



NEWS DIGEST

of the NEW YORK HEALTH DEMONSTRATIONS

UNDER the title "Health Program Goes On," the *Salamanca Republican-Press*, on November 22, 1928, published the following editorial: "Without opposition, the Board of Supervisors has appropriated \$66,000 for continuing next year (1929) the public health program which has become widely known as the 'Cattaraugus County Health Demonstration.' Half of this amount will come back to the county in the form of state aid.

"The fact that the county board, charged with determining of appropriations and the levying of taxes, has authorized the expenditure, is the strongest possible proof of the place which this program of public health has won in the esteem of Cattaraugus County people. The present is a time of high taxes. Cattaraugus County is feeling as never before the cost of its fine system of public highways, constructed during recent years, and other ex-

penses are high. County budgets have attained a size undreamed of only a few years ago.

"The members of the Board of Supervisors are elected for only two-year terms. They must go back to their constituents every alternate twelve-month. They know that the tax rate will be scrutinized when they are up for re-election, and that they will be called on to justify their action in regard to appropriations. They would not authorize these expenditures under the direction of the County Board of Health unless they felt assured that public sentiment was behind them.

"Thus we have in this unanimous appropriation an impressive demonstration of the capacity of the people of this county to comprehend and evaluate such a public health program as has been put into effect here through the assistance of the Milbank Fund, and

of their readiness to accord the support essential to its continuance.”

ON the basis of resolutions from their respective boards, presented by Victor Lynde, chairman of the Cattaraugus County Board of Supervisors, and John Walrath, president of the County Board of Health, and upon recommendation of the Technical Board of the Milbank Memorial Fund, the foundation's Board of Directors on December 11, 1928, authorized continued, though diminishing, participation of the Fund in the rural health demonstration in Cattaraugus County for the year 1929.

RESOLUTION adopted by the BOARD of SUPERVISORS of CATTARAUGUS COUNTY inviting the MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND to continue in 1929 its financial participation in the CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH DEMONSTRATION

To the Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Cattaraugus County express appreciation to the Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund for their participation during the past six years in the health program for Cattaraugus County. The Board notes with satisfaction the confi-

dence placed in the local authorities for proper administration of the funds and the assistance rendered in making the promotion of health possible on a county-wide basis through local authorities. The Board of Supervisors of Cattaraugus County extend to the Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund a cordial invitation to continue their valued assistance during the coming year.

December 7, 1928

RESOLUTION adopted by the BOARD of HEALTH of CATTARAUGUS COUNTY requesting the MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND to continue in 1929 its financial participation in the CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH DEMONSTRATION

To the Board of Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund:

WHEREAS, the generosity of the Milbank Memorial Fund has made it possible for the County Board of Health to begin and, during the past six years, to develop a valuable public health program for the conservation of health in Cattaraugus County, and

Whereas, the experience of the past six years has convinced the County Board of Health that the marked decline in the tuberculosis deaths and infant mortality and the increased interest in health education in the county, particularly in the more rural parts, has shown the necessity of public health activities on a county basis, and

Whereas, the County Board of Health is of the opinion that a continuation of the present program

will produce a still greater decrease in morbidity and mortality in Cataugaus County, and

Whereas, the County Board of Health believes that, while county funds now support and can support an increasingly large part of the present program, the time has not yet come when it is possible for the county to assume the entire financial support of an adequate health program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the County Board of Health, in its regular session, hereby expresses to the Board of Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund its most sincere thanks and warm gratitude for the information, advice and generous financial aid furnished to this Board and, through the Board, to the people of this county by the Milbank Memorial Fund, and

RESOLVED, That the County Board of Health proffers hereby an earnest request to the Board of Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund that its very generous and deeply valued aid to this Board and to other public and voluntary health agencies of this county be continued, so that their present activities for the health and welfare of the people of this county may be continued until the county itself may be able to assume them.

R. M. ATWATER, M.D.

Secretary

JOHN WALRATH

LILLA C. WHEELER

V. R. LYNDE

MYRON E. FISHER, M.D.

JAMES A. TAGGERT, M.D.

W. A. DUSENBURY

M. L. HILLSMAN, M.D.

A similar resolution was passed by the County Tuberculosis and Public Health Association, and the continued aid of the Fund in financing the health work in the County's schools was also asked by the County Board of School Superintendents on December 14.

THE second county health unit to be formed in New York State was established on August 27, 1928, in Suffolk County, when the County Board of Supervisors by unanimous vote created a County Department of Health.

Under the plan adopted, \$25,000* has been set aside for the first fifteen months of activity of the new unit. The work will be administered by a board of seven members, consisting of the chairman of the board of supervisors, three physicians of the County, and three laymen. Members of the board will serve without pay, but will be allowed their necessary expenses. The staff will include a county health officer, a clerk, a milk inspector, and four public health nurses. Town health officers will automatically become deputy commis-

*Under the provisions of Chapter 278 of the laws of the State of New York for 1924, one-half of this amount is returned in the form of State aid.

sioners of health, but will be appointed by their respective town boards of supervisors as at present.

Establishment of a county-wide unit for administering their public health work is under consideration in two other counties in New York State. The Erie County Board of Supervisors recently appropriated \$10,000 for the employment of three county nurses to work exclusively in the rural districts of the County under the State aid plan; and the Chautauqua County Medical Society has passed resolutions favoring the establishment of a county health department.

Seventy-seven counties in the United States established whole-time county or (local) district health officer service during 1927, bringing the total county departments in operation throughout the country to 414. "It becomes more and more evident to those with practical experience in the public health field that agencies concerned with the promotion of specialized health activities, such as typhoid fever prevention, hookworm control, tuberculosis prevention, malaria control, venereal disease prevention, or child and maternity hygiene, can perform most ef-

fectively and economically by dovetailing their specific activities in with and making them a part of a well-balanced comprehensive program of local official health service under the immediate direction of qualified whole-time local health officers," writes Dr. L. L. Lumsden of the United States Public Health Service, in commenting on this increase.*

ON January 1, 1929, Dr. Edward T. Devine became executive officer of the Bellevue - Yorkville Health Demonstration, Dr. Leverett D. Bristol, the former executive officer, having resigned to accept a position in industrial health work with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, in New York City. The metropolitan unit of the New York Health Demonstrations has been operating for the past three years, under the leadership of the Community Health Council, which is composed of the New York City Department of Health and various other official and voluntary agencies.

Dr. Devine has a record of over thirty years service in the

*Lumsden, Dr. L. L., *Extent of Rural Health Service in the United States, 1924-1928*, *Public Health Reports* of the United States Public Health Service, April 13, 1928.

field of social work. He was secretary of the Charity Organization Society of New York for twenty-one years; associated with *Charities* and *The Survey*, either as editor or as associate editor, for fifteen years; and for fourteen years he was professor of Social Economy in Columbia University, the periods overlapping, so that he held two, three and sometimes four positions in most years.

He came to New York in 1896 as secretary of the Charity Organization Society, and from that time he has been one of the leaders in the social work of the country. He founded the periodical *Charities*, which developed into *The Survey*. Tenement house reform, the prevention of tuberculosis, and other then novel activities were undertaken by the Society during his term of office, and were so quickly and widely adopted in other cities that they have already become familiar agencies in

all parts of the country. A summer training class was established, from which grew the New York School of Social Work.

Dr. Devine was special representative of the American Red Cross in charge of relief in San Francisco after the great fire of 1906, and in Dayton, Ohio, after the floods of 1913. In 1916 he spent six months in

EDWARD T. DEVINE, PH.D., LL.D.
*appointed on January 1, 1929, as executive
 officer of the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Dem-
 onstration.*



Russia, as special agent in the American Embassy. During 1917-1918, he was in charge of the Bureau of Relief and Refugees of the American Red Cross in France. He was president of the National Conference of Charities and Correction in 1906; president of the sociological section of the International Congress on Tuberculosis when it met in America for the first time, in 1908; one of the founders of the National Child Labor Committee and the National Tuberculosis Association; chairman of the Committee on Industrial Relations for the first months of its existence; and a member of the United States ("Fact-Finding") Coal Commission of 1922-1923. Dr. Devine is widely known as a lecturer and counsellor on social economy. He resigned his post as Dean of the Graduate School of the American University to come to the Bellevue-Yorkville Demonstration.

Among his books are the fol-

lowing: Coal (1925); Social Work (1922); Disabled Soldiers and Sailors (1919); The Normal Life (1917); The Family and Social Work (1912); Misery and Its Causes (1909); The Principles of Relief (1904); The Practice of Charity (1901); and Economics (1898). He is also editor of the Social Welfare Library and has written hundreds of magazine articles; pamphlets, conference addresses and other occasional papers.

Dr. Leverett D. Bristol has been associated with the New York Health Demonstrations since their inauguration in 1923, holding the position of county health officer of Cattaraugus County—the first such officer to serve in New York State—and then, in 1925, becoming the first executive officer of the Bellevue - Yorkville Health Demonstration. He is a graduate of the Medical Department of Johns Hopkins University and of the Harvard University Medical Department.

