

## WAR ON POLIO

An unseen enemy invades Hull. Into this thriving port, perhaps from overseas, came a sudden attack of that most dreaded disease, polio; an explosive epidemic, in the words of the city's Medical Officer. Steps to immunize the whole population, more than 300,000, were swiftly taken. At 52 emergency clinics, oral vaccine was rapidly given. At this stage 53 cases of polio had been registered, more were suspected. Two drops of the Sabin vaccine on a lump of sugar was the dose given; no injection necessary. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hutchinson, toured clinics at which babies took the vaccine with syrup.

In hospital were some of the 53 epidemic victims, and a few cases were polio not yet diagnosed with certainty. To this cruel disease, medical science still has no complete answer, though if it is detected in the early stage there is a good chance of cure. With care amounting to compassion, doctors and nurses are doing all they can, treating also patients stricken before the present outbreak. It is heartrending that children should suffer, but Polio does not confine itself to the young; adults are victims too. Outside the hospital, in stores, schools and other places converted into clinics, oral vaccine was being administered with efficiency that did credit to the authorities. As each clinic phoned for more vaccine, the demand was met. First rate organising was winning the battle against time.

They'd had news by this time that the R.A.F. had flown in with more vaccine - doses for 110,000 people. The clinics were kept supplied. The immense operation would have been impossible but for 4,000 men and women volunteers of Civil Defence and the W.V.S. ++ People were told the Sabin vaccine works in two ways: it attacks such polio virus as may be in the body, and fortifies the blood to prevent infection. Hull's prompt action is a model in dealing with an emergency.

Oh, come, that was lovely cyrup.

++ W.V.S. (Women's Voluntary Service.)