## EDUCATION OF HEALTH WORKERS

The need for flexibility, adaptability and co-ordination of educational programs designed for doctors, nurses and others concerned with health will be the subject of a national conference to be held in Ottawa from October 19 to 22. Participants in this National Conference on the Education of Health Manpower will be given an opportunity to reach a consensus on the co-ordination of educational programs, universities and community colleges. They will also examine the co-ordination of university programs with community college programs and those conducted by professional associations.

The conference is being planned jointly by the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. Representatives of universities, community colleges, professional associations and government are being invited to participate.

This will be a working conference, with small groups studying each of the problem areas. The program will include a limited number of presentations by guest speakers. Recommendations resulting from the conference will be made available to interested agencies.

## SWEETER FUTURE FOR HONEY

The outlook for the production of honey in Canada seems to be improving, according to J.R. Burns, an economist with the Economics Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture. Although the average price of honey dropped from nearly 18 cents to little more than 16 cents a pound in the past two years, there are signs that Canadian prices will rise. World prices have also been higher lately.

Large increases in the production of Canadian honey in the last few years have produced large surpluses. About 51 million pounds of honey were produced in 1970 and, since 1964, production has ranged from 33 million pounds to 53 million pounds in 1969.

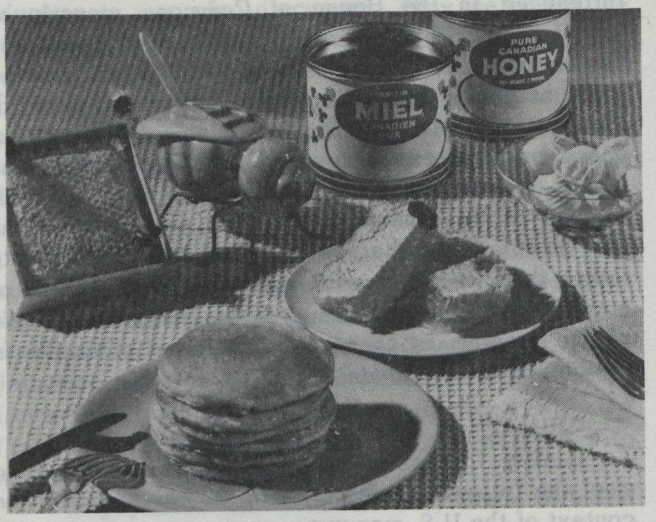
At the same time, Canadians are eating less honey, the *per capita* consumption having decreased from 2.3 pounds in 1965 to 1.9 pounds in 1969.

Honey exports for the 1970-71 crop year could exceed 18 million pounds, a new record, three times the yearly average since 1964. This large increase in exports will reduce the surplus stock of honey to easily manageable levels.

However, owing to a switch from high-value packaged honey to bulk-honey exports, the average export price has declined for Canadian honey.

Fortunately, when Canadian production has been high, world production has been such that Canada has been able to store and then export the surpluses.

Canadian honey has some competitive advantages, Mr. Burns says, since Canada produces large quantities of high-grade white honey, which is in good demand, and most world production is of the darker variety.




Average yields in Canada are among the highest in the world. On the Prairies, where about two-thirds of Canada's honey is produced, the average yields for a single area have gone as high as 197 pounds. But, Mr. Burns warns, the Canadian honey industry must be prepared to cope with surpluses. "If Canada produces several large honey crops at the same time as other world producers, prices will fall and the net return to Canadian honey producers will be drastically reduced."

## MISTLETOE MISCHIEF

Dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant that lives on conifers, causes considerable damage to western hemlock trees in British Columbia. The parasite adversely affects the growth of the host, with the result that a burl is formed on the trunk (in lumber manufacturing, a burl represents a defect which lowers the volume of lumber produced per tree). Samples of burl wood were obtained from the Victoria Forest Research Laboratory and examined for pulp yield and quality by the Vancouver Forest Products Laboratory. The results of the pulping study indicated that the pulp yield was 6 percent lower from the infected wood than from sound wood, while strength properties were in the order of 10 percent to 20 percent lower. Pulp brightness appeared to be unaffected. Because of the twisted nature of grain of mistletoe-infected wood, mill chipping might result in higher rejects than for sound wood. The studies recommend that the volume of burl wood be kept in the range 5 per cent to 10 per cent of the total volume of wood furnished to any mill. At or below this level, the effect of the infected burls on pulp quality should not be noticeable.