Medical Mission in Germany

FOR THE FIRST time since World War II a US medical mission is in Germany, reestablishing contacts with members of the German medical profession and exchanging information on medical advances made during the past 10 years.

Fifteen medical scientists have been lecturing at German universities and medical institutes since their arrival from America July 2 on a two-months' tour arranged by the Unitarian Service Committee.

To Dr. Otto Kraye, chairman of the mission, the trip also has been an opportunity to renew friendships with many German doctors. Born in Germany, Dr. Kraye held several high medical posts in Berlin until 1933. He went to the United States in 1937 and has since become a US citizen.

The mission, sponsored by the cultural affairs adviser to the Military Governor and the Education and Cultural Relations Division, OMGUS, was approved by both the State Department and the Department of the Army.

Thus far the group has lectured in Frankfurt, Berlin, Goettingen, and Munich. It will visit Tuebingen and Freiburg, in the French Zone, and Heidelberg before leaving Frankfurt Sept. 2 by air for New York.

The mission was unable to arrange a visit to Leipzig, in the Russian Zone. But individual mission members conferred informally with German medical scientists in the Russian Sector of Berlin as well as in the US, British and French Sectors.

New techniques used by the American medical profession have been demonstrated for the benefit of German scientists, who in turn have provided valuable information concerning their own methods, which will be reported by the mission at the conclusion of the tour.

By Henry S. Matteo
Assistant Editor, Information Bulletin
German surgeons in Berlin were "quite surprised," according to Dr. Krayzer, to learn of the large-scale practical workings of blood banks and transfusions which are being widely used in the United States.

Dr. Krayzer, who is associate professor of comparative pharmacology and head of the department of pharmacology at Harvard Medical School, Boston, said the Germans recognized "very clearly" the importance of this advance.

The techniques used in this connection were explained in lectures by Dr. Dallas B. Phemster, vice-chairman of the mission, who is professor emeritus of surgery and formerly head of the department of surgery, University of Chicago, and by Dr. Howard C. Taylor, Jr., professor of obstetrics and gynecology and head of obstetrics and gynecology at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

Dr. Phemster and Dr. Taylor spoke at the Robert Koch Institute in the British Sector of Berlin after which they answered numerous questions on the subject put to them by German and American members of the medical profession get together for an informal exchange of ideas at the Robert Koch Institute, Berlin. Among the group is Dr. Otto Krayzer (paper in hand) conversing with a German physician.

Dr. Francis D. W. Lukens (right) of the medical mission uses a blackboard to stress a point in his talk with Dr. Franke, of Leipzig. Dr. Lukens is associate professor of medicine and director of the George S. Cox Medical Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.

(Signal Corps photos)
surgeons. They also addressed a large group of physicians at the US Information Center in the American Sector.

A NEW TECHNIQUE used in the isolation of active principles and purity of chemical compounds, which Dr. Krayner described as "a very important subject," was demonstrated by Dr. Lyman C. Craig, associate member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York.

Dr. Krayner said the new technique, invented by Dr. Craig, has been used among other things to separate and characterize the various penicillins, which have different biological activities. "This technique," he added, "was entirely new to the German scientists and I think it is new to many Americans."

Explaining the significance of isolating certain principles, Dr. Krayner pointed out that a chemical preparation might have both harmful and beneficial components, "and if we can separate the harmful and use the beneficial component for medical treatment, the importance of a method to do this is clear."

Dr. Krayner, in a lecture at the Robert Koch Institute, told of his work on the action of drugs, particularly the action of veratidine, an alkalioid, and described his methods for studying the effect of such drugs potentially useful in the treatment of circulatory disorders.

Other members of the mission who have lectured and given demonstrations in their special fields include:

Dr. David G. Cogan, associate professor of ophthalmic research and director of the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, Boston.

Dr. Herman DeWilde, instructor in clinical dentistry at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. John T. Edsall, associate professor of biological chemistry, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. George Keble Hirst, chief of the division of infectious diseases, Public Health Research Institute, New York.

Dr. Francis D. W. Lukens, associate professor of medicine and director of the George S. Cox Medical Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Dr. Benjamin H. Robbins, professor of anesthesiology and head of the department of anesthesiology at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Carl F. Schmidt, professor of pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Dr. Erwin W. Straus, director of professional education and research at Veterans Hospital, Lexington, Ky., and formerly professor extraordinary of psychiatry at the University of Berlin.

Dr. Joseph F. Volker, dean of the Tufts College Dental School, Boston.

Dr. William M. Wallace, assistant professor of pediatrics at the Harvard Medical School and assisting visiting physician at the Children's Hospital, Boston.

Dr. Friedrich Wassermann, professor of anatomy at the University of Chicago.

T HE PUBLIC HEALTH Branch, Civil Administration Division, OMGUS, stressed the importance of the mission's visit to Germany and said the Unitarian Service Committee had made an "excellent" selection for chairman in Dr. Krayner.

Dr. Krayner was a lecturer in pharmacology (the science of drugs) at the University of Berlin from 1929 to 1932 and also acting head of the Department of Pharmacology in Berlin from 1930 to 1932. He was named professor extraordinarius at the University of Berlin in 1932 and served in that post until 1933.

From 1934 to 1937 he was professor of pharmacology at the American University of Beirut, Syria.

"He is an excellent selection because he has the German point of view and tradition, and also has the American viewpoint," OMGUS public health officials said. "With his wide contacts and his knowledge of the German medical profession, he is invaluable."

Dr. Krayner was a member of the Unitarian Service Committee's mission to Czechoslovakia in 1946 which made valuable contributions to the Czech medical profession, including a method to halt threatened hemorrhages instantly in operations involving even hemophiliacs—born "bleeders."

T HE UNITARIAN SERVICE Committee, which has sent post-war medical missions to Poland, Austria, Italy, Finland and Greece in addition to Czechoslovakia and Germany, is the service branch of the Unitarian Church in America with headquarters in Boston. It is financed by voluntary contributions by church members and others interested in its work.

The idea of sending medical missions to war-torn Europe stemmed from a study of malnutrition made in Italy for the Unitarians by Dr. Maurice Visscher. He suggested that European relief and rehabilitation needed more than foodstuffs, clothing, drugs and surgical equipment; it also needed expert medical care.

He gave Czechoslovakia as an example. Between 1939 and 1945 the
Nazis kept the medical schools closed, persecuted the doctors and isolated the medical profession from the remainder of the world. Dr. Visscher pointed out that it would not be of much use to send new drugs and equipment to Czechoslovakia, for the doctors would not know how to use them. He stressed that they first must be taught new techniques.

The success of the mission to Czechoslovakia — the Committee’s first — was attested by US Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt when he said:

‘Wherever I have traveled in Czechoslovakia since the mission departed, I have heard nothing but praise... These men left an everlasting mark which the Czechs and Slovaks will always remember.’

D R. ERWIN KOHN, director of medical projects, Unitarian Service Committee, who organized the mission to Czechoslovakia, summed up the aims of the mission to Germany in a memorandum to the OMGUS cultural affairs adviser:

‘Judging from the experiences in previous medical missions undertaken with the cooperation of UNRRA and the World Health Organization Interim Commission, the Unitarian Service Committee believes that such a mission would not only benefit German medical science in a technical way, but would also do much to lift the morale of the whole German medical profession by demonstrating in a concrete fashion that the United States is eager to resume normal professional and cultural relations.’

The first school for railroad apprentice workers in the eight districts of the Bizonal Area was opened recently in Bad Schwalbach. Berthold Mehne (right), president of the Reichsbahn, hands Hans Sorg, head of the school, the key to the building. Looking on are Heinrich Haenel (middle), mayor of Bad Schwalbach, and Paul Apel, a member of the faculty. (DENA-Bild)

The US occupation forces released 106 properties in Bavaria during May. These buildings and houses were returned to the German economy.

Export contracts signed in Bavaria since the occupation began have amounted to more than $100,000,000. More than $41,585,990 worth of goods under these contracts already have been shipped.

Bremen

The first of two truck-mounted seismographic units bought for use in the Bizonal Area has arrived at the Bremen port. The instrument was purchased in the United States to aid in finding new oil resources in the Bizonal Area. The soundings are scheduled to take about four years, beginning in the Emsland area near the Dutch border.

The Einswarden-area Nordenham ordnance depot near Bremen was turned over to the German STEG corporation from US Army control. The depot contains 9,000 tons of Army ordnance material which has been declared surplus.

Hamburg

A single contract for the sale of $2,000,000 worth of brewers malt to Switzerland brought the total of export contracts concluded in Hamburg during June to $5,451,967. Other major individual sales in Hamburg were agricultural tractors for French Morocco, processing pig iron for Sweden, and processing electronic valves for Holland.

Hesse

Fifty-five Hessian firms entered the export trade during June, increasing to 587 the number of businesses engaged in exporting goods from Hesse through JEIA.

Giessen, a midstate Hessian city, celebrated its 700th birthday July 10.

Hessian rural police officers have uncovered the files and card index of the former local Nazi group of Fronhausen. The files were found buried in the ground. The cache also yielded six small caliber rifles.

North Rhine-Westphalia

A special Swiss train arrived at Duesseldorf with 540 German children aged 4 to 10 years old, who were returning from a three-month “building up” holiday in Switzerland. They had stayed in Switzerland with private families under arrangements made by the Swiss Red Cross and the German Welfare Office.

Schleswig-Holstein

A group of British university students has arrived in Kiel to help Kiel University students in the voluntary work of clearing rubble from bomb-damage sites.

Wuerttemberg-Baden

The World Bureau of Girl Scouts held two training courses of two weeks each at the Leadership Training School in Ruit, near Stuttgart. Approximately 70 young German women participated.

A DM 150,577 judgment has been awarded to Mrs. Anna Kornbluh, a Polish displaced person, by the MG Court for Civil Actions at Stuttgart.
as recompense for the death of her husband in a truck-trailer accident.

**British Zone**

The last group of prisoners of war to be repatriated from the United Kingdom arrived in Germany. The party numbered 452.

Production of synthetic rubber at plants of the Chemische Werke Huels in North Rhine-Westphalia and of the I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G., Leverkusen, was halted by British MG orders in line with the Level-of-Industry Plan which permitted synthetic-rubber output only until the importation of rubber requirements became economically feasible.

**Ruhr Area**

In order to equalize congestion in the Ruhr and other parts of the British Zone, it has been decided to move certain military installations to the less congested and less heavily damaged area in the vicinity of Muenchen-Gladbach.

Correcting an erroneous impression that German coal exports are still accountable in the devalued Reichsmarks, UK/US Coal Control Group officials have given assurance that such exports have been in Deutsche marks since the start of currency reform.

Purchases in the United States of $750,000 worth of mining machinery and equipment for mines in the Bizonal Area were approved by JEIA. Among the major purchases were mine locomotives and electric motor generator sets.

**Berlin**

From November, 1947, to June, 1948, Americans in Berlin donated more than $30,000 to the Community Chest for needy German residents of the US Sector, according to Mrs. F. L. Devereux, chairman of the Community Chest Board of Directors. In addition to cash donations, quantities of shoes, clothing, and other items were received from various American firms and organizations for general distribution.

The Soviet action in halting the supply of fresh milk to the western sectors of Berlin has had no adverse effect on the health of infants and children, since 50 tons of dry whole milk and 324 tons of canned milk had been stockpiled against such an emergency, and milk concentrates are being flown in.

Dr. Elizabeth Winkelman, special German consultant to the Education and Cultural Relations Branch, OMG Berlin Sector, left for the United States for a year of specialized study under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Winkelman is one of nine German and Austrian educators selected for this particular phase of the MG cultural exchange program.

A British MG economic registration office was opened in Berlin-Schmarzendorf to register the value and destination of all materials, semi-finished and finished industrial products being dispatched by all manufacturers and traders from the British Sector of Berlin.

In the first six months of 1948 American MG Courts in Berlin sentenced 97 persons to a total of 172 years imprisonment for possession of firearms in violation of Control Council Order No. 2. More than 60 of those convicted were in the age group 15 to 25. In 41 cases the offenders were under 21.

**EUCOM**

US military personnel who wish to visit Italy will take their travel documents directly to the nearest Italian consulate to obtain visas instead of sending the forms to the EUCOM Adjutant General's Division, as had been required. Travel document forms can be obtained from post headquarters.

**Banking Program Started**

OMG Wurttemberg-Baden has begun an on-the-job training program in the field of banking and public finance for qualified young Germans. The program aims at familiarizing future German finance officials with the policies and procedures of Military Government. The Finance Ministry and financial institutions have been invited to nominate candidates for training.