

## SHORTSIGHTED DIETS

Northern native children who are sent south for education have a tendency to develop shortsightedness, states Dr. Elizabeth Cass of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. This is caused by the radical change of food.

She said Indians and Eskimos, who have exceptionally good eyesight, develop shortsightedness when exposed to the high carbohydrate diets of the southern population. However, this can be overcome if they return to their native diets of meat and fish.

When the English-born doctor first went to the Territories, 11 years ago, she found the rate of eye disease appalling. Blindness among the native people then, was 1.4 per cent of the population compared to the average of one in 10,000 for the rest of North America.

Accidents, tuberculosis and cataracts are the main causes of blindness among northern people. The rate has been reduced now by probably half because of more treatment and better control of tuberculosis.

Dr. Cass went to the Northwest Territories in 1958 intending to stay three weeks. She has spent the last 11 years treating people of the North, where her practice covers some 1.25 million square miles of barren country.

## FISHERIES CONFERENCE

Automation and mechanization have made such rapid and significant advances in recent years that the need for intense technological application has become obvious to all industries, including those associated with Canada's fisheries.

For this reason, a major conference on automation and mechanization in the fishing industry,

sponsored by the Federal-Provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee, is to be held in Montreal in February 1970. The Committee is made up of deputy ministers responsible for fisheries in the Federal Government and the governments of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

The Committee points out that to compete successfully with other leading fishing countries and continue as a viable part of the economy, the Canadian fishing industry must increase its knowledge and improve its skills to keep abreast of technological and management developments. In the offshore fishery particularly, the increasing efficiency of other fishing nations indicates the need for Canada to further mechanize its industry and accept principles of automation. Similarly, onshore operations from landing the fish to marketing the product must be adapted to cope with the major changes taking place in the structure of industry.

The objective of the Committee is to reduce arduous and tedious tasks in the industry, to improve pay and working conditions and to increase efficiency, both ashore and afloat.

## AGENDA

Subjects for discussion will include the automation and mechanization of fishing and production activities, processes and techniques. More than 40 papers will deal not only with development to date but with the new equipment and techniques that may be available to the industry within the next five years. The subjects will come under a dozen headings, including navigation, vessel operations, fishing-gear of all kinds, processing methods at sea and on land, handling and stowage of fish at sea, the transfer and unloading of fish, manpower, vessel design and construction, marketing, relevant legislation and port development.