

MISCELLANEOUS

within the framework of the general agricultural development of each country. Resettlement and aftercare services were absolutely essential and must keep pace with general development. Governments should ensure that adequate arrangements for the training of staff for all departments of blind welfare were made, wherever possible within the context of general programmes.

MEDICAL MANPOWER : THE PRESENT SITUATION

*Reporting to the Nineteenth World Health Assembly on the work of WHO in 1965, the Director-General cited the following figures to illustrate the present "gross deficiencies" in medical manpower:*¹

The physician/population ratio is generally considered a fairly reliable indicator of the general health manpower of a given country. This ratio is signally low in Africa. While the world average is one physician to 3000 inhabitants, in the continent of Africa, excluding two countries, the average ratio is one to 20 000. A number of countries in that area have much lower ratios. One country has, for example, only one doctor for every 76 000 inhabitants. The dearth of training facilities in the area is also disquieting. For a population of more than 200 million there are at present only six well-established and fully functioning medical schools. For an equivalent population in Latin America there are more than 100 medical schools, and even so the situation is still far from satisfactory. In Africa as many as 14 countries with populations of over 3 million have no such schools at all, a situation without parallel in all but two other countries in the rest of the world.

The Third Report on the World Health Situation records a wide range in the physician/population ratios of the 11 countries

¹ WHO Chronicle, Geneva, 1966, No. 7.

MISCELLANEOUS

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region which have furnished information. While two countries have one doctor to 400 and to 800 inhabitants respectively, a country at the other end of the scale has only one doctor to 29 000 inhabitants ; the average ratio or, as the Report calls it, the " regional mode " is about one to 4500.

In the Americas the range is not so wide. With the exception of the northern part of the Region—in much better conditions—a ratio of one to 3500 appears to be usual for most of the countries.

For the five countries which reported from South-East Asia, the ratio varies from a high of one to 4600 to a low of one to 41 000.

In the Western Pacific Region the range is again considerable and goes from one to 680 to one to 39 000. With the exception of two countries, however, most of those which have provided statistics have a ratio of about one to 2500.

In Europe the picture is one of a high level of medical personnel provision. Most of the 22 countries reporting have a physician/population ratio greater than one to 1000.
