Sub-Committee, Dr. Bigwood (Belgium). Miss Pye, President of the College of Midwives, and a member of the Sub-Committee, produced a sample layette of great simplicity, suitable for emergency conditions in any European Allied country. The layette was one of a large number being sent voluntarily from the U.S.A.

The Committee estimate that the average number of confinements which would take place in Allied countries would be at the rate of about 170 per 100,000 population per month. They consider that four midwives, completely equipped in the way recommended by the Committee, would probably suffice to deal with these cases.

In addition, the report adds, improvised maternity homes taking six cases at a time could be set up with special supplies collected for the purpose and would enable the mothers to be more easily assisted.

During the discussion upon the treatment of tuberculosis it was stated that the Germans had deliberately played down the danger of infection from the disease in order to get workers. This German official attitude has from time to time caused sharp protests from German medical organisations.

Re-education in this respect, the Allied doctors unanimously agreed, is most necessary, and a paper has been prepared which offers to national medical officers suggestions for such re-education. It is hoped that, at a suitable time, material based on this paper will be broadcast.

A general report on the treatment of typhus was also considered. The report recommends that one million doses of serum be held in readiness for sending to heavily infested typhus areas and for the inoculation of relief workers, and experimental work on the killing by cold of lice - the main carrier of the typhus germ - has been put in hand.

INTER-ALLIED INFORMATION COMMITTEE