

The URBAN and RURAL
HEALTH DEMONSTRATION DISTRICTS
VISITED by
MEMBERS of the TECHNICAL BOARD



MEMBERS of the Technical Board of the Milbank Memorial Fund on May 28th, 29th and 30th made a trip of inspection of the health demonstration work being carried on in Syracuse and in Cattaraugus County as a part of the New York Health Demonstrations project, toward the financing of which the Fund has made substantial appropriations. In Syracuse, the Board members were luncheon guests of the Syracuse Citizens' Committee, recently organized to aid in forwarding the health demonstration there. A similar occasion in Cattaraugus County brought together some 160 representative citizens of the rural demonstration area to welcome the visitors.

“IF there had been any doubt as to the efficient work of the Milbank foundation in Syracuse, it was dispelled at the public exposition of accomplishments and purposes under auspices of the new citizens' committee,” writes the *Syracuse Journal*, in commenting editorially upon the luncheon meeting held there.

“For two years the work has been going on. There has not been much stir about it, but it has accomplished much in the promotion of health in the community. It has progressed to expectations — perhaps beyond — and its efforts have been telling.

“To the work of the Milbank foundation is due much of the credit for the decrease in the

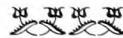
death rate among children, from tuberculosis and from other communicable diseases. That record proves the worth of the plan. As President Livingston Farrand of Cornell University said, it is 'the most significant single effort of which we know'."

AS Chairman of the Syracuse Citizens' Committee, Giles H. Stilwell, prominent attorney of Syracuse, gave a brief summary of the purpose and scope of the New York Health Demonstrations. Mr. Stilwell pointed out that the work is based not on theory but on practice and attributed much of its success to this fact. He introduced as other speakers, Dr. Thomas P. Farmer, Syracuse Health Commissioner; Hon. Frank H. Hiscock, Chief Justice of the New York State Court of Appeals; Chancellor Charles Wesley Flint of Syracuse University; and Dr. Farrand, Homer Folks and John A. Kingsbury of the Technical Board.

That scientific knowledge, which has become available in the fields of medicine and surgery (making possible the virtual eradication of certain diseases and the reduction of others) is being applied in a practical way in Syracuse, Judge Hiscock declared, is something of which

every person in the city should be appreciative.

FOLLOWING the luncheon, an informal conference of the members of the Technical Board and the local demonstration staff workers was held. Plans for the future development of the local work were discussed on the basis of reports made on various health activities in progress, including communicable diseases, health education, generalized nursing, child hygiene, infant and prenatal welfare and tuberculosis. The visitors had during the morning made a tour of inspection of major centers in the city where demonstration activities are being carried on. Features of this trip were visits to a public school, where nutrition and open-air classes were in session and where medical examinations, Schick testing and dental hygiene work were in progress. The infant welfare, and the infantile paralysis clinics were visited, as were the offices of the Syracuse Department of Health, the Bureau of School Health Supervision and the Onondaga Health Association.



BEFORE introducing other speakers at the luncheon meeting held in Cattaraugus

County at the Bartlett Country Club of Olean, Frederick R. Brothers, of Olean, drew attention to the recently lowered death rate in the County, which he attributed largely to the health demonstration under way there. He pointed out that the success of the project depends upon the co-operation of all people throughout the County, and urged citizens in the district to assist the demonstration staff in forwarding it.

In welcoming the members of the Technical Board, County Judge Orla E. Black described briefly certain outstanding activities of the demonstration. Emphasizing that the project had been conducted entirely through the County's own official and unofficial organizations, he expressed the hope that the interest of the citizens, increasing

as time goes on, would ultimately result in the permanent continuation under local support and under trained leadership of the intensive health work now carried on with assistance from the Milbank Memorial Fund. Dr. Farrand, Mr. Folks and Mr. Kingsbury spoke on behalf of the Technical Board.

The party visited the health stations at Delevan, Franklinville, Ellicottville and Salamanca, at each center meeting with a group of local citizens. Informal talks on the demonstration were made by Bailey B. Burritt at Franklinville, and by Dr. Linsly R. Williams at Delevan and Ellicottville. During their stay in the County, the Technical Board members visited the Allegheny State Park as guests of the Hon. A. T. Fancher, Chairman of the State Park Commission.

Self-government is a feature of the health work among selected groups of pupils in the Syracuse schools. Here monitors in St. Anthony's Convent School are conducting daily health inspection.

