

Notes on People

Nation's Top Health

Dr. Charles C. Edwards, the nation's chief health officer, has submitted his resignation to the White House. He expects to leave in mid-January to become senior vice president of Becton, Dickinson and Company, a maker of medical and surgical supplies in Rutherford, N.J.

Dr. Edwards, who has served since April, 1973, as Assistant Secretary for Health in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, reportedly cited "personal reasons" in explaining his decision to resign.

As Commissioner of Food and Drugs starting in December, 1969, he made a reputation for efficiency and organizing ability.

Dr. Edwards's elevation in 1973 to his present position was widely believed to foreshadow a higher and more unified status for health affairs in the vast diversity of the H.E.W., whose components dealing with health include the Food and Drug Administration, the Social Security Administration and the National Institutes of Health.

There have been indications that Dr. Edwards has been disappointed in recent months by the quality of leadership in H.E.W. and the Administration.

Just as she had been during her last two years in the White House, Pat Nixon was voted the most admired woman in Good Housekeeping magazine's annual poll of readers. Her younger daughter, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, placed fourth and Mamie Eisenhower, widow of the President, remained on the list in 10th place despite a year of ill health and seclusion.

The new First Lady, Betty Ford, placed seventh. Other's

chosen from a list of 47 nominees were Golda Meir, the former Israeli Premier, who ranked second; Rose Kennedy, mother of the late President, third; Shirley Temple Black, now Ambassador to Ghana, fifth; Patricia Neal, actress, sixth; Princess Grace of Monaco, eighth, and Ethel Kennedy, ninth.

A spokesman for the magazine noted that "feminist types didn't do too well"—Billie Jean King placed 16th and Betty Friedan 45th—and suggested that American homemakers were "demonstrating support" for such qualities as "courage and inner strength" in the women of Presidential families.

Harold Wilson, the British Prime Minister, has twice returned from recent trips to Paris with an illness, generating speculation that perhaps the French food was just a trifle too rich. Yesterday, when he appeared in the House of Commons to report on the Common Market meeting in the French capital, he confirmed it all. Referring to his "temporary disability," he said, "I got better when I got back to some good, plain English food."

"Absolute rubbish" was how Richard Burton, in Switzerland, described London reports that his engagement to Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia had been canceled by the bride-to-be, who was once Mrs. Howard Oxenberg of New York.

The Daily Mail, which printed a picture of the 38-year-old princess returning to the home of her husband, Neil Balfour, said that friends had quoted her as saying, "I didn't realize it takes more than a woman to make a man sober—I thought I could do it but failed."