

MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND
QUARTERLY BULLETIN
NEW YORK HEALTH DEMONSTRATIONS

The State Charities Aid Association (New York) is the organizing and supervisory agency for the Cattaraugus County (rural) and Syracuse (urban) health demonstrations. Operating responsibilities in the demonstration districts are in the hands of local health and educational authorities and of voluntary health and welfare agencies



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THIS issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* marks a two-year period, since on April 3, 1922, the Board of Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund authorized the use of a substantial part of the Fund's income in supporting the New York Health Demonstrations. As has been said elsewhere, "this enterprise constitutes an attempt to demonstrate, by co-operation with three typical communities embracing a population of half a million people, whether by the intensive application of known health measures the extent of sickness in the United States can be materially diminished and mortality rates further reduced, and whether or not these practical results can be achieved in a relatively short period of time and at a per capita cost which communities will willingly bear."

In accordance with its general policy of not duplicating existing agencies, the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Technical Board, designated the State Charities Aid Association (New York), in May, 1922, as the organizing and supervising agency for the Demonstrations in Cattaraugus County and in the City of Syracuse.

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Work was begun in January, 1923, in Cattaraugus County, a typical rural district in the western part of New York State with a population of about 72,000, and in March, 1923, in the City of Syracuse, which has a population of about 190,000. Organization of a demonstration in the City of New York and funds for its support have been authorized by the Fund's Board of Directors. This at present awaits the completion of satisfactory co-operative arrangements between several local, public and private agencies in the Greater City.

The following account of progress in the Cattaraugus County and Syracuse Demonstrations is summarized from reports submitted by the State Charities Aid Association.

THE RURAL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION

Cattaraugus County was selected as an area for the Rural Health Demonstration in November, 1922. Its demonstration program, which on January 1, 1923, existed only on paper, called for the establishment there of what was to be the first county department of health in the State of New York. The beginning of the year 1924 found the Cattaraugus County Board of Health an established fact, with quarters, equipment and personnel—a material factor in health promotion in the entire county. Dr. Leverett D. Bristol, former Commissioner of Health of the State of Maine, is the County Health Officer, occupying the first position of its kind created in the state.

The Cattaraugus County Board of Health

The Cattaraugus County Board of Health, with headquarters in Olean, has developed its facilities to serve effectively six administrative districts into which the county has