

from the atmospheric conditions, exercise a profound influence on the temper and fitness of the legislators. It must be remembered that during prolonged discussions, they have to sit for hours together, and unless the seats are soft and adjustable to accommodate various physical postures, discomfort and proportionate inattention to discussion must inevitably result. In devising the construction of the building it is absolutely necessary to use materials for the construction of the walls, capable of absorbing all external noises, while preserving the acoustic conditions within unimpaired.

The electoral constituencies must recognise that the theory of human comfort and efficiency is based on regarding the human body as a heat engine, and that human life can exist through only a small range of body temperature centred round 98.6 degrees. If this physiological principle is firmly grasped, it may not be difficult for the electoral bodies to realise the fact that their representatives while discussing controversial measures like the Sarda Act and the Debts Relief Bill, are apt to generate heat equivalent to 2500 B.t.u. per hour and to perceive that, unless provision is made for

its production and for its removal at the same rate for each degree of activity on the part of ministers and other legislators, the normal functions of the human organism are bound to become inefficient, and to that extent the interests of the country are bound to suffer. Both in self-interest and also for altruistic reasons, it is worth while for the country to recognise that the comfort and fitness of its administrators depend upon providing them with the highest and most artistic pleasures in human life. These pleasures, it must be pointed out, are due to causes which are essentially rhythmic. Coloured lights, painted and decorated walls, pleasing gardens, fountains, orchestra, optimum temperature, sweet odours and social teas must have a softening effect on frayed tempers, contributing towards mutual understanding and co-operation in the speedy despatch of State affairs. The electorates must consider the practicability and necessity of providing their representatives with these amenities which would make their life and work in the legislatures efficient, and which would establish communal peace and harmony, resulting in the welfare and prosperity of the country.

Planned Rural Reconstruction.*

THE Report of the Intergovernmental Conference of Far-Eastern Countries on Rural Hygiene is an impressive record. The agenda of the Conference embraced for consideration important problems such as health and medical services, rural reconstruction and collaboration of the population, sanitation and sanitary engineering, nutrition and measures for combating certain diseases in rural districts.

Governments have recently been realising in an increasing measure their obligations to the rural population and programmes working towards the improving of the social, economic, health and cultural conditions of the villagers are becoming more general and more comprehensive. This present Confer-

ence has brought together governmental representatives from the important countries of the East, who are in charge of a great variety of public services for rural uplift. Important decisions have been taken by the delegates and if they are implemented a great step will have been taken towards ameliorating the distressing conditions of the villagers. The discussions were particularly designed to show that the rural problems are of such a character that they demand the concerted planning and action of groups of technical persons, whose fields of activity have in the past been too frequently considered as separate and distinct. The opening of the public health work in rural areas can be used as the driving wedge for the development of a more comprehensive programme embracing education, economics, sociology, engineering and agriculture.

* Report of the Intergovernmental Conference of Far-Eastern Countries on Rural Hygiene, held at Bandoeng (Java), August 3rd to 13th, 1937, League of Nations, Health Organization, Geneva, 1937.