

British Health Program Draws Gripes; No Demand for Scrapping

London — Britain's controversial National Health Service is 10 years old next year and few, if any, Britons doubt it is here to stay.

But then very few claim it has been a glittering success.

On the contrary, doctors, hospital staffs and most of the 50 million patients gripe noisily and continuously about its shortcomings, so much so that many assert the service is going through a major crisis.

Doctors complain they are overworked and underpaid. Hospitals point to waiting lists of beds totaling more than 430,000. Patients gripe about long waits in line, crowded surgeries and a hasty once-over instead of a careful consultation.

Yet there are virtually no serious demands that the plan be scrapped. It is outside of party politics and today is accepted by almost all Britons as a part of their national way of life.

There is no compulsion to join it. Any individual may pay his doctor and receive consequently individualized treatment. But the fact is that about 97 per cent of the population use the service and that 94 per cent of the general practitioners and 94 per cent of the dentists administer it. A great majority of the medical specialists also work for the service.

This is how the plan works for anyone residing in this country—whether a British citizen or not: The individual chooses his own family doctor and registers with him if the doctor still has room on his list.

The doctor treats him at his surgery or at home as the need may be, prescribes drugs and refers him to specialists or hospital when necessary. Virtually every

ordinary medical requirement is free and the patient need not prove evidence of need or fill out complicated forms.

There is a 14 cent charge for each item on a prescription. Eye testing is free but a pair of glasses costs from \$3.40 to \$6. The scramble for free dentures and wigs which made the service the butt of jokes in early days was ended by putting on charges for such extras.

Family doctors are paid by the state on the basis of \$2.38 a year for each patient registered. They can have as many as 3,500 which would provide an income of \$9,730 but the average income is around \$5,200.

Earlier this year the British Medical Association demanded a 24 per cent pay boost for doctors. The government turned it down and set up an investigative commission.

Thousands of doctors threatened to "strike." They did not go through with the threat but their disgruntlement still simmers.

The Medical Roundup

by

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Hardening of the Arteries

Hundreds of people ask me what to do for hardening or ulceration of the arteries, and I have to tell them that, as yet, we doctors haven't any clear idea what diet or medicine to prescribe. If the person is fat, it will probably help to reduce weight.

As yet, we have no drug that we can depend on to stop hardening of the arteries. As I keep saying in this column, we doctors are hoping that some day soon we will know what makes hardening and ulceration of the arteries, and then we may be able to tell people what to do to avoid getting the disease, or what to take when they find they have it.

Kidney Stones

Many people want to know how a kidney stone can be dissolved out, and I have to tell them that I know of no such treatment, and I doubt if there will ever be any. I am talking now of treatment given by mouth. I know that logical efforts have been made to dissolve certain kidney stones by inject-

ing solvents up through the ureter (the tube that carries the urine from kidney to the bladder). I doubt very much if hard stones could ever be dissolved even in this way. Sometimes it is best to leave alone a large stone in the kidney, and do nothing about it. In some cases, a surgeon can go in to remove stones if they are bothering the person a good deal.

Fatty Lumps (Lipomas) Under the Skin

Scores of people want to know if they should have soft fatty lumps under their skin—so-called lipomas—removed. Will they ever do any harm?

Since, in all my years, I have never seen a lipoma turn into anything or do the patient any harm, I very rarely suggest that one be cut out. I do this only in those rare cases in which a lipoma becomes large enough, perhaps in the groin, so as to interfere with the person's comfort.

Why some people get these things, I do not know. Perhaps there is a hereditary tendency. Dr. Alvarez hopes his readers will understand that it would be impossible for him to answer requests for information or to attempt to diagnose by mail. (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1957)

Is That So?

Now and then I like to crow about what man himself has constructed with his two hands and a brain to guide them.

He has built the Empire State building, New York, which reaches to a height of 1,250 feet. I'm not counting the TV tower which was added in 1950



and boosts the height to 1,472 feet. It is 102 stories, approximately 20,000 people are employed.

In passing may I state that the reports of its sway have been somewhat exaggerated. During a 102 mile gale, the maximum recorded sway was just under three inches. At that, no action is felt because the vibration period is 8 1/4 seconds.

The largest office building in the world—if you haven't guessed—is the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., completed during World War II. It houses 28,500 people—including a staff of 220 to handle the 280,000 average calls a day for the 44,000 telephones.

If castles are your dish, the largest in the world is at Aleppo in Syria built some 1,000 years ago. Oval in shape, its outside walls is 1,230 feet long and 777 feet wide.

The largest palace in the world is the Vatican palace, Vatican city—the smallest principality in the world—which covers an area of 12 1/2 acres. It has 1,400 rooms, chapels and halls.

Largest Hotel

The largest hotel in the world based on number of rooms is the Conrad Hilton in Chicago. Its 25 floors contain 3,000 guest rooms. Based on cubic footage, the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, is larger. It has 47 stories and about 2,200 guest rooms.

The largest stadium is the Strahov Stadium in Prague which accommodates 240,000 spectators. The largest football stadium is in Rio de Janeiro which has a normal capacity of 150,000 although it has held 200,000. In the U.S., the Municipal stadium of Philadelphia seats 105,000. But the greatest recorded stadium crowd in the U.S. was at Soldier Field, Chicago, Ill., for the Eucharistic congress when more than 200,000 were gathered.

If your interest runs to bars, the longest in the world according to Superlatives, is, appropriately enough, at the Working Men's Club, Mildura, Australia, which has a 285-foot counter. Don't look now—and if you can, hold your breath for a year

—but the world's highest structure is now built in Brussels and will be finished next year. My scouts tell me this pre-stressed concrete tower will reach to a height of 1,935 feet, 5 inches.

As of today, the tallest structure in the world is in Oklahoma City. It is the 1,572-foot television transmitting tower of station KWTU. The triangular tower which weighs about 590 tons, rests on porcelain insulators and is guyed by steel cables which radiate 950 feet from the base. From the top of the tower, the line of sight to the horizon is more than 50 miles. But there isn't much to look at, I'm told.

As for the biggest concrete structure in the world, that's the Grand Coulee dam on the Columbia river, Washington. It is 4,173 feet long and 550 feet high and contains 10,585,000 cubic yards of concrete, weighing about 21 1/2 million tons.

The highest dam in the world is not Hoover (Boulder) dam which is 726 feet high. It is the Grand Dixence in Switzerland and is 932 feet from base to rim. However the Swiss job contained 520,000 cubic yards of concrete as against 4,400,000 for the Colorado river job, not far from Las Vegas, Nev.

As for monuments, the largest ever constructed is the Pyramid of Cheops near Cairo, built almost 5,000 years ago. Its original height was 481 feet (now 451 feet) with a base covering 12 1/2 acres. It contains 2 1/2 ton stone blocks, totalling nearly seven million tons. (Copyright 1957, Eugene Burns)

(Released by McClure Newspaper Cyndicate)

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Link Sought in Missing Girl Case

Rockford, Ill. — Authorities today sought to link a convicted sex offender accused of molesting a nine-year-old girl with the mysterious disappearance of Maria Ridulph.

FBI agents and police were led Tuesday night to the ex-convict's hideaway, an empty stone building on an abandoned military reservation 14 miles south of here, by the little girl found sleeping in a car with Donald Arbuckle, 34.

A preliminary investigation showed nothing to identify Arbuckle with the Ridulph case, agents said, but they said his room in Rockford was stocked with photographs of nude children, some in obscene poses.

Police said the arrest of Arbuckle was the first possible break in the case of the missing seven-year-old Ridulph girl. Maria disappeared from near her Sycamore, Ill., home with a man known as "Johnny" last Tuesday night.

Arbuckle was arrested Tuesday morning when he and a nine-year-old girl who had been missing 12 hours were found sleeping in his car, he in the front seat, she in the back.

Police said Arbuckle denied touching the girl at first, saying that he had only taken her to a movie and for a ride. He later admitted molesting her and was charged with statutory rape, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and taking indecent liberties with a child, police said.

Christmas Vespers Planned For SOC

Traditional Christmas vespers at Southern Oregon college will take place in Churchill Hall Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3:30 p.m. The choir, directed by Oscar C. Bjorlie and the ensemble, directed by Louis Clayton, will participate.

The candlelight procession will again take place, according to Mr. Bjorlie. Fifty-five members of the college choir will perform, as well as the male quartet and the sextet from the ensemble.

The concluding number will be the Hallelujah chorus from "The Messiah" by Handel. Miss Helene Robinson of the music department will play the organ.

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Wednesday, December 11, 1957

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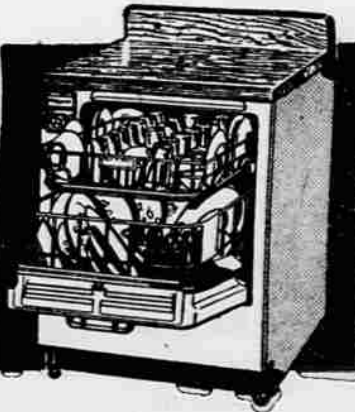


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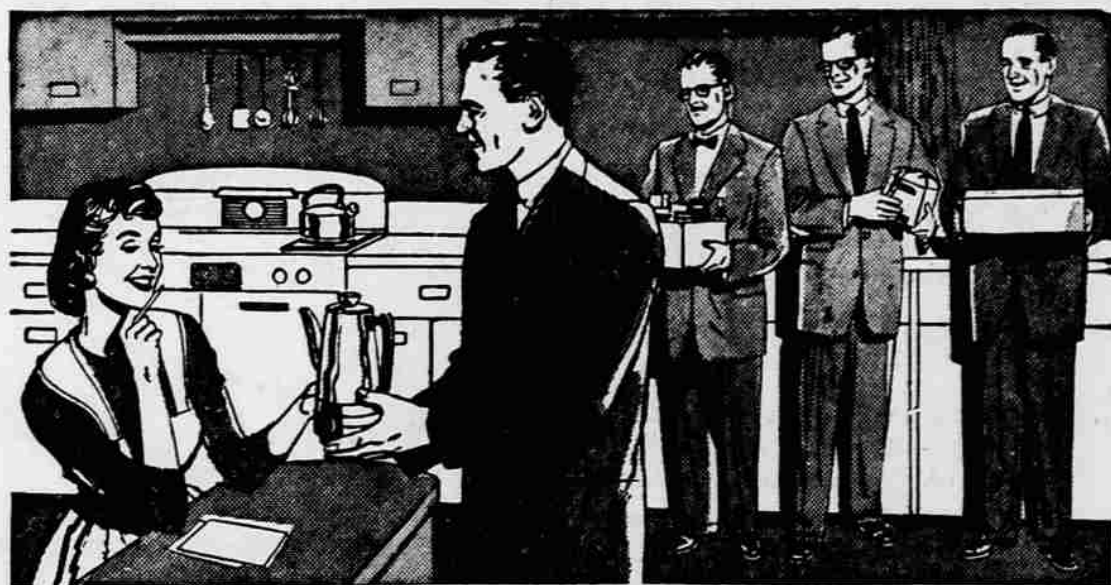
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