

to medical and drug standardization and to the control of diseases such as tuberculosis which are not confined to any specific area of the world.

FIVE HEALTH REGIONS

A modest beginning has been made with the establishment of a system of "health regions". Five regions for international health purposes have been created: Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, South-east Asia, West Pacific, Africa and North and South America. The chief work of the regional offices at first will be to collect and to forward to Geneva precise information and statistics concerning epidemics. Ultimately it is expected that the regional offices will undertake the supervision of field work in their areas and become increasingly responsible for the study and for the control of diseases in their respective areas of operation.

In view of the very modest budget under which WHO will operate, at least for its first year or two, the world health programme has been devised on a very strict principle of priorities. The first priority has been given to the most pressing matters which are of concern to specialists in public health: malaria, tuberculosis, material and child welfare, nutrition and hygiene. Other priorities, in order of importance are public health, parasitic diseases, virus diseases, mental health (including alcoholism and drug addiction), cancer rheumatoid diseases, leprosy and undulant fever. In addition to the six priorities, the World Health Organization will be concerned with other important activities. It will continue the long-established work on epidemiology and advisory services on quarantine and on pilgrimages. It will continue to provide medical fellowships so that students from less advanced countries may study in the world's great medical centres; and it will continue its studies and recommendations

for the standardization of medical terminology and of drugs, and will revise as necessary the international lists of diseases and of causes of death.

DR. CHISHOLM'S APPOINTMENT

Of particular interest to Canadians was the appointment at the First Session of the World Health Assembly of Dr. Brock Chisholm, formerly Canadian Deputy Minister of Health, as Director-General of the World Health Organization. Dr. Chisholm has served as Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission of WHO since its inception. The central office of the organization will remain in Geneva.

The World Health Organization is perhaps the least

spectacular and the most effective of all the various Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. In the Preamble to its Constitution it is stated that:

"The purpose of the organization is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, because health is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and states."

The first World Health Assembly, which has been an undoubted but an unassuming success, suggests that a very effective step has been already taken toward the final goal which the organization has set itself.

"LESSON OF PEACE TO ALL NATIONS"

From an address by Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of Defence, at the unveiling of a plaque at Ogdensburg, N.Y., on August 17, 1948, in commemoration of the meeting of Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States and Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, on August 17, 1940.

Eight years ago today, two great leaders, your President and our Prime Minister met here in the black midnight of the war more than a year before Pearl Harbour and when the nations of the British Commonwealth alone withstood the enemy. The outcome was uncertain. Without American aid the Axis powers might be soon attacking our shores. At the President's invitation, Mr. King motored down from Ottawa and in the President's car standing on the siding here, these two old friends sat late into the night discussing the situation and what should be done to meet it.

The next day, after attending church, they continued the discussion and drafted what has since become known as the Ogdensburg Agreement. The agreement or declaration con-

sisted of a little more than a hundred words, and it was announced at once to the press. The agreement established the Permanent Joint Board on Defence "to consider in the broad sense the defence of the north half of the Western Hemisphere". Within two days the Board was set up and it has since worked in our common interest quietly and effectively.....

What Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. King did at Ogdensburg had far greater significance than the joint defence of North America. What the Ogdensburg Agreement symbolizes in friendship and cooperation between Canada and the United States should point the way to that larger cooperation between nations on which alike depend the hope of peace and the promise of happiness to mankind.