

NEWS DIGEST

◎ ◎ *George Livingston Nichols*

GEORGE LIVINGSTON NICHOLS, for twenty-five years an active member of the Board of Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund, died at his home at Katonah, New York, on March fourth. He was seventy-one years old.

Mr. Nichols was a close friend of Elizabeth Milbank Anderson, founder of the Fund, and became a director when the Fund was established in 1905. Two years ago, having withdrawn from most of his law and financial interests, he resigned his position on the Board of Directors after a quarter-century of service.

Born in Brooklyn on May 9, 1860, Mr. Nichols was engaged during most of his busy life in law and financial activities in New York City. He received the degree of A.B. from Williams College in 1881 and then studied at the Columbia Law School from which he was graduated in

1883. His admission to the New York bar came that same year. He was one of the original partners in the law firm of Masten and Nichols, and during his business life a director in numerous industrial corporations.

◎ ◎ *Dr. Welch Warns Against Undue Economy in Public Health Work*

A WARNING that undue economy is public health work because of the depression is extremely dangerous, particularly to children, was sounded by Dr. William Henry Welch, chairman of the Advisory Council, of the Milbank Memorial Fund in his opening address at the tenth annual meeting of the Council held on March sixteenth and seventeenth at the New York Academy of Medicine.

"Any undue retrenchment in health work is bound to be paid for in dollars and cents as well as in the impairment of the peo-

ple's health generally," said Dr. Welch. "We can demonstrate convincingly that returns in economic and social welfare from expenditures for public health service are far in excess of their costs.

"Too great economy as far as health is concerned, because of the current depression, is particularly dangerous to the welfare of growing children. Undernourishment of children, for example, is not likely to show itself immediately, but is bound to show its effects later, when it is probably too late to remedy. The ground lost by undernourishment in childhood may never be regained."

© © © *The Tenth Annual Advisory Council Meeting*

AN interesting experiment in "group thinking" and a comprehensive discussion of public health problems featured the program of the tenth annual meeting of the Advisory Council. The meeting opened with a general session of about fifty members addressed by Dr. William H. Welch and John A. Kingsbury, secretary of the Fund. Thereupon, departing from procedure in former years, the Council was divided into five

round-table groups, each with a chairman to guide the discussion and a *rapporteur* to summarize it. These conferences continued through the afternoon.

One group, presided over by Surgeon-General Hugh S. Cumming of the United States Public Health Service, discussed health centers in New York City; Boston, Massachusetts; and Los Angeles County, California. Another group dealt with the education of health personnel, school health education, and policies in public information regarding the prevention of venereal diseases. Dr. Linsly R. Williams, director of the New York Academy of Medicine, presided at the morning session, and Homer Folks, secretary of the State Charities Aid Association, at the afternoon session of this group. Dr. Thomas Parran, Jr., New York State Commissioner of Health, took an active part in the discussions.

A third group discussed tuberculosis in children, particularly in New York City; Cattaraugus County, New York; and Baltimore, Maryland. The use, under carefully controlled conditions, of the *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin* for immunization was reported on by Dr. William H. Park, of the New York City De-

partment of Health. Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, executive director of Henry Phipps Institute, Philadelphia, presided. Dr. James Alexander Miller, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, discussed tuberculosis studies made at Bellevue Hospital.

Population studies absorbed the attention of one group, over which Dr. Robert E. Chaddock, of Columbia University, presided. There were reports on reproductive histories, differential fertility by social classes, and modes of research into the factors affecting human fertility. Dr. Raymond Pearl, of the Johns Hopkins University, participated. Public health nursing, particularly in Boston and New York, was discussed by a separate group, led by Miss Lillian A. Hudson, of Teachers College, Columbia University.

The *rapporteurs* summarized the group discussions for the respective chairmen, who made reports the following day to the executive session of the Council.

During the afternoon of the same day Dr. Hsun-Yuan Yao gave an illustrated talk on the health demonstration at Ting Hsien, China, of which he is the medical director, and which the Fund is supporting. Following this the Council heard a discus-

sion of the economic aspects of medicine and health, the principal speakers being Dr. R. M. Atwater, Commissioner of Health of Cattaraugus County; Dr. Louis I. Dublin, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; and Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, of the Yale University School of Medicine.

© © *Tenth Annual Dinner of the Fund's Boards of Counsel*

A DINNER given on March seventeenth by the Board of Directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund concluded this year's meeting of the Fund's Advisory Council. On this occasion Dr. William Henry Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University, formally resigned as chairman of the Council, a position he had held since its organization in 1922. His successor is Dr. Livingston Farrand, president of Cornell University, who addressed the gathering. Dr. Farrand was welcomed by Albert G. Milbank, president of the Fund, who greeted the guests on behalf of the Board and who paid a warm tribute to the service of Dr. Welch. Mr. Milbank delivered an address in which he pointed out that the principles underlying preventive medicine

could well be applied to economic problems. He made a plea for a clear perception of the social obligations of business and the need of practical idealism on the part of the individual.

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, United States Secretary of the Interior, delivered an address on the economics of public health and medical care. He presented and commented on important findings of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, of which he is chairman.

Studies of the Committee indicate that present methods of providing and paying for medical service are unsatisfactory and cost is unevenly distributed among the people, causing hardship to persons of low incomes, Dr. Wilbur said in his address which will appear in the July issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin*.

While this dinner celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Advisory Council, the Fund itself is twenty-seven years old, having been incorporated in 1905.

©©© "*Medicine and the State*"
by Newsholme to Appear during
his Visit in America

SIR Arthur Newsholme will
come to the United States

in May to lecture on public health. During this visit his new book entitled "*Medicine and the State*" will be published.

Sir Arthur will address the American Medical Association at its annual meeting in New Orleans, which extends from May 9th to May 12th. He will deliver the Hermann M. Biggs Memorial Lecture before the New York Academy of Medicine on May 16th.

In "*Medicine and the State*," Sir Arthur offers his personal interpretation of and conclusions from the factual studies of public health problems and procedure in several European countries which have been published in the three volumes of "*International Studies*," this work having been undertaken for the Milbank Memorial Fund. The author is particularly concerned with constructive plans for cooperation in official and other organized health activity (including health insurance) and private medical practice.

Dr. William Henry Welch, in a foreword, says that readers of the new volume, as of Sir Arthur's other publications, "will recognize an unusual combination of powers of critical judgment with those of constructive suggestion based upon

broad humanitarianism united with practical consideration of what is attainable under existing conditions." He quotes with approval Sir Arthur's statement that "average humanity has not yet learned to use communal privileges with due regard to communal economy in the absence of a personal motive for carefulness."

"Medicine and the State" will be published by George Allen and Unwin, London, and the Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore.

◎◎ *Report of the New York State Health Commission Published*

THE effectiveness of the county as a public health administrative unit is urged by the New York State Health Commission in its final report published under the title "Public Health in New York State." Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, who appointed the Commission in May, 1930, summarizes the findings in an extensive foreword.

While noting that mortality from all causes in the State has decreased 14 per cent since 1913, and giving full credit for the progress made, the Governor declares that there is marked in-

equality of health services in different communities, unevenness of popular sentiment for popular action, and lack of understanding regarding measures necessary to preserve individual health.

Primarily for protection against milk-borne diseases, the Commission recommends a county-wide basis of milk control outside of the larger cities. For better tuberculosis control the Commission urges, among other things, early completion of the three district state sanatoria authorized by the Legislature in response to a preliminary report made a year ago. The next great public health achievement, it is declared, can be the suppression of venereal disease, awaiting only the use of methods proved effective against other communicable diseases.

An edition of five thousand copies of the volume has been issued bearing the imprint of the New York State Department of Health, Albany. Governor Roosevelt's foreword and the chapter on local public health service, public health nursing, tuberculosis, social hygiene, and child hygiene will also be issued as reprints.

Members of the Commission, to the work of which the Fund

has contributed, are: Dr. Livingston Farrand, chairman; State Commissioner Thomas Parran, Jr., secretary; George W. Cottis, M.D.; Simon Flexner, M.D.; Homer Folks; Edward L. Keyes, M.D.; John A. Kingsbury; Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach; Henry Morgenthau; Matthias Nicoll, Jr., M.D.; John M. O'Hanlon; William H. Ross, M.D.; Miss Katharine Tucker; and Linsly R. Williams, M.D.

© © © *Activities in the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration, 1931*

THE program of the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration in 1931, under the leadership of Health Commissioner Shirley W. Wynne, chairman of its governing boards, emphasized to an even greater degree than in previous years those activities of the demonstration which enabled the Health Department to enlarge its activities and to try out experimentally new methods in public health administration. Clinical services were amplified, as well as extended, new health services installed, and additional equipment provided. The year just closed also marked one of the

most successful and fruitful years of the demonstration in the field of health education.

With the aid of funds supplied by the demonstration, the Health Department was enabled to provide additional medical, nursing, and clerical staffs, a tuberculosis consultant, and a nose and throat specialist for the tuberculosis service; to establish two new preschool clinics in the Bellevue section of the district; and to continue its mental hygiene unit at the demonstration center.

Throughout November the safety education campaign was intensively waged in every part of the district. In this work the demonstration had the benefit of the hearty cooperation of the Departments of Police, Health, and Education, the National Safety Council, the churches, numerous welfare and social organizations, and the radio, and press. Cardinal Hayes made an appeal for all to assist in the campaign and his message was published in the newspapers and broadcast over the radio. A total of 145,000 leaflets were distributed, 5,100 posters were used, and there were twenty-five neighborhood meetings, and twenty-two school assemblies conducted. Merchants gave

their windows for displays and a home safety exhibit added to the interest of the campaign.

In the field of health education, campaigns were also conducted in tuberculosis, diphtheria, and social hygiene, and over 400,000 pieces of printed matter, including posters, were distributed to residents, doctors, dentists, schools, welfare and health agencies, stores, industrial plants, clubs, and churches.

The medical services of the health demonstration had a busy year. Patients attending all of the medical clinics, including those newly enrolled in 1931 and those carried over from previous years, numbered 7,598. Of these, 3,401 were registered in the tuberculosis service and 4,197 in the pediatrics service. Clinic visits in the twelve-month period totaled 31,738.

In the consultation chest service for patients under the care of private physicians, conducted at the Center, 1,742 new tuberculosis suspects were examined and made a total of 2,696 visits during the year. This service is designed for patients of private physicians who cannot afford to pay the fee of chest specialists or the cost of X-ray chest examinations. Patients are ac-

cepted here only when sent directly by their own physicians. The complete findings and an opinion on the case are forwarded only to the patient's physician.

At the Yorkville district chest clinic, which consists of the tuberculosis service for adults and the special tuberculosis service for children, a total of 1,048 new suspect cases were admitted and these, together with the 411 brought forward from 1930, received 3,439 examinations during 1931. At this clinic the patients apply directly for diagnosis and placement. Every effort has been made to bring in the contact cases and, as a result, 76 per cent of the contacts have been examined.

The three baby health stations of the district had 800 new enrollments during 1931, the three preschool clinics, 725, the school children's clinic, 317, and the city-wide diagnostic cardiac clinic, 610. All these 2,452 newly enrolled patients, as well as the 1,745 patients brought forward from 1930, made a total of 24,698 visits to the Department of Health child hygiene services of the district.

The diagnostic cardiac clinic housed at the Center is conducted by the Department of

Health in cooperation with the Board of Education, the Heart Committee of the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, the Employment Center for the Handicapped, and the demonstration. The clinic was organized for children who apply for working papers and are found to have suspicious cardiac conditions. The demonstration supplied an electrocardiograph and X-ray facilities. Each child is seen at least twice, and the cardiac study includes an electrocardiogram, teleoroentgenogram, urinalysis, cardiac history, and complete physical examination. A close follow-up is made of each patient with organic heart disease. He receives a home visit by the school nurses, who urges his parents to obtain for him medical supervision. There were 610 new patients registered during the year at this service.

A complete mental hygiene unit was set up by the demonstration in November, 1930. Its objectives are to carry out, among the Department of Health nurses in the Bellevue-Yorkville district, an educational mental hygiene program and to be of service to patients referred by them or by doctors in the Health Center clinics.

An important contribution of this service is the progress that has been obtained in working with and through the Department of Health nurses and the medical members of the staff.

The Department of Health nursing service in the Bellevue-Yorkville district, during the greater part of 1931, consisted of 34 nurses, the Yorkville and Bellevue units each averaging 17 nurses. The nurses of the former district made 15,087 visits, and those of the latter, 23,988 visits. For the past three years, under the generalized instead of the specialized nursing system, the Yorkville unit has noticeably extended its usefulness. It was accordingly decided to apply the generalized method to the Bellevue unit as well, and this change became effective in May.

The nursing service has endeavored, with increasing success, to develop the generalized system on a family basis and to consider the social, economic, and mental hygiene problems and their relation to health. Because of the close cooperation with family welfare organizations which this has necessitated there has come an increased understanding of the functions and problems of social agencies

which has resulted in improved relationships.

The demonstration maintained as consultants to the nurses experienced workers in the fields of nursing, nutrition, social service, and mental hygiene. These consultants gave the nurses help and advice in their special fields, and facilitated cooperation with other agencies. Often the consultants helped them to recognize the significance of problems with which they came in contact and made sources of information available to them.

The year brought increasing evidence not only that the demonstration is proving valuable to the Health Department as a center for practical administrative experimentation, but that it is having influence in improving many phases of the public health work beyond the boundaries of the Bellevue-Yorkville district.

SAVEL ZIMAND

Administrative Director, Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration

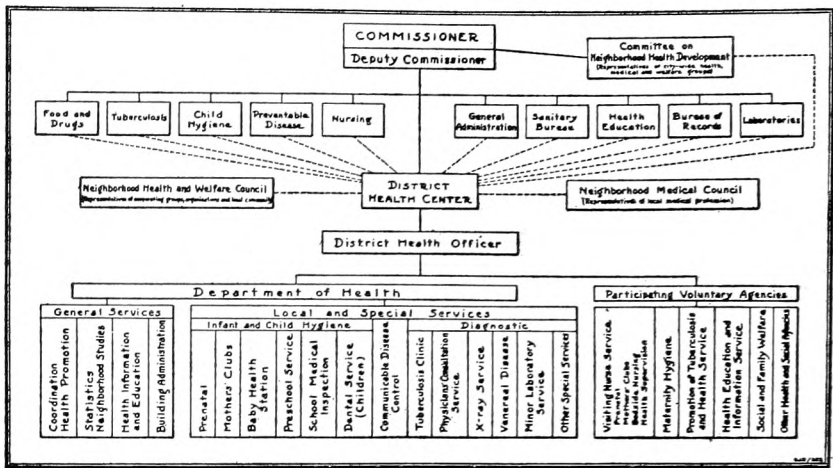
◎ ◎ Why Thirty Health Centers in New York City?

THE measured steps taken and the neighborhood facts assembled for each of the five

boroughs of Greater New York before the decision to recommend thirty health centers "to assure public health protection and health facilities available and accessible to every section of New York" is interestingly related in the January, 1932, issue of the *Journal of Preventive Medicine*, Chicago, in an article on "Vital Statistics in the Development of Neighborhood Health Centers in New York City," by Godias J. Drolet and Louis Weiner.

Surveys are described which gave satisfactory answers to several questions. How many centers should there be, and what size population should they serve? In which sections of the City do conditions indicate a more urgent need for the first centers? And, finally, at each place, what should be the major objectives and items in the local programs of activities of each center? What staffs will be required?

A widely representative Committee on Neighborhood Health Development, of the Department of Health of the City of New York, was first organized; financial support was also granted by the Milbank Memorial Fund; cooperation of private welfare and health agen-



Suggested relationship between the central-headquarter services of the New York City Department of Health and a typical one of the thirty health centers proposed to bring public health protection into every neighborhood.

cies, nursing and medical groups was enlisted.

In particular, there is described in the *Journal of Preventive Medicine* the important and basic statistical data assembled for the deliberations of the Committee on Neighborhood Health Development: the 1930 Federal Census by neighborhoods, the shift of population in various districts, the number of infants born annually and the school children in each place, the local incidence of infectious diseases, the more important death rates in every district.

The relationship between central-headquarter services of the

New York City Health Department and the proposed health centers, as well as the arrangement of local services, are illustrated by organization charts. The location of every school, hospital, and clinic is shown on maps contained in the report; transportation facilities were also considered.

Finally, for New York City, as a whole, and then for each of the thirty health districts, the appraisal form of the American Public Health Association has been applied to determine the public health nursing staff required for each standard service: prenatal, infant, preschool, and school child care, control of

infectious diseases, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases.

The student of public health service, including the administrator in local metropolitan areas, will find in the complete "Statistical Reference Handbook," compiled by Godias J. Drolet and Marguerite P. Potter, and published by the Committee on Neighborhood Health Development of the Health Department, as well as in the recent summary article in the *Journal of Preventive Medicine*, mines of practical suggestions for the orderly consideration of direct and more effective measures "to bring public health protection into every neighborhood and to make preventive medicine reach every home."

● ● ● *Studies to Indicate Most Effective Use of New York's New Health Centers*

THE Division of Research of the Milbank Memorial Fund has undertaken a series of studies on the best public health procedures and types of administrative organization for the new municipal health centers in New York City. The institution of the studies followed a recommendation of the Technical Board of the Fund as a

result of a request for such cooperation by the Committee on Neighborhood Health Development of which Commissioner Shirley W. Wynne is the chairman.

The purpose of these studies is to assist the New York City Health Department and the various voluntary agencies to make the most effective use of the opportunity for decentralization—or, rather, localization—of health activities in the new health districts and health centers which has been afforded by the recent appropriation of four million dollars from the City of New York. In proposing these studies it was believed that a disinterested group of experienced public health experts, co-operating closely with official and unofficial agencies acquainted with actual conditions in the City, would perform a much needed task for which busy executives had neither time nor facilities. It is believed that these studies should assist in discovering the needs for various services in the different health center areas, in ascertaining what types of various services, organization, and methods of administration are best suited to these areas, and in evaluating the effectiveness

of these services when they are put into operation.

Professor Ira V. Hiscock of the Department of Public Health of the Yale School of Medicine has immediate supervision of these studies, with the assistance of Dr. Margaret Witter Barnard, medical director of Bellevue-Yorkville Health Center, and Dr. Carl E. Buck, field director of the American Public Health Association, Committee on Administrative Practice. Several organizations are cooperating in the conduct of the work in an advisory capacity, including the City Department of Health, the Committee on Neighborhood Health Development, the Coordinating Committee of the New York Academy of Medicine, the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, the New York Committee on Mental Hygiene, and the Welfare Council of New York City.

Miss Dorothy Wiehl of the Fund's staff, with two field workers, in connection with a

series of maternity and child health studies in the Bellevue-Yorkville district, is securing supplementary data for a sample of families in that area to show a cross-section picture of the needs in individual families and how completely those needs are being met. A similar cross-section study has been undertaken by one field worker in the proposed Mott Haven health district. Miss Marian G. Randall of the Fund's staff, with the cooperation of the Fund's Nursing Advisory Committee, is making an evaluation of the nursing service in the Bellevue-Yorkville district in order to secure data which may be helpful in planning the nursing work in other districts, and will shortly begin a similar study in Mott Haven. A comprehensive analysis of the vital statistics of the Mott Haven district is being made by Miss Marguerite Potter of the Committee on Neighborhood Health Development, of which Kenneth D. Widdemer is the executive secretary.