Commissions of experts, selected to deal with major disease problems can do much to promote the necessary control. Malaria, leprosy and typhus fever are diseases which come to mind as appropriate objects of expert study and coordinated action. Health education on an international scale similarly is indicated. A world health program should give scientific guidance to nutritional policies.

There are some of the many fields requiring attention of a world health organization. The control of disease and the improvement of health of people of all nations is basic to world stability.

By Mrs. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

There is very little excuse for me to speak to this audience at all. The other speakers can tell you all the real things that you want to know about the need for collaboration between the American nations and the scientific reasons which make public health a necessity in every country. Insofar as I am concerned, I can only speak of the interest that the layman must have in understanding what the scientists and the governments of the various nations are trying to do, because without the cooperation of the citizens of all these nations even the very best plans will not really succeed. The problem before us is to make the men and women who make up the nation understand the need and the value of public health services.

We are very far in this nation from doing all that should be done through public health. I do not know enough about the other nations to know if that is the case with them also, but I imagine it is so, because we are very far from perfection everywhere. Here in our country I do not think that we have quite begun to really touch the question of nutrition, which I think Dr. Parran would agree, is one of the very first things that we will have to deal with, in order to secure the best results from public health work.

We all feel that in this war a very remarkable thing has been achieved in keeping away epidemics which might have taken a very heavy toll in every nation. Those of us who remember the last war, can remember right here in Washington what the “flu” epidemic meant, and in every country people who are of my age can remember what that brought to us. We might have today, without the precautions which have been taken, many epidemics which would slow down productions and affect the war and the war effort very seriously in this country, and in many others.

The other day I was amused on the train on talking to a young soldier who had just been discharged and was traveling with two others to their respective homes. I asked him what had happened, and he said, “Well, I have been all the time in Greenland, Iceland and Newfoundland, and I am discharged because I have a tropical disease.” That certainly was a most surprising thing! It can, however, easily happen if earnest efforts are not made to protect us by preventing the carrying disease from one country to another. This problem is to be serious for a long time after the war, and it will always be serious until we attack disease in all the various countries, and every country raises its standard of public health and until many of these conditions are completely eradicated or controlled.

It was very interesting to me in going through various countries to see how well we have succeeded around our camps in limiting in a very short time the danger of malaria, as well as other tropical diseases. It can be done with knowledge and a certain amount of willing discipline on the part of the public as a whole.

We here in the United States have many things that we know we ought to do but that we have not done. I hope that with the close of the war the women of this country will focus the energies and experience we have gained through war work to promote public health, because I do not believe that any government or
any officials can possibly do a job of this magnitude without the help of the people in the different communities. I hope therefore very much that the women of the various American countries will get together and discuss how they can join to promote the public health of their nations. It will require a study of nutrition and it will require a far greater knowledge of what are the sanitary standards that must be lived up to in every community, urban or rural, in all nations. If the women who have learned that they can accomplish things during the war, will not make up their minds that there is no job left for them to do when peace time comes, all of them in the various countries can help greatly to spread the knowledge of public health and to promote the methods by which we can help our government officials to achieve the success which their scientific advances and their own efforts cannot accomplish alone.

Terminología obstétrica.—Es de aceptarse la clasificación del Prof. Josué A. Beruti, de Buenos Aires, tocante a la designación de los partos según su naturaleza, aunque con una variante; clasificación constituida por cuatro grupos artificiales: partos eutócicos, paraeutócicos, paradistócicos, y distócicos. La variante consiste en la sustitución del vocablo anfitócico por paradistócicos. No debe seguirse empleando el término alumbramiento para designar únicamente al parto secundio; la palabra es sinónimo, en lengua española, de parto (expulsión o extracción del feto y sus anexos). Es de aceptarse el término corregido para indicar que el parto llamado espontáneo en el tecnicismo común de la obstetricia, se ha resuelto, de acuerdo con la técnica moderna, bajo la práctica de maniobras diversas, en general de cirugía obstétrica menor. Háganse gestiones con las principales revistas médicas de la América española, para ver de que el lenguaje obstétrico se depure, y que los términos propuestos por el Prof. Beruti entren definitivamente en el vocabulario obstétrico.—EVERARDO LANDA: Obst. Ginec. Lat. Amer., 461, jun. 1944.

Consumo de tabaco en Estados Unidos.—Durante 1943, el consumo per capita de productos de tabaco en los Estados Unidos alcanzó la cifra más alta registrada, posiblemente debido al aumento de la capacidad adquisitiva del consumidor y a otros factores de guerra. Sin embargo, se nota desde 1932 un aumento anual en el consumo total, según los cálculos basados en los timbres de impuesto. El número de cigarrillos consumidos fue de 257 mil millones, lo que representa un aumento del 9% sobre 1942. Estas cifras no incluyen los cigarrillos no tasables que se envían a las fuerzas armadas. El consumo por capita de cigarrillos en los Estados Unidos es de 1877, cerca de 59 veces más que en el año 1900. Aun cuando ningún otro país ha alcanzado un nivel de consumo similar, se nota un aumento general en el mundo. El verdadero significado de este consumo elevado de tabaco en la economía y en la salud de la nación, exige una mayor atención que la prestada hasta ahora. (Jour. Am. Med. Assn., mayo 20, 1944.)

Servicio ante todo.—Sólo quiero decir una palabra a mis discípulos: en el despacho de mi sala he puesto un lema que resume mi anhelo espiritual; dice así: “El Servicio ante todo; nosotros pasamos, él queda.” Con ello he querido expresar que lo que queda es lo permanente del amor a la verdad, al trabajo, a la ciencia y, sobre todo, al niño, que es la patria que vendrá.—AQUILES GAREISO.