



NEWS DIGEST

of the NEW YORK HEALTH DEMONSTRATIONS

CAMPAIGNS for the protection of children against diphtheria have been recently inaugurated in many communities in New York State. Under the leadership of Dr. Matthias Nicoll, Jr., State Commissioner of Health, and of his associates in the State Department of Health, many official and private, professional and lay organizations in the State have enrolled in this co-operative effort.

“For the eradication of diphtheria, there are three essentials,” states Dr. E. S. Godfrey, Jr., Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases of the State Health Department. “The first of these is a sufficient supply of toxin-antitoxin; the second, a sufficient number of willing physicians; and the third, a sufficient number of willing parents and children.”

Improvements in the manufacture of toxin-antitoxin have

made available an adequate quantity of the serum, which is supplied free to physicians by the State Laboratory. All that is necessary is the consent and co-operation of parents.



OVER 15,000 of the 36,000 pupils enrolled in the public and parochial schools of Syracuse, have been given the Schick test, and positive cases immunized, as a result of the diphtheria campaign begun in that City in the spring of 1923.

A prize banner was awarded in each school to the class which showed at the completion of the work, the highest percentage of protection against diphtheria. A silver loving cup was presented to the school which showed the highest protection record. Of the children in this last mentioned school 53.6 per cent obtained their parents' consent to immunization, the highest record of any school.

Regarding the effect of this work, a recent issue of the New York Sun comments editorially, "In Syracuse a city of 182,000, the average annual death toll from diphtheria for six years was 35. Last year, after the practice of giving immunizing treatments to school children had been widely adopted, the total fell to five."



WORD comes from Cattaraugus County of the inauguration there of a series of clinics devoted primarily to the immunization of children of pre-school age. The consent of parents for the inoculation of their children is being obtained by the public health nurses. When enough consent slips are received in a particular locality, an arrangement is made to conduct an immunization clinic there.

During the week of the 1925 Cattaraugus County Fair, September 7 to 11, Williard J. Shannon, and the team of Alaskan dogs with which in January of that year, he helped carry toxin-antitoxin to diphtheria-stricken Nome, visited the rural health demonstration county. In the presence of the crowds attending the Fair,

Dr. Stephen A. Douglass, the County Health Officer, dispatched Shannon to various communities in the County, bearing toxin-antitoxin for the inoculation of the children in these localities. During his stay, Shannon visited six towns in the County.



PRELIMINARY steps in a campaign for the prevention of diphtheria have already been taken in the Bellevue-Yorkville District, where the metropolitan health demonstration is under way.

With the co-operation of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, a house-to-house canvass was made by health workers in the demonstration district, advising parents that toxin-antitoxin treatments were available at the four Baby Health Stations of the New York City Department of Health, and urging them to have their children immunized.

A lecture course for physicians and nurses recently given at the Willard Parker Hospital included a series of addresses and demonstrations in the use of toxin-antitoxin and in the diagnosis, care and treatment of diphtheria.

IN his recent annual message to the New York State Legislature, Governor Alfred G. Smith commended Cattaraugus County for pointing the way in the State in the establishment and maintenance of a county health department, which he believes is the logical unit for local public health administration. Cattaraugus is the only county in the State which has taken advantage of legislation passed in 1921 authorizing local Boards of Supervisors in New York State to establish county boards of health and to appoint full-time county health officers.

"The unit for local public health work should be the county, with a full-time qualified county health officer who should be made responsible for the conduct of local health matters within his jurisdiction, with only such supervision as the State may be required to give in an advisory capacity," said Governor Smith. "Such

an organization has been possible under the law for several years; yet only one county—namely Cattaraugus—has seen fit to take advantage of it, and with the very best results in promoting the physical welfare of the inhabitants. Other states have made notable progress in county health administration and there are now some 250 such organizations throughout the country."

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SIR Arthur Newsholme, K.C.B., on his coming visit to the United States, will visit Syracuse and Cattaraugus County to observe the work of the health demonstration there. Plans are being made for his sojourn for two or three days in each of these localities. While in this country, he will lecture, among other places, at Harvard, Yale and Johns Hopkins Universities. At present, he is planning to return to England early in the summer.

