

(1) For a number of years epidemiologists have carefully charted the incidence of polio and the manner in which it rises and falls during the course of a year. From these studies it is evident that the months of July, August and September -- and sometimes October and November -- cover the period of greatest risk. On the other hand, the period of minimum risk extends from December through to late Spring and early Summer. Since the Christmas holiday season makes inoculations difficult during December, it would appear that injections could be carried out with the greatest degree of safety during the first half of the year. Canada's remarkable record with spring-time inoculations this year seems to confirm this view.

(2) A second point to be remembered is Dr. Salk's recommendation that in order to derive the greatest benefit from the third or "booster" dose, at least seven months should elapse between the second and third injection. Scheduling all inoculations for the early months of the new year is the simplest method of guaranteeing that third injections will not be given within a shorter interval than that recommended by Dr. Salk.

(3) By providing for the delivery of vaccine to all provinces at the beginning of the new year, the two producing Laboratories will have time to build up a sufficient stockpile to ensure no interruption or delays in the programme and to make deliveries to all provinces in an orderly and equitable manner.

As to the current production picture, the Institute of Microbiology will begin manufacture early this Fall and will be in a position to supply the vaccine in substantial quantity in the new year. At Connaught, additional staff have been recruited and trained and facilities have been expanded to provide for a doubling in the rate of production by the end of this month. Determined efforts are being made to achieve even further increases in the rate of production without sacrificing the high standards of safety and potency that must be maintained.

(4) Since most of the vaccine is administered in schools, by commencing inoculations at the first of the year and concentrating them over a period of a few months, it should be possible to carry through the programme with a minimum of dislocation in the normal school activities. It will also make for administrative efficiency since booster shots for children who have already received the first two injections can be carried out concurrently with the first two inoculations for the new children being immunized.

(5) The fact that inoculations will be administered in all provinces during approximately the same period will facilitate public education and simplify the task of acquainting parents with the details of the programme.

(6) Finally, during the next few months, the two Canadian manufacturers of the vaccine will be able to take full advantage of any new production techniques that might be developed as the result of a number of studies currently going forward in both the United States and Canada. Undoubtedly, methods of manufacture will be improved as part of the inevitable process of change and