



*Professor Arnold J. Toynbee delivers the First McDougall Memorial Lecture at the 10th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in Rome, November 2, 1959.*

leaving the choice to David, God might have made it Himself; or He might have inflicted David and his people with all three scourges at once."

Dr. Toynbee developed this theme of choice as follows:

"Today we do not feel ourselves impotent against any of these three classic afflictions. We have taken up arms against pestilence, and have already made great progress towards stamping it out. Medicine — preventive and curative — has routed disease; and domestic animals and plants, as well as human beings, have benefitted by this human victory. Our victory in this field is now within sight of being consummated by an alliance between public health and nutrition: the marriage of health and agriculture, as Lord Bruce has called it. As for war, we know that we have the power to abolish it, if we have the will — and the incentive for having the will is now enormous. We have the power because we have formed the habit of negotiating and have long ago organized the channels for this. Even on the political plane, on which co-operation is hardest, we know