



ADVISORY COUNCIL *in* ANNUAL MEETING

*Fourth Annual Session held as part of
the New York Tuberculosis and Health Conference*

THE accumulated experience of three years of practice in the New York Health Demonstrations was made the subject of a series of sessions devoted to the discussion of public health administration, held in New York City on November 19 and 20, 1925. The meetings were part of a two-day tuberculosis and health conference convened under the joint auspices of the United States Public Health Service, the New York State and City Departments of Health, the State Charities Aid Association, the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, and the Milbank Memorial Fund.

Characterizing the gatherings as indicative of the interest of public health workers generally in the New York Health Demonstrations, Dr. William H. Welch, Director of the School of Hygiene and Public Health of The Johns Hopkins University, who presided over the conference, said that the sessions were in themselves an evidence of the progress made in these projects during the relatively short time they have been under way. A feature of the conference was the fourth

annual meeting of the Advisory Council of the Milbank Memorial Fund. Held on November twentieth, this session was also presided over by Dr. Welch, who is Chairman of the Council.

"These meetings," said Dr. Welch in opening the conference, "are a conscious effort to arrive at a better balance between production and distribution in the health field—to secure a larger distribution and application of the great public health discoveries of the last few decades.

"The health field has a woefully ineffective distribution service, as compared with its marvellously effective production service in the laboratories of the world."

Those co-operating in the health demonstrations, Dr. Welch continued, are attempting to show the world what results can be gotten from the application of health knowledge on a large scale.

Edward W. Sheldon, President of the Fund's Board of Directors, welcomed the Advisory Council members, and proposed a silent toast to the memory of Elizabeth Milbank Anderson, who established the foundation.

"We directors of the Fund," said Mr. Sheldon, "have

IN this issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* there is presented a brief account of the fourth annual meeting of the Advisory Council of the Milbank Memorial Fund, held recently in New York. This meeting was one of a series of two-day conferences on tuberculosis and health, held under the auspices of the United States Public Health Service, the New York State and City Departments of Health, the State Charities Aid Association, the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, and the Milbank Memorial Fund.

been watching with profound interest the development of the health demonstration during the past twelve months. There has been progress made, substantial in quantity and

gratifying in quality."

A NUMBER of sessions of the conference, including the meeting of the Advisory Council, were given over to the discussion of progress in the rural, urban and metropolitan projects comprising the New York Health Demonstrations. In a second article are given summary accounts of addresses made at the meeting by representatives of Cattaraugus County, of Syracuse, and of the Bellevue-Yorkville district in New York City, where these three undertakings have been launched. On later pages are published items of current interest about these health demonstrations.

Speaking of the measurement of the results of the demonstrations, Dr. Welch pointed out the necessity of looking to two sources of information. When diphtheria antitoxin was first introduced, he said, most doctors were quite willing to trust to the experience and judgment of individual physicians, their impression being that this was sufficient testimony as to the value of this treatment in

individual cases. But, in bringing evidence on this question, which would be conclusive, it was necessary, he said, to resort to statistical analysis. There is such a thing as over-emphasizing the necessity of the statistical approach to the measurement of public health work. It should be borne in mind that that is not the sole means of judging and measuring the results of such activity, although it is desirable that these results shall be expressed in terms which are convincing to those who are skeptical.

A summary report of progress in the rural health demonstration of Cattaraugus County was given by Miss Lilla C. Wheeler and John Walrath, members of the County Board

of Health; by Edward W. Fitzgerald, Secretary of the Olean Chamber of Commerce, and by the Honorable A. T. Fancher, President of the Allegany State Park Commission.

Similarly, the urban health demonstration in Syracuse was reported upon by Giles H. Stilwell, Chairman Citizens' Committee of the Syracuse Health Demonstration; Percy M. Hughes, Superintendent of Schools of Syracuse; Dr. Herman G. Weiskotten, Dean of the Medical College of Syracuse University; and Dr. Charles Wesley Flint, Chancellor of Syracuse University.

Dr. James Alexander Miller, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration in New York City, said that the chief task confronted in this project was to find means of getting "those things which are already being done, done better." The organization of the Community Health Council, a survey of the district, the remodeling of the Milbank Building into a model community health center, and the co-ordination of demonstration activities with those of the County Medical Society were cited by Dr. Miller as evidences of progress in the inauguration of the metropolitan health demonstration.

Several speakers voiced the good will of the demonstration communities for the co-operation of the Fund in the enterprises of the New York Health Demonstrations. "I think," said Albert G. Milbank, in closing the meeting, "that all of the expressions of gratitude should come from the Milbank Fund to all of the men and women who are carrying on these health demonstrations so splendidly."

