

MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND

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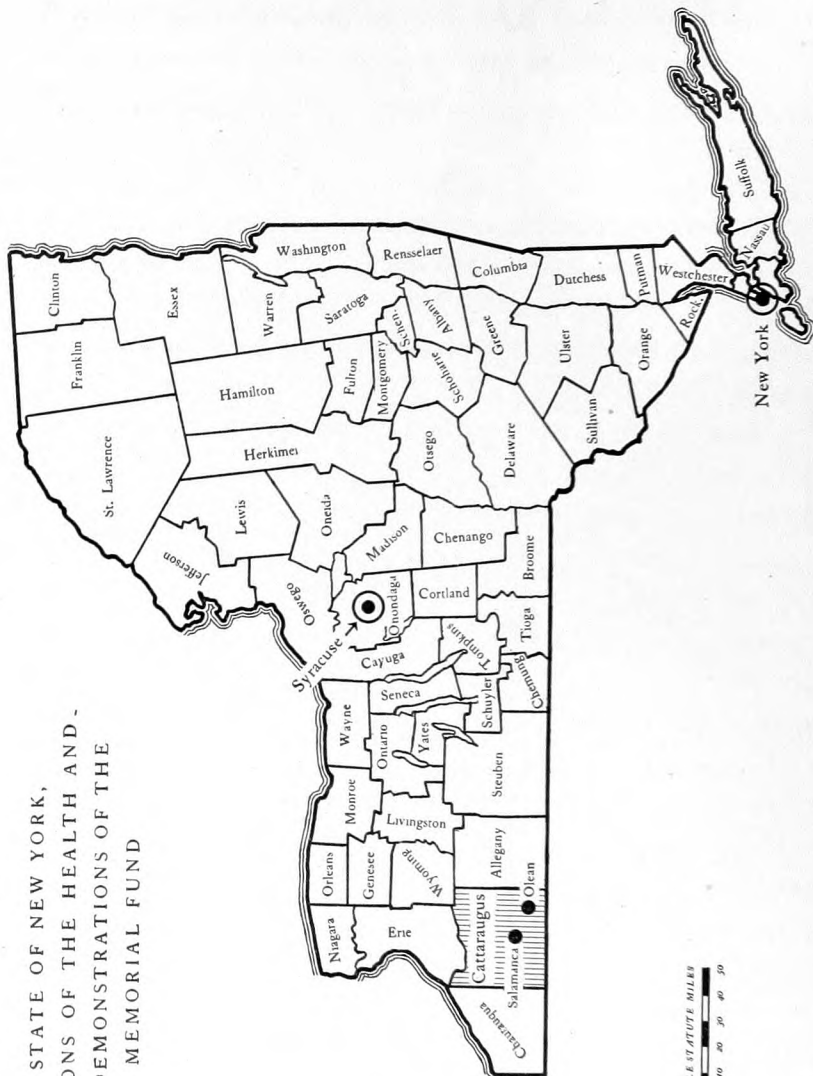
No. 3

THE SCOPE OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS

HERE has been material progress in the New York Health and Tuberculosis Demonstrations, since April 3, 1922, when the Board of Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund voted to concentrate a substantial part of the Fund's income in supporting this project. It is perhaps pertinent, therefore, to review briefly the significance and scope of the demonstrations. The sum of \$325,000 a year for at least five years has been set aside by the Fund to support this undertaking, the aim of which is to ascertain the effectiveness and cost of certain measures for tuberculosis control, for the prevention of unnecessary disease and death generally, and for the promotion of individual and community health in typical rural, urban and metropolitan communities of New York State.

Two communities have already been selected as demonstration centers. After a thorough study of the advantages and disadvantages of the eligible rural counties in New York State, Cattaraugus County was chosen in November, 1922. This county has normal economic and social conditions; a population, largely rural, of approximately 72,000; and a representative past experience as to mortality and morbidity rates. A similar survey of medium sized cities in the state resulted in the selection, in January 1923, of

MAP OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
 SHOWING LOCATIONS OF THE HEALTH AND
 TUBERCULOSIS DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE
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Syracuse, a city of approximately 175,000 people. Inquiries are now under way to determine whether or not a satisfactory metropolitan area for the third demonstration unit is available in New York City and if so whether there is a desire on the part of public authorities and private agencies to co-operate in such an undertaking and finally whether a satisfactory plan of organization can be developed.

It is increasingly evident that death and sickness rates within natural limits are determinable; that by concentrated community-wide effort, tuberculosis particularly may be progressively diminished; and that adequate facilities for other disease control, although they have not yet been made fully available anywhere, are a wise community investment. The results in New York City of the Home Hospital Tuberculosis Demonstration by the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, the experience in Massachusetts of the Framingham Community Health and Tuberculosis Demonstration of the National Tuberculosis Association, and recent noteworthy accomplishments in New York State and elsewhere in tuberculosis control and general health promotion—all support these deductions. The New York Health and Tuberculosis Demonstrations are planned on a sufficiently extensive scale and cover a wide enough variety of circumstances to serve as further, and possibly conclusive, evidence of the practicability of the development of community health work and of sickness control—not only in the areas where the demonstrations are being conducted but in similar environments everywhere.

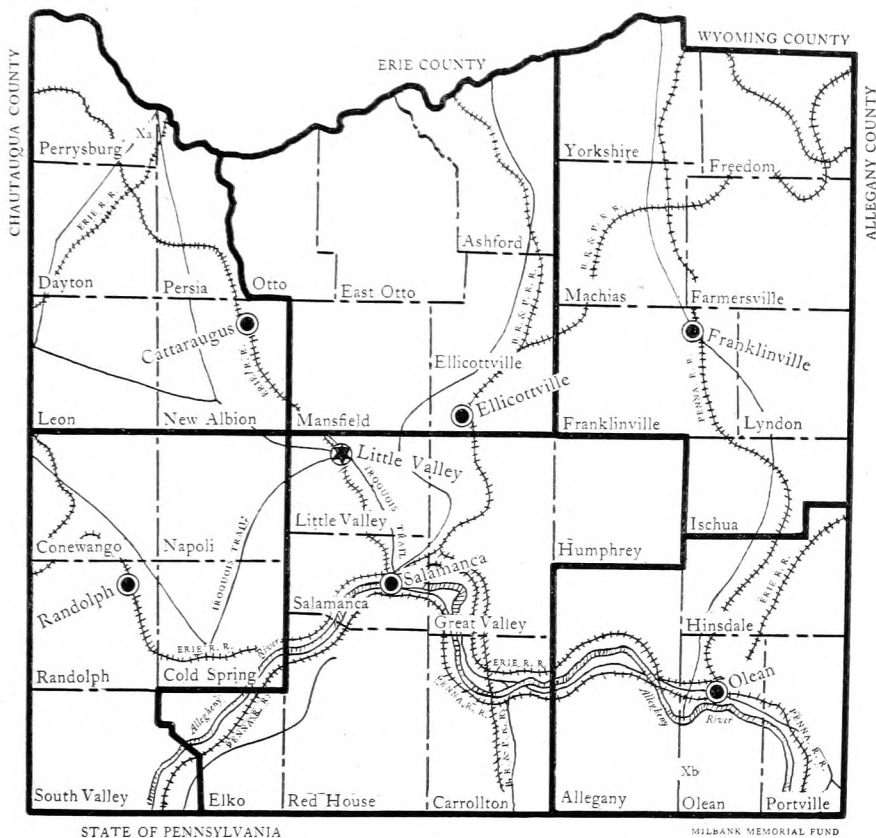
New machinery will not be set up for the execution of the demonstrations programs. The work will be carried out through the co-operation of existing agencies, including the state and local departments of health, and voluntary private organizations.

Leadership by official health authorities, so far as practicable, and full participation by other existing agencies concerned, official and voluntary, are necessary to the successful development of the work and to the gradual assumption by each community of its own demonstration operating responsibility. An obvious essential is the effective coordination of the official and voluntary groups in the local fields.

In shaping the general policies and program of the demonstrations, the Milbank Memorial Fund has had the counsel of a number of recognized leaders in health and social work. These experts, comprising the Fund's Advisory Council and its Technical Board, have reviewed the practical services and appropriations recommended for the respective demonstrations by the several co-operating local and state agencies; and they are charged with the responsibility of proper and economic distribution of functions and funds to the various operating agencies in accordance with plans approved by the Board of Directors of the Milbank Fund.

In addition to the research and experimental opportunities which the projects afford, and in addition to the determination of the relative values of certain practical services for disease control and health promotion, the demonstrations program as a whole should serve as an example to other communities of the economy, wisdom and humanity of adequate measures for life conservation and prolongation. The work should demonstrate clearly the extent to which tuberculosis can be controlled under varying though typical conditions. It should show the relation of an adequate tuberculosis program to the general health needs of a community. It should demonstrate the cost of comprehensive health activities, estimated now by the technical advisors of the Fund to be probably in the neighborhood of \$3 per capita per year.

MAP OF CATTARAUGUS COUNTY SHOWING THE HEALTH DIVISIONS WITH LOCAL HEADQUARTERS, CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH AND TUBERCULOSIS DEMONSTRATIONS



- Headquarters of the Health Divisions
- County Seat: Little Valley
- Highways
- +—+— Railroads
- Xa—J. N. Adam Memorial Tuberculosis Hospital
- Xb—County Tuberculosis Hospital

Cattaraugus County: Population, approximately 72,000; Area, 1253.2 sq. miles

At Salamanca: Hdqrs., County Tuberculosis and Public Health Association

At Olean: Cattaraugus County Laboratory; Administrative Hdqrs., County Health Department; Hdqrs., County School Medical Service

A final criterion of the success of the demonstrations is of course the full assumption and financial support by the community itself of activities shown to meet essential health needs. The absorption of a comprehensive health program into the life of the community should serve effectively to establish a sound physical and mental basis for social and economic progress.

RECENT PROGRESS IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS

Rural Demonstration: Cattaraugus County

The ground work for the development of a comprehensive health program in Cattaraugus County is being laid in a promising manner. As the first important tangible result of the demonstration, the County Board of Supervisors has created a county health district there—the first in New York State to be established pursuant to the permissive law of 1921 authorizing Supervisors to take such action. A Health Board has been appointed with Dr. Leverett D. Bristol, former Health Commissioner of Maine, serving as full time Health Officer and acting at the same time as the local Director of the demonstration. Practical services in tuberculosis prevention and control, laboratory facilities, public health nursing, and other activities have been established or expanded.

The county has been organized into six health divisions. New projects under way or being planned include contagious disease control, maternity and infant hygiene, more adequate care of the physical needs of school children, health education, and related activities. The initiative and enthusiasm displayed by local groups in Cattaraugus County have been gratifying.

Four district health stations are now in operation. These are in Olean, Salamanca, Randolph, and Franklinville. Two