

dered adequate by WHO. But in some parts of Europe the ratio is as low as one nurse to 12 000 and in Africa it can fall to two or three for an entire country. Only about 37 000 nurses are available for the whole of South America . . .

**Polemology and Pacifism**, by G. Bouthoul, *World Justice, Louvain, 1968, No. 3.*

In the hypersensitive world in which we now live, a prey both to the acceleration of history and an unprecedented population explosion, all humane scientific studies inevitably have a bearing on the future. Planning and providing are no longer a matter of speculation but of absolute necessity. Overriding all other problems is the question of war, for this is the ever-present threat which may well invalidate all our hopes and efforts in every other sphere . . . .

Does this mean that we must wait for a complete science of 'the war phenomenon' to be worked out? This would mean leaving the field open to all the elements of aggression, which grow daily more virulent, and passively helping potential catastrophes to come to a head.

At the present moment we can try to affect the structures conducive to war. The most serious of these today is the population inflation which threatens to crush humanity under its own weight. We can influence psychological structures and mentalities by demonstrating that war is a social malady, a mental epidemic. In a word, we can take the worship out of war and the politics out of peace.

Success is far from certain, but so is failure. For there are no historical inevitabilities; there is only the struggle between a passive routine and the creative spirit of man. Every invention is equivalent to a biological mutation of our species. In war as in anything else, according to Bergson: 'The future of humanity is uncertain, since it depends on humanity'.

**International quarantine**, *The Courier—Unesco, Paris, March 1968.*

Of the six quarantinable diseases, two, typhus and relapsing fever, seem to present no longer any international danger and may soon be dropped from the list of diseases subject to quarantine. The situation for the four others is:

Plague, after declining in the late fifties, is on the upswing; the Republic of Viet-Nam is the hardest hit with 4,532 suspected cases