

Negro Youth Fight College Despotism

By CYRIL BRIGGS

Eight strikes at Negro colleges in recent years are evidence of the revolt of Negro youth against the efforts of white college presidents to turn out future "Uncle Toms" to succeed the crop now fortunately dying out.

That "benevolent despotism" of white college heads or trustee boards is teaching "pacifism and servility" is shown by John P. Davis in an article in the January "New Student." Davis is a graduate student at Harvard and a former Bates College debater. Every moment of the student's time is scheduled, his clothing prescribed, even down to his underwear. He is compelled to attend chapel and is put to bed every night at ten o'clock. Especially is his reading censored. In many colleges and schools in the south even the magazine of the wobbling and fearful Du Bois is barred. Latest books on the race question are absolutely taboo.

Strikes at Howard University and Fisk resulted in resignation of Presidents Durkee and McKenzie, both of them white arbiters of what Negroes should be taught. Davis notes other strikes as follows: Hampton, Kittrell, Knoxville, St. Augustine and two additional outbreaks at Howard University. Minor revolts have been staged at nearly every Dixie college.

At Hampton white faculty members were accused of membership in the Klu Klux Klan. They ate at tables separate from the Negro teachers. At Fisk, Howard and Hampton the faculty also tried to intimidate the students.

Students' mail is opened by the faculties of most of these colleges; especially is mail from the north scrutinized. Students' mail goes through two classes of censorship, first at the post offices, where all mail of Negroes is carefully watched, and again at the hands of the faculty. At Storer College and Tougaloo College the faculties reserve the right to dispose of "objectionable" mail "in any way desirable."

At A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C., as at Hampton and Tuskegee, there is compulsory chapel, Da-

White College Heads Teach Servility; Reading Censored; Autocratic Rule

vis points out. "Regulation uniforms are required; matrons rule men's dormitories; students are forbidden to entertain visitors in their

rooms; playing cards and tobacco are strictly forbidden on the campus. Everything is done to make "universal robots" out of grown men

Soviet Health Bureau Saves Millions of Lives Yearly

By EUGENE LYONS.

(United Press Staff Correspondent)

MOSCOW, Feb. 4 (UP).—A million human lives, among them 300,000 infants, are saved every year by the Commissariat of Health, its head, Dr. Nicholas Semashko, claimed in an interview given the United Press. In support of his claim he cited the reduced death rate in the Federated Socialist Soviet Republics—21 for every 1,000, against a pre-war rate of 27 per thousand.

Dr. Semashko started his professional career as a country doctor in the Volga region. Now, chief of one of the most important branches of the Soviet government and responsible for the health of 140,000,000 people over one-sixth of the earth's surface, he still retains the air of a country doctor. Cheerful, rather rotund, with a professional-looking pointed beard, he is undoubtedly one of the most charming men in the Soviet government.

But under Dr. Semashko's charm one senses a hard unsmiling earnestness. As he speaks there emerges a picture of his enormous, almost disheartening task. In a country which for generations has accepted the most fearsome epidemics as a matter of course, a country for the most part still steeped in the darkest sort of superstition, a country almost devoid of modern mechanical sanitation, his Commissariat is attempting to in-

roduce the latest preventive medicine.

"Evil Eye" Feared.

"In thousands of villages," he said, "one of our serious problems is the 'magician.' The 'evil eye' is still credited with more diseases than the bacillus, and cures are still expected from the local witch instead of the local hospital."

Nevertheless, Dr. Semashko is convinced that great progress has been achieved. There are more hospitals, more dispensaries, more sanatoria, more of everything that conduces to health, he pointed out, and it is only a question of time before Russia will be brought to a par with other European countries in the matter of health.

The general level of health, he declared, is undoubtedly higher than before the war. He credited this to two chief factors. First, the peasant now has land and therefore eats more and better food. Second, the general cultural efforts both in city and country have led to greater cleanliness.

Deaths Decrease.

As a good indication of the population he produced interesting figures about the army and the navy. Drawn from the same sort of people substantially as before the war, the statistics offer some basis of comparison.

For every 1,000 officers in the army, in 1913, there died of disease 6.85; for every thousand soldiers, the death rate was 3.96 in the

and women. Nothing is left to their own initiative.

"Such conditions as these exist generally in practically all of the Negro colleges in the south. They are based on two fallacies: 1. That the Negro student is not prepared for the exercise of free will. Back of this is the fear of the white educator that if the Negro is allowed the exercise of liberty he will become too dangerous to live in the southern white community. Every effort is made to teach servility and pacifism.

"But the Negro student has long since given up the motto of his predecessors in college: 'Take the world and give me Jesus.' He is only willing to share Jesus if the white man will share his world."

Davis also points out that the colleges headed by Negroes suffer from the same fate because they are dependent upon white capital. So long as capital, white or black, dominates the Negro colleges, so long will they be institutions of "pacifism and servility."

same year. The corresponding figures in 1925 were 1.81 officers and 2.50 soldiers; in 1927—1.19 officers and 1.21 soldiers.

Deaths from disease in the navy: per 1,000, in 1913—6.37 officers, 2.35 sailors; in 1927—4.21 officers, 1.03 sailors.

Make One Trust Out of New York Central and Its Leased Railroads

WASHINGTON (By Mail).—The Interstate Commerce Commission has granted the New York Central Railroad permission to effect an operation merger of itself and roads under lease by it, including the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis (the "Big Four" line), the Michigan Central, the Cincinnati Northern, the Peoria and Eastern and the Kankakee and Central.

The I. C. C. has been very friendly to mergers lately, and has introduced a bill into congress which has the backing of both Coolidge and Hoover, to make trustification of the railroad industry easier.