Absenteeism, Hours of Labor, Etc.

965 Sickness Absence Due to Peptic Ulcers. R.Doll and M.M. Buckatszch. Brit J. Ind. Med. 6, 100-102 (April, 1949).

The sickness absence of men with proved peptic ulcer has been compared with that of men without dyspepsia, of the same age, employed in the same occupation. In seven firms, employing 2,871 men, the mean sickness absence of men with proved peptic ulcer was 6.0 working days a year (standard error 2.75 days) more than that of the controls. The percentage of men who had proved peptic ulcers was 5.4, so that the total sickness absence attributable to peptic ulcer was 32.4 working days a year per hundred men. Early treatment and the provision of dietetic facilities in industrial canteens are the most practical steps that can be taken to reduce this loss.

-- Authors' Summary

Insurance and Medical Economics

966 Free Medicine. Tryout on Coast. Anon. Reported from Seattle and Olympia. U.S. News & World Report p. 22-24 (July 22, 1949).

Cradle-to-grave security is operating in Washington State. Relief families get everything from diapers to funerals free. Doctor's care, false teeth, cash for clothing, and other necessities are being passed out in welfare cases. Medical services for the needy are such that it is estimated that an employed person would have to earn at least $5,000 a year to afford the type of medical care given the average welfare medical case. The result is that some persons on relief are receiving more in benefits than they earned when employed and are enjoying improved standards of living by being on relief. Unemployed workers sometimes prefer staying on relief to taking jobs when they open up. Also, all needy persons in the state are receiving at least $60.00 a month in pensions. The eligibility requirements for welfare benefits are liberal; owning a home and car and having a limited amount of life insurance does not debar an applicant. The system will cost the State's taxpayers more than $2,000,000 in the biennium beginning last April. Criticism of the system is raised in many quarters by those who are alarmed over the State's ever-growing budget. On the other hand, there is pressure for more benefits.

967 A College Course on the Medical Basis of Accident Compensation, as Taught at Swiss Universities. F. Zollinger. Med. del Deporte y del Trabajo 14, 2482-2483 (May 1949). In English.

A course on Medical Basis of Accident Compensation is included in the compulsory subjects in Swiss medical schools. Not only is the student