



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS *in* CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH WORK

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**D**URING the first two years of the rural health demonstration in Cattaraugus County, particular attention, following the preliminary survey and organization work, was given to developing the activities of the bureaus having charge of the nursing service, of tuberculosis control, school hygiene, health education and of the laboratory service. Formerly, this work was administered through five bureaus of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health, whereas there are now the following:

BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
BUREAU OF SANITATION AND FOOD INSPECTION  
BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION  
BUREAU OF TUBERCULOSIS  
BUREAU OF LABORATORIES  
BUREAU OF RECORDS AND STATISTICS

The school hygiene program is carried out by the County School Health Service, as an activity of the health demonstration administered by the Director of School Hygiene, Dr. C. A. Greenleaf.

Growth and development of the health demonstration nursing service led to the establishment recently of the Bureau

of Public Health Nursing. The increasing demand for the services of the public health nurses in all of the six districts through which the work of the health demonstration is administered, shows that this activity is being well established in the County.

As it was believed that the greatest field of usefulness for the public health nursing service lay in a generalized rather than in a specialized program, the nurses are maintaining a generalized public health nursing service, with a minimum amount of bedside nursing. This service consists in school nursing under the direction of the County School Health Service, maternity, infancy and child hygiene nursing; communicable disease nursing; tuberculosis nursing and follow-up work from the diagnostic clinics.

They are actively engaged in a case-finding campaign for tuberculosis, and in co-operation with the County physicians are carrying out a programme of home treatment and supervision of cases which have been diagnosed. Special supervision is provided in tuberculosis nursing to develop the work of the field nurses in their home visiting; to insure accurate clinic records and case histories, and to supervise the work carried on in connection with the school survey of underweight children.

Social and nutrition problems are referred by the nurses to the social worker and nutritionist, who are co-operating with them in their district work.

The staff of thirteen field nurses are stationed in the six districts. In two districts, sub-stations have been established in addition to the main station, to facilitate the work and to meet the request of the communities for a resident public health nurse.

The major activity of the Bureau of Tuberculosis continues to be that of case-finding. There are now on the register of the

Bureau 515 known cases of tuberculosis in Cattaraugus County. This is approximately one-half of the number which the findings of the Framingham Demonstration would lead us to expect to exist here, and which, existing, should be discovered.

Case-finding effort is directed mainly through the following channels: (a) through clinics held regularly at the several district stations; (b) through consultation with private physicians in their offices or in the homes of patients; and (c) through school medical examinations. Reference to the records of the Bureau shows that the number of examinations which it is possible to make within a month has increased with the progress of the health demonstration. A total of 658 examinations were made by the Bureau in thirty-two clinics held in January and February, 1925, whereas in the same months in 1924, there were 335 examinations made at the twenty-two clinics held.

The number of examinations of children in January and February, 1925, exceeded the number of those made of adults. This is due, no doubt, to an intensive survey of underweight school children which is in progress in Cattaraugus County. There were 293 examinations of adults; and 365 of children, 191 of them being made as a part of the school survey.

Of the total number of examinations made by the Bureau in the 1925 two-month period, 518 were of new cases, and 140 were re-examinations—and as a result, forty-seven new cases of tuberculosis were discovered. Of the total examinations made during the 1924 two-month period, 273 were of new cases, and sixty-two were re-examinations. Forty-two cases of tuberculosis were discovered.

The work of classifying positive cases and of supervising their treatment supplements the Bureau's case-finding activity. As a means of classifying patients found to have tubercu-

losis, the Bureau has adopted standards chosen by the National Tuberculosis Association and by the Framingham Community Health Demonstration. The "Diagnostic Standards for Adults," established by the former, and the "Diagnostic Standards for Children," set up by the latter, have been selected as an aid in determining the classification of tuberculous patients. The Bureau's work in the supervisory home treatment of tuberculosis is based upon the standards adopted by the American Sanatorium Association.

Classified according to the above mentioned standards, the 515 positive cases on record have been grouped as follows:

ACTIVE . . . . .	28.0 per cent
QUIESCENT . . . . .	6.6 per cent
APPARENTLY ARRESTED . . . . .	13.4 per cent
ARRESTED . . . . .	40.0 per cent
UNDETERMINED . . . . .	12.0 per cent

The greater number of tuberculous patients in which the disease was adjudged "arrested," are working and need only advisory follow-up supervision. Those in the "quiescent" group need careful and constant supervision, because their status is continually changing. "Active" cases are advised to avail themselves of immediate sanatorium treatment, but where this is not possible or practicable, these cases are kept under home treatment, supervised by the public health nurse. Those cases were designated "undetermined," in which there seemed to be insufficient follow-up work required to justify classification.

The task continues of examining children in the Olean schools designated as 10 per cent or more underweight, or as having been intimately exposed to tuberculosis. There are 746 children, or 20 per cent of the total enrollment, on this list to be examined. The survey is being made by the Bureau of Tuberculosis and the County School Health Service. Begun in

September, 1924, there had been 494 children examined up to March 1, 1925. Thirty-one, or 6.2 per cent of this number, were found to be tuberculous, twenty of them being girls and eleven boys. The greatest number of positive cases, nineteen, were found among boys and girls between the ages of nine and thirteen. These findings will form a basis for comparisons with the results from similar surveys which are being contemplated for schools in other parts of the County.

The possibility and value of taking preventive measures against communicable diseases has been stressed by the County School Health Service in co-operation with the Bureau of Health Education through meetings held throughout the County, supplemented by newspaper and motion picture publicity and weekly health letters. Arrangements are now being made to begin the actual work of immunizing children in rural village schools.

Supervision of the health of children in the rural schools is included in the program of the Cattaraugus County School Health Service. Here, medical inspection is being made of the pupils in one of the seven Indian schools in the County.

