

# NEWS DIGEST

© © © *The Fund's Advisory Council Holds Its Eleventh Annual Meeting*

ROUND-TABLE discussions of questions concerning the costs of medical care, public health nursing, tuberculosis control, and population problems occupied the opening sessions of the eleventh annual two-day conference of the Fund's Advisory Council, held at the New York Academy of Medicine on March fifteenth and sixteenth.

Under the chairmanship of Homer Folks, secretary of the State Charities Aid Association, one group considered methods of making available adequate medical care for all residents of the United States. I. S. Falk, formerly associate director of study of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, summarized the factual data accumulated by the Committee. Mr. Falk's summary, which served as a basis for discussion of the whole problem, appears on ear-

lier pages of this issue of the *Bulletin*. The outline of a further study which is being undertaken by the Fund into proposed methods of providing medical care was presented by Edgar Sydenstricker, director of public health activities of the Fund, who was also a member of the Committee. Professor C.-E. A. Winslow of the Yale University School of Medicine, Surgeon-General Hugh S. Cumming of the United States Public Health Service, and Dr. George F. McCleary, outstanding authority on national health insurance in England, were among those who took an active part in the discussion.

A second group, presided over by Professor Robert E. Chadock of Columbia University, reviewed the population studies recently carried on with the assistance of the Fund. Professor Raymond Pearl, of The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, presented a progress report on

his study of the prevalence and effectiveness of contraceptive practices in a defined population group. The results of a follow-up study of patients of the Birth Control Research Bureau were presented by members of the Fund's staff engaged in the work. Dr. Robert L. Dickinson, secretary of the National Committee on Maternal Health; Dr. Hannah M. Stone, medical director of the Clinical Research Bureau; and Dr. Walter F. Willcox, professor emeritus of economics and statistics at Cornell University, contributed to the discussion.

Public health nursing was discussed by another group from the special viewpoint of the determination of objective tests for measuring the effectiveness of the profession's activities. As chairman, Lillian A. Hudson of Teachers College, Columbia University, reported the group's special interest in this time of economic stress in formulating recommendations leading to the more efficient and widespread use of the existing public health nursing facilities of the official health agencies. Katherine Tucker, general director of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, commented on the value of the studies by

the Fund's staff in determining necessary objective tests.

The effectiveness of different methods of case-finding in relation to cost in different areas was considered in reference to tuberculosis by the group under the leadership of Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, executive director of Henry Phipps Institute, Philadelphia. Dr. John H. Korns, director of the Bureau of Tuberculosis, Cattaraugus County Department of Health, summarized the experiences of the County as a typical rural area. Dr. Margaret Witter Barnard, medical director of the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration, reviewed the methods of case-finding in a metropolitan area. Similar activities in New Haven were described by Dr. H. R. Edwards, director of the Bureau of Tuberculosis in that City; and in Syracuse by Dr. George H. Ruhland, Syracuse Commissioner of Health.

The chairmen of these four groups presented summaries of the round-table discussions at the general sessions of the Council on the second day. At this time, Dr. Reginald M. Atwater, Commissioner of Health for Cattaraugus County, who had just returned from Europe, told of his visit to Sir Arthur News-

holme and of experiences in Geneva, at the League of Nations Health Service headquarters, and in Czechoslovakia. Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow's review of the results of the two-days' conference concluded the meeting.

◎ ◎ ◎ *The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Fund's Boards of Counsel*

**D**ISTINGUISHED guests from distant countries addressed the Fund's Boards of Counsel at the annual dinner given by the Board of Directors on March sixteenth. This meeting, with Dr. Livingston Farrand, president of Cornell University, presiding, marked the close of the annual two-day conference of the Fund's advisory groups.

Dr. George F. McCleary, formerly principal medical officer of the National Health Insurance Commission of England, spoke on the English plan of health insurance in practice and described how it had raised the standards of the medical profession. (See p. 83.)

With her intimate knowledge of life in China, Mrs. Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, author of "The Good Earth" and "Sons," commented on the many important contributions made to China

through the health demonstration in Ting Hsien, sometimes called the "Cattaraugus County of China." Referring to the Fund's share in the work, Mrs. Buck said: "You are not only contributing to the public health of China, but you are contributing scientifically to the knowledge of the world." Edward C. Carter, secretary of the Institute of Pacific Relations, referred to the far-reaching effects of the public health dollar in Ting Hsien, where "the health program is an integrated part of the total program of the entire district, of children's and adult education, of government, and of economic reconstruction."

Albert G. Milbank, president of the Fund, in a survey of present-day economic and social conditions, emphasized the part that the individual must play in any state or national scheme for protection against the "five major hazards of life—death, accident, sickness, old age, and unemployment." Mr. Milbank's complete address is published in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

A resolution expressing appreciation of President Roosevelt's "courageous and effective efforts to restore economic stability" was adopted by the Boards of Counsel.

◎ ◎ ◎ *The Commission on Medical Education Reports*

A SHIFT away from standardized teaching in medical schools to the development of the student as an individual is approved in the final report of the Commission on Medical Education, under the chairmanship of President A. Lawrence Lowell, of Harvard University, which was organized in 1925 by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The Commission welcomes the tendency of many medical schools to "emphasize learning by the student in contrast to teaching by the faculty." It adds that a general aim should be "to prepare the student to continue his own self-education throughout his professional life."

"Entrance requirements should be flexible and not too specific," says the Commission, which holds that besides "a grasp of the principles of chemistry, physics, and biology" the "primary qualifications should be character, ability, personality, industry, resourcefulness, intellectual capacity as measured by scholarly achievement."

The medical courses should be general and there should be less

stress on teaching by specialists, and a larger emphasis on the art of medicine and of the mental, emotional, and social factors in the case of the patient. The internship should aim to equip the young doctor for independent practice, even in communities where specialists, hospitals, laboratories, et cetera, are not available.

Regarding the license to practice the Commission reports a widely held opinion that this "should be granted directly on the basis of graduation from an approved medical school and completion of a satisfactory internship."

Dean Willard C. Rappleye, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, was the director of study for the Commission, and the final report, a handsomely printed volume of 560 pages, is issued from his office at 630 West 168th Street, New York.

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◎ ◎ ◎ *Activities of the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration in 1932 Reviewed*

INTENSIVE educational campaigns for the control of diphtheria and for the prevention of street accidents were features of health educational activities of the Bellevue-York-

ville Health Demonstration during the past year, Savel Zimand, administrative director of the demonstration, states in his report for 1932.

"Diphtheria cases showed a decrease of 58 per cent and deaths a decrease of 67 per cent," writes Mr. Zimand. "Injuries due to street accidents were reduced 13 per cent and fatal street accidents 28 per cent. New York City as a whole registered a much smaller reduction, 7 per cent in the number of those injured and 14 per cent in the number of fatalities. In considering the reduction in Bellevue-Yorkville, it is especially well to recall that the district contains some of the most traveled thoroughfares in the City. Approximately 30,000 pieces of literature, including 3,000 posters, were used throughout the district, every schoolroom and almost every store and shop being placarded. Decreases in cases and fatalities resulted. Under the leadership of the Police Department and the school authorities, and in cooperation with the Boy and Girl Scouts and other welfare and health organizations of the district, the safety campaign was carried into every corner of the area.

"Patients attending the various Department of Health clinics, including those newly enrolled in 1932 as well as those carried over from the previous year, numbered 8,410 in 1932, as against 7,598 in 1931," Mr. Zimand continued. "Of the 8,410 patients registered, 3,803 were in the tuberculosis service and 4,607 in the cardiac clinic and various child hygiene services. Clinic visits during the twelve-month period of 1932 totaled 34,067.

"The important divisions of the tuberculosis service were, as in the past, the consultation chest service for private physicians and the Yorkville district chest clinic for children and adults. The X-ray department and fluoroscopic equipment supplement these, and since 1931 a pneumothorax refill service and lipiodol tests have been available. During the year, as a result of the experiment carried on in Bellevue-Yorkville, the Department of Health extended its pneumothorax service to other parts of the City.

"In the Yorkville district chest clinic, for patients who cannot afford the services of private physicians, 756 new adult patients and 393 children were examined last year. These,

together with those carried over from 1931, made a total of 6,088 visits. The consultation service for private physicians had 2,014 new tuberculosis suspects, who, together with those carried over from 1931, made a total of 3,106 visits last year. Established in 1929 as a demonstration clinic, this service is designed solely for patients of private physicians who cannot afford to pay the fee of a tuberculosis specialist. Five similar clinics have since been opened in other parts of the City by the Department of Health.

"At the three baby health stations in the district, there were 939 new admissions during 1932; in the three preschool clinics of the area, 711 new enrollments; and in the children's clinic, at the Health Center, 188 new admissions.

"The city-wide diagnostic cardiac clinic for children who apply for working papers and are found to have suspicious cardiac conditions has proved of real value. Many children have been kept from entering occupations which would have been detrimental to their health, and others have been relieved of the fear of cardiac disease and sent back to normal life. This service is conducted by the Depart-

ment 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 staff. A total of 401 new cases was admitted in 1932.

"The dental service at the Center, maintained jointly by the Tuberculosis Committee of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor and the demonstration staff, continued during 1932 to combine a clinic service in the building with a broad educational program in the schools and in the community at large. During the year 3,092 individuals were treated and 19,084 treatments were given.

"The psychiatric service of the demonstration has now been in existence for over two years. Its objectives are to carry out an educational program among nurses from the Department of Health who are working in the district, and to be of service to patients referred by the nurses or by doctors in the Health Center clinics. An important part of the educational program for the nurses has been the group meetings held every two weeks by the psychiatrist.

"The development of the generalized nursing service in both the Yorkville and Bellevue districts continued in 1932, completing nearly four years of this type of service in the Yorkville district, and one and one-half in the Bellevue district. Each nurse is responsible for one or two schools, the communicable disease and tuberculosis work in her area, the follow-up work from the Department of Health clinics, and for assisting in rotation at the Department of Health clinics. The number of nurses in each area—Yorkville and Bellevue—for the last half of 1932 averaged 14 or 15 respectively. The case load of the Yorkville nurses averaged 486 patients in 284 families, and that of the Bellevue nurses, 396 patients in 322 families.

"Because of the shortage of nurses, the Commissioner of Health decided to discontinue in the district, on a trial basis, the nurses' visits to the homes of school children to encourage the correction of defects. An intensive school consultation service, to replace the former home visiting, was planned for the Belle-

vue-Yorkville area and begun on trial in December.

"As in the past, the health educational work has been directed toward securing desirable changes in public opinion, attitudes, and habits on questions of public health and preventive medicine. In addition to the all-year-round health instruction program, the attention of the population of the district was especially focused during special months on tuberculosis, diphtheria, syphilis and gonorrhoea, and safety. Upwards of 250,000 pieces of printed matter on diphtheria, tuberculosis, safety, syphilis and gonorrhoea, et cetera, were distributed during the year to the families and stores by the house-to-house canvass method or from the lobby at the Health Center. A total of sixty-five meetings was held on tuberculosis, syphilis and gonorrhoea, diphtheria, and other subjects at the headquarters of the health and welfare agencies in the district. Special exhibits were held in connection with all the campaigns and as a regular feature of the continuous health educational work."