

SEVENTH COMMITTEE

(Health, Opium Traffic, Intellectual Co-operation, etc.)

In view of the broadening scope of the League's activities with respect to technical, non-political questions involving international collaboration and the increased emphasis which has now come to be placed on this aspect of the League's work, it was decided this year to set up a separate Committee to deal with health, opium traffic, intellectual co-operation and a number of miscellaneous technical questions, some of which in the past had been referred to the Second and Fifth Committees. This arrangement had the added advantage of leaving the Second Committee to deal exclusively with financial and economic questions, including communications and transit, and of permitting the Fifth Committee to devote its time to purely social and humanitarian questions.

Health Questions

The Committee reviewed the work of the Health Organization during the year. Considerable attention was given to the special collaboration with China arranged last year as a result of the appeal of the Chinese Government for assistance in the campaign against epidemics. The Committee received a report on the missions which had been sent to China by the League and on their work in the field. Under conditions of great difficulty they have already had to combat epidemics of plague, typhus fever, cholera and dysentery. A number of speakers congratulated the Health Organization on this work and pointed out that in addition to assisting China they were also safe-guarding other countries from the spread of these epidemic diseases. The Chinese delegation on the Committee thanked a number of Governments, especially the United States, Roumanian and Turkish, which have supplied large quantities of vaccine for the use of the Mission.

The Committee then discussed more positive policies of prevention of disease, and references were again made to the work done in the field of nutrition. A number of delegates thought that the work in physical and mental fitness and housing hygiene should be given as much attention as possible, and various delegations stressed that this work should be extended to rural areas in all parts of the world. The French delegate, M. Parisot, made a statement in some detail on the objects and methods of the Health Organization and expressed the opinion that the publication of a technical chronicle of the Health Organization's work, separate from the Bulletin of the Health Organization, which is used mainly to issue reports of the technical commissions, would be desirable. The Committee concurred in this proposal and recommended its adoption by the Assembly.

Illicit Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs

The discussion this year centred largely about two aspects of the opium question—the proposed Convention for the Limitation and Control of the Production of Raw Opium and, secondly, the situation in the Far East.

The Advisory Committee on Opium, at its session in Geneva in May, sat as a Preparatory Committee for a Conference for the Limitation and Control of the Production of Raw Opium. The Committee had before it both the report of this Preparatory Committee and the reports submitted to the Council at their One Hundred and Second Session containing an account of the work done, the difficulties encountered and the decisions reached.

A number of delegates took part in the discussion and statements of importance were made by the delegates of China and Poland. The Chinese delegate said that in the view of his Government the purpose of the proposed