

With the Federal Council for Science and Technology, to review this problem and report to him as quickly as possible on the specific measures that can be taken to effect an improvement.

The picture that emerges from the National Science Foundation report is both startling and provocative. The Soviet Union, it seems, is producing two to three times as many technical graduates yearly as the United States. This situation is accelerating, reflecting the total Soviet commitment in developing natural science and technology as economic and political weapons of state.

The Soviet Union operates a much more selective educational system than does the United States on all levels beyond the elementary—with a far smaller ratio of students in the respective age groups gaining access to education on the secondary and higher levels. Educational reforms in the primary and secondary curriculums have increased the time devoted to academic subjects, but particularly intensified training in vocational subjects.

More than one-half of all Soviet higher-education graduates are women, who also comprise one-third of all engineering field professionals, whereas in the United States the figure is only 1 per cent. Nearly one-third of all Soviet engineers, scientists and agricultural specialists are engaged in administrative tasks and in running the government.

While comparison of educational quality is difficult, the report concludes that Soviet professional higher education in most scientific and engineering fields is at least equivalent and sometimes more extensive than in the United States or Western Europe. In advance graduate education the number of Soviet Candidate Degree holders (roughly equivalent to the American Ph.D.) is about the same—8,500 a year; but 75 percent of advanced Soviet degrees are in the sciences and engineering, compared with 55 percent in the United States.

The Cow Wins

When the scientists first began warning of the dangers of radioactive fallout, they explained that the isotope products absorbed by vegetation, and eaten by cows, turned into milk and were passed along to human beings. Eventually, a dangerous accumulation would lead to bone cancer, leukemia, thyroid damage and genetic mutations.

The choice of milk as a basis for scientific investigation gave the unfortunate impression that radioactivity might reach the level where it would be unwise to drink milk at all. That wasn't what the experts said, but how it was interpreted. It didn't help much when politicians began promising that sufficient warnings would be given of the approach of such a danger level.

Now, it is suggested, drinking milk is about the best way of counteracting Strontium-90. The more milk drunk, the less of this poisonous substance is likely to remain in the body. This conclusion, reached by a scientist at the Ontario Agricultural College, confirms an earlier announcement by a scientist at the University of Saskatchewan. And the Ontario scientist adds that in any case, far less Strontium-90 is absorbed through milk than by way of vegetables or rice.

Quoting these latter scientific findings, the Globe and Mail comes to the conclusion that the dairymen were right all the time. Researchers on the frontiers of knowledge haven't got far enough yet to disprove the value of the time-honored slogan—Drink More Milk.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Only a moral idiot with a suicidal mania would press the button for a nuclear war. Yet we have learned that while a nuclear war would be lunacy, it is nevertheless an ever-present possibility. Why? Because, however lunatic it might be to commit suicide, a nation can be provoked and exasperated to the point of lunacy where its nervous system cannot endure inaction, where only violence can relieve its feelings. There is a line of intolerable provocation beyond which reactions become uncontrollable. It is the business of governments to find out where that line is, and to stay well back of it."—Walter Lippmann, in an address before the Women's National Press Club in Washington.

Soviet Education Speaking at a press conference this week, President Kennedy called attention to the implications of a major analysis of Soviet education just completed by the U.S. National Science Foundation. One of the most critical problems facing the nation, he said, is the inadequacy of the supply of scientific and technical manpower to meet the expanding requirements of research and development in the near future. He has asked his science advisory committee, in cooperation



HUMPTY DUMPTY SAT ON A WALL NEW DEVELOPMENT

Labor Force And Employment Trends Bank Of Nova Scotia Monthly Review

One cannot get a true picture of the Canadian labour force and employment record of the past decade without taking note of the markedly different trends for men and for women. Clearly the most dramatic development of the whole period has been the rapid increase in the number of women who have worked, and have found, regular employment. Because of the speed of this development and also because of the many basic differences in the nature of male and female participation in the labour force, many of the most pertinent changes which have been occurring are obscured by overall figures for employment, unemployment, and so on.

During 1961, the average number of women employed (at almost 1.7 millions) was 55 per cent greater than in 1950, the number of married women with jobs was no less than two and one-half times as great. What was happening, of course, was that a larger and larger proportion of women of working age were entering the active labour force. During these years, also, the rate of unemployment among women increased to some degree.

But in many instances women who are laid off or withdrawn from employment also retire from the labour market—at least after a short time—and thus are not counted for very long as being unemployed. In general, women still have a less definite involvement in the labour force than men.

MALE EMPLOYMENT In contrast to the very rapid increase in employment of women, the growth in male employment from 1950 to 1961 was only 12 per cent, reflecting a moderate rise up to 1957, and a comparatively little growth since then. In both periods the rate of male participation in the working force was reduced by long-run tendencies towards extended periods of schooling and earlier ages of retirement.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

MR. PONKIN'S LETTER Sir,—Yesterday you carried a letter from one signed George R. Ponkin of Saskatoon contradicting statements of Mr. Douglas by quoting figures from a 1957 report. If you would be so kind as to supply us with the street address of your correspondent we would be happy to have up-to-date figures supplied to him.

If Hon. T.C. Douglas who has been a leading figure in the public life of Canada since 1935 could be contradicted as easily as your correspondent indicates, then surely the prestige with which he is held by his political opponents, the press and all others in the public life would have been shattered long ago. Any of your readers who wish to discuss further the questions raised by your correspondent or any phase of political policy in Canada are cordially invited to attend the public seminar on political affairs being held at the Charlottetown Hotel this week-end.

I am, Sir, etc. TOMMY DUNPHY (Mr. Ponkin gave his Saskatoon address as 510 Ave. F. South. Since the gist of his letter has been completely garbled by our correspondent in the above comments, we fancy a personal exchange of views would be in order.—Ed. G.)

These tendencies may have been encouraged to some degree by the moderate rise in male unemployment up to 1957, and have certainly been accentuated by the higher rates of unemployment since then. Further pointing out the different trends for men and women, the Review notes that, although the number of women in Canada's labour force remains far below the number of men, the addition to the female contingent since 1955 (some 470 thousand) has actually been greater than that to the male group (440 thousand). The increasing rate of participation in the labor force has been most notable among more mature women, especially those in the age groups 45-54 but also those 35-44 and 55-64. Also apparent has been a marked increase in the number of married women involved. INCREASING SUPPLY The Review goes on to observe that the growing willingness and freedom of women to seek work would have been of little avail had there not also been an increasing supply of job opportunities for women. Most important in this regard has been the strong and persistent growth

Stage Set For Showdown

By David Gancia Canadian Press Staff Writer

Prospects of using the ancient Asian custom of Mushavarah—let us sit down and talk and compromise—faded as the Dutch-Indonesian dispute over West New Guinea grew more rancorous.

Indonesia threatened vengeance against Holland, whose ships and aircraft sank one of the Indonesian torpedo boats near the Dutch-administered territory. In The Hague, the Dutch government announced a decision to extend the term of military service for conscripts in the South Pacific territory.

The stage appears to be set for a military showdown over a question of prestige. Indonesia has announced it is mobilizing an army of 250,000 to liberate the last remnant of the Dutch colonial empire in the South Pacific.

Reports put the strength of Dutch forces in West New Guinea at about 5,000. Included in this force are marines, infantry, naval personnel, anti-aircraft gunners and airmen.

READY TO FIGHT Holland has warned that she will defend her interests. At the same time the Dutch government has announced its readiness to negotiate.

The question that now appears to need an answer is not whether the Dutch will hand over the administration, but whether the Indonesians will insist on a military attack beforehand. West New Guinea has been a point of contention between Hol-

land and the government of her former colony ever since the state of Indonesia was born in 1949.

A joint commission on the subject was established in 1950. Numerous fruitless meetings took place between the two governments. The dispute was taken to the United Nations with no results.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE The Dutch have argued that there is no racial affinity between the people of West New Guinea and Indonesia. The New Guineans are Papuans; the Indonesians Malays. The Papuans, the argument is, must be given the chance to choose their own destiny. Indonesians replied that there is no distinct dividing line between the Papuan and Malay areas. They maintain that West Irian, which is their name for the territory, has been part of the archipelago called Indonesia since early times. The Papuans themselves are described as poor and primitive. The Dutch have fostered economic and political changes, but authorities in the region feel they will not likely be able to stand on their own feet even if they get independence. "The kernel of the dispute is prestige," said one observer. "Prestige is at stake on both sides, and prestige does not let go."

GREAT MUSEUM Lifelike exhibits of animals in their natural setting feature the Chicago Natural History Museum, founded in 1893.

Inspection Seen As Need When Cancer Returns

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen I HAD cancer removed from my neck about six months ago," writes C.B. "It is true that reopening the incision for inspection is advocated to see if a regrowth is starting? Since it is apparent that I am cancer prone, shouldn't the doctor set up some program of inspection? What do you advise?" Return to the surgeon and ask him to inspect the results of his labor. If the original tumor of the neck could be seen or felt, there is no need to reopen the scar to determine whether there is a recurrence.

Reoperating for cancer is done when examination and special tests indicate the tumor has returned and appears to be localized in one area. It is advocated also when the surgeon removes a malignancy of the intestine but is not sure whether a few cancer cells remain, and if additional nests will crop out in the months to follow. This second look is done four to nine months after the first operation.

Reports indicate the abdominal cavity is likely to be free of cancer in 50 per cent of the patients. The malignant colonies detected in the rest of the patients are removed and this group is told to report for a third operation several months hence; a fifth or sixth might be needed.

Not all survive this drastic plan of attack, but these patients live more comfortably for a longer time. The struggle with death is a major battle for the victim of cancer which must be fought with every tool we have to remain on top. (Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

HARDENED BRAIN ARTERIES

C. M. writes: How long does a person usually last after developing hardening of the arteries of the brain?

REPLY Indefinitely, so long as blood continues to flow through the hardened or narrowed vessels. Statistics show that most people die of heart trouble and the majority of these also have hardening of other arteries including those of the brain. Arteriosclerosis has been noted at birth and a normal lifetime passes before the vessel becomes obstructed. On the other hand tension, heredity, high blood pressure, diabetes, and a high level of cholesterol may hasten the process.

MITTELSCHMERZ

A. H. M. writes: I know when I'm ovulating because of abdominal pain. My girl friends dispute this. Please give your opinion.

REPLY An ovum usually ruptures from the wall of the ovary half way between periods. Some women are aware of this process if they are unusually sensitive to pain or have a thick ovarian wall. In addition, a few drops of blood may escape into the peritoneal cavity, causing slight irritation.

LIVER INFECTION

E. C. writes: We hear a lot about hepatitis these days. I would like to know the symptoms.

REPLY Fatigue, loss of appetite, tenderness over the liver, fever, and occasionally, diarrhea. The skin turns yellow unless the disease is mild. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on hepatitis.

CAN'T REMEMBER NAMES

L. H. writes: I'm 74 and though I have no trouble with spelling or numbers, I can't remember names. Do I need a brain X-ray, a psychologist, or what?

REPLY A good wife or secretary who remembers names. At 74, be happy your arithmetic and spelling are good.

LIGHT WORK

Mrs. F.M. writes: I have high blood pressure, and an enlarged heart. What kind of work will I be able to do?

REPLY Ordinary housework so long as it involves little or no stress, excitement, or responsibility.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Be reasonable with your children.

The Age Old Story

We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Rock and Roller 'Are you the barber who cut my hair last time?' Barber: "No I've only been here six months."—Montreal Star.

In these wonderful days, nothing so much shocks or astonishes people as a fragment of common sense.—Chatham News

You are sure to lose by a nose when you poke it into other people's business.—Brandon Sun.

As we understand it, the ideal home bomb shelter will be equipped with everything but a welcome mat.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

No one seems so helpless as a woman with her hands up waiting for the nail polish to dry.—Brandon Sun.

Maybe television is better for the kids than studying international affairs. At least, in the crime shows, the gangsters are called gangsters.—Calgary Herald.

Premier Smallwood, speaking in Corner Brook Thursday, brushed aside a suggestion that he become national leader of the Liberal party. This was modest of him, but the idea that he should head the Liberals never has occurred to most Canadians, including the Grit rank and file.—Cape Breton Post.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (January 18, 1937) Joseph A. MacMillan, son of Mr. and Mrs. T.M. MacMillan, Charlottetown, fourth year medical student at McGill University, recently received the honor of being elected to the McGill Alpha-Omega Alpha Society. Mr. MacMillan was one of seven students admitted to this honorary medical society this year.

The Hi-Y Grads last evening held their 1937 opening dance at the Odd Fellows hall with a large crowd in attendance. Chaperones were Mrs. Harry Cudmore, Mrs. James Montgomery and Mrs. Theodore Bayer. Music was supplied by Elliotts orchestra.

TEN YEARS AGO

(January 18, 1952) At a short but impressive ceremony in the Assembly Hall at West Kent School yesterday morning, His Honor Lt. Governor T. W. L. Prowse pinned the Kolapore Medal on Miss Mary McLennan. It was in recognition of her having captained an eight-man Canadian team which won the Rajah of Kolapore Imperial Challenge Cup a completion of teams drawn from all parts of the Commonwealth, at Biele last year.

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