

MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND

# QUARTERLY BULLETIN

NEW YORK HEALTH DEMONSTRATIONS

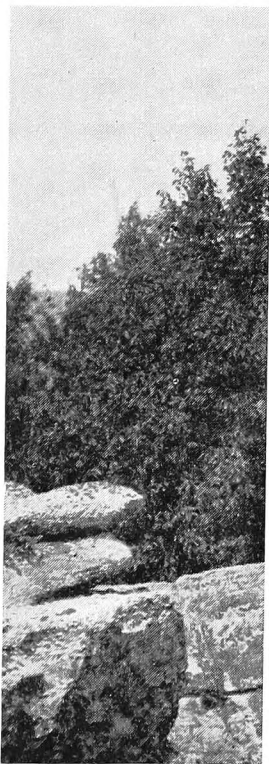
VOL. VIII

JULY 1930

No. 3

## THE NEW YORK HEALTH DEMONSTRATIONS PROJECT TO TERMINATE

*Future Plans for Cattaraugus County, Syracuse and  
Bellevue-Yorkville*



THE New York Health Demonstrations project is now in its final year. At the close of 1930, seven years after their inauguration, the up-state New York Health Demonstrations, as such, will terminate. At that time the rural demonstration in Cattaraugus County and the urban demonstration in Syracuse will officially end; the metropolitan demonstration in the Bellevue-Yorkville district in New York City, the last of the three New York Health Demonstrations to be organized, will carry on as an individual project beyond that date.

The official termination of the rural and urban health demonstrations project indicates no lack of interest on the part of the Milbank Memorial Fund in

the future public health programs in Cattaraugus County and in Syracuse. They do indicate, however, a withdrawal of financial participation by the Fund in routine public health activities in these two areas. In its future program the Fund is looking forward to maintaining other contacts with the local health authorities and agencies in both Cattaraugus County and Syracuse.

Since 1923, the payments by the Milbank Memorial Fund to the New York Health Demonstrations project have amounted to an appreciable part of both the actual expenditures and the percentage expenditures of the Fund for those years.

In Cattaraugus County, the establishment of the pioneer county health department and the pioneer county-wide school health service, the organization of a generalized nursing service, the improvement of the county laboratory and the extension of its services, the establishment of sanitary supervision and control over water and milk supplies, the reduction in the tuberculosis and the infant mortality rates, and the increasing local appropriations for county health activities, are striking

AT the close of 1930 the New York Health Demonstrations, as such, will terminate, although the Milbank Memorial Fund will continue its interest in the further development of public health work in these communities. Some of the features of the intensive community health programs included in these projects are summarized here. A critical historical review of the Cattaraugus County health program is being made by a staff of five specialists and a number of staff assistants under the direction of Professor C.-E. A. Winslow. On page 91 are outlined the proposed contents of their symposium report, which is planned for early publication.

evidences of the success of the rural public health demonstration program.

In Syracuse, the appointment of the first full-time health

THE prevalence of physical impairments among 100,000 native-born adult males in the United States was the subject of a recent report presented by the Fund's Division of Research in the January *Quarterly Bulletin*. Two additional studies relating to diseases of adult life are summarized in this issue. The first presents a resumé of a study of physical impairments among males in different occupational classes. The second discusses recent changes in the mortality for men and women in the United States between 1921 and 1927. On page 84, Sir Arthur News-holme sets forth the experience of one individual institution in London in limiting maternal mortality.

commissioner, the development of a generalized public health nursing service, the improvement of tuberculosis services and of measures for communicable disease control, the centering of a complete child welfare program under the direction of a Bureau of Child Hygiene, the immunization in the years 1923-1929 of 27,320 children against diphtheria, and the steadily increasing assumption by Syracuse of complete financial responsibility for these and numerous other amplifi-

cations and improvements in local health services, have been very definite manifestations of public health progress in the urban demonstration. Both Cattaraugus County and Syracuse have materially improved their public health services when scored according to the appraisal form of the American Public Health Association.

The last two years have been transition years in the history of these two up-state New York Health Demonstrations. During this period the Milbank Memorial Fund

gradually has been withdrawing from financial participation in the strictly local programs in Cattaraugus County and Syracuse, in proportion as these two local communities have assumed responsibility for such activities.

### *Special Health Research Projects*

Beginning in 1931, after the close of the demonstrations in Cattaraugus County and Syracuse, the Milbank Memorial Fund will concentrate its future public health contributions in these areas upon programs of an experimental or research nature which are more general than local in their application, and which promise to contribute to the solution of current problems in the development of progressive public health administration. Certain research projects which have already been begun in both Cattaraugus County and Syracuse will be continued without interruption, and other, perhaps unrelated, research projects may be inaugurated in cooperation with these communities.

Examples are the epidemiological field studies, which are being conducted in Cattaraugus County and in Syracuse by the United States Public Health Service. These will continue for a period of two or three years. They were begun in Cattaraugus County on September 1, 1929, and in Syracuse on January 1, 1930.

They are being financially assisted by the Milbank Memorial Fund and are, in important respects, cooperative projects by the Public Health Service and the Fund. The epidemiological studies are directed especially to diseases on which comparatively little epidemiological data is available, such as measles, German measles, mumps, chickenpox and whooping cough, and of certain other conditions, particularly acute rheumatic fever and chronic arthritis, tuberculosis and pneumonia.

Likewise, studies in vital statistics by the Fund's Division of Research in both Cattaraugus County and Syracuse and a series of studies analyzing the nursing service in both of these areas, will be continued after the close of the demonstrations. It is hoped that the nursing data may serve as a basis for setting up additional criteria for effective public health nursing service. So that comparisons may be made, the same plan of analysis of nursing service will be applied to both the urban and the rural communities.

In Cattaraugus County, an extensive epidemiological study of tuberculosis, which the Fund inaugurated in 1929, will also be continued after the close of the demonstration. In this research project, a special study of contacts will be made. Groups of tuberculous families will be compared with groups free from tuberculous infection, and an attempt will be made to relate various environmental and genetic factors to the occurrence of tuberculosis. The same general procedures will be followed in this study as have been followed in a similar study made by the Henry Phipps Institute in Philadelphia in order that comparisons may be made concerning the occurrence of tuberculosis in a city and in a rural area. These studies are being made under the guidance of a special committee.\*

The Bureau of Records and Epidemiology, recently organized in Syracuse, is something of an experiment in local public health administration. The Bureau functions as an agency of the Department of Health, coordinating the work of the various bureaus in order that their activities may be directed in the light of the larger program of the Depart-

\*The special advisory committee on field studies of tuberculosis is as follows: Dr. Eugene L. Opie, director of laboratories, Henry Phipps Institute; Dr. Edward R. Baldwin, director of the Trudeau Foundation; Bailey B. Burritt, general director of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor; Homer Folks, secretary of the State Charities Aid Association; Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, executive director of the Henry Phipps Institute; and Dr. Linsly R. Williams, managing director of the New York Academy of Medicine.

ment. The Fund contributes the services of the director of the Bureau, an epidemiologist with statistical experience and with a broad background and knowledge of public health administration, and the services of his staff.

Of somewhat the same nature as the experiment in administrative statistics and epidemiology in Syracuse was a survey and study of the statistical and record system of the New York City Department of Health. This was made at the request of the Commissioner of Health and resulted in a series of general recommendations for coordinating and developing the statistical and epidemiological work of the Department as a whole and in specific recommendations on the records and administrative statistics of four important bureaus or divisions, namely: the Division of Tuberculosis, the Bureau of Preventable Diseases, the Division of Venereal Diseases, and the Bureau of Child Hygiene.

#### *The Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration*

Both by virtue of its later organization and because of a greater concentration of Fund interests in health programs in New York City, the foundation's cooperation in the Bellevue-Yorkville district will continue in 1931 on essentially the basis adopted at the end of 1929.

The Bellevue-Yorkville demonstration, in cooperation with various agencies and individuals, including the Department of Health, private agencies, hospitals, schools and private physicians, has inaugurated a number of important experimental projects, several of which have already had far-reaching results. The inauguration in one-half of the district of a generalized nursing service, the establishment at the health center of the only preschool clinic under the Department of Health, the building up of a comprehensive tuberculosis program which is regarded as one of the most

important services of the demonstration, the inauguration of a health-education program for public, parochial, and junior high schools of the district, the institution of an experimental mental hygiene service, nutrition service, and of a service which provides part-time nursing assistance for private physicians, the launching of a vaginitis research project, and the promotion of general health education, are among the contributions of the demonstration to public health in the Bellevue-Yorkville district and in the City at large.

By invitation of City public school authorities, the school health education program developed in the demonstration area has already been extended to include 115 public schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx. Other services, including the vaginitis clinic and the consultation service for private physicians to aid in the diagnosis of patients suspected of being tuberculous, also serve the City as a whole rather than merely the demonstration area. Through the above, and other health activities, the Bellevue-Yorkville demonstration is progressing in its original purpose of enabling the Health Department to improve and to enlarge its activities and to try out experimentally new methods for the prevention of disease. It is also aiding in the working out of an effective scheme of neighborhood health centers in which the various services may be so integrated as to produce maximum results in the conservation of health.





*I*N addition to the establishment of the first county health department in New York State, the Cattaraugus County Health Demonstration, which terminates at the end of 1950, was also instrumental in establishing New York State's first county-wide school hygiene service.