

By October 1953 the new International Sanitary Regulations drawn up by WHO, which consolidated and revised the earlier international conventions intended to prevent the spreading from country to country of communicable diseases such as bubonic plague, smallpox and others, had been in operation for one year and the regulations are now being applied by nearly all members of WHO in a spirit of mutual co-operation. An important complement to the International Sanitary Regulations is the work which WHO does in collecting and disseminating to its members information on occurrences of dangerous communicable diseases.

WHO has under way a programme to establish new international standards for therapeutic, prophylactic and diagnostic agents. An example of this "biological standardization" was the establishment in 1953 of an international standard for aureomycin.

The budget for 1955 proposed by the Director-General of WHO, and submitted to the Seventh World Health Assembly for approval, amounted to \$10,300,000. As this would be an increase of approximately 20 per cent over the 1954 figure of \$8,500,000, a number of member states felt that they could not approve it. At the Assembly, therefore, the budget ceiling was discussed at some length. In the end, a compromise figure of \$9,500,000, for which the Canadian Delegation voted, was adopted.

Another financial matter on which there was considerable debate at the Seventh World Health Assembly was the scale of contributions of member states to the Organization. Some members urged that the United Nations scale of contributions be adopted by WHO. It was also proposed that WHO omit from the calculation of assessments the states of the Soviet bloc, which are inactive members and do not, in fact, contribute. The Assembly decided that the United Nations scale of assessments should be adopted over a three-year period and that the Eighth World Health Assembly should consider methods of assessing active members only, in 1956 and subsequent years. The Canadian Delegation supported these proposals and also voted for a resolution inviting the inactive members to resume participation.

At each World Health Assembly a period is set aside for technical discussions, which afford a valuable opportunity for the exchange of information and views among the experts of member countries. This year the topic chosen for discussion was "public health problems in rural areas".

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was drawn up by a special conference called by the Governments of the United Kingdom and France in 1945. The Organization came into being on November 4, 1946, when 20 acceptances of the constitution had been deposited. Canada deposited its acceptance on September 6, 1946. The purpose of UNESCO, as stated in its constitution, is "to contribute to peace