

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF SOCIAL MEDICINE AND PUERICULTURE

1925-1926

The activities of the Bureau of Social Medicine and Puericulture have been developed essentially according to the same principles of the previous year. Even though the appropriation was reduced under the pressure of economic circumstances, the amount of work has been greater than the year before, undoubtedly because what obstacles were met at the beginning have been gradually overcome. The dispensary heretofore established at Puerta de Tierra (within the municipality of San Juan) was closed and its work taken up by the dispensaries of Santurce and San Juan (proper) in the same municipality, but a new dispensary was opened in the town of Morovis, their number therefore, remaining the same. A new activity of the Bureau has been the establishment of dental clinics in the dispensaries of San Juan, four clinics being held a week—three for children and one for expectant mothers.

During the summer of 1925 a special course was given at the University of Porto Rico under the auspices of the American Red Cross by a public-health nurse detailed for that purpose from this Bureau. The course was given to prospective teachers and included child care and hygiene, tuberculosis prevention, the prevention of transmissible diseases in general and visits to the dependencies of the Department of Health for practical demonstrations.

The work of the Little Mothers' League has continued. Ten groups were organized and graduated with a total of 175 pupils who were granted their diplomas. Even though in the town of Quebradillas we have no permanent health center established, teachers have been organizing Leagues there under our direction.

The campaign of education by the exhibition of educational films has continued. Twenty-five tours of inspection were made.

A new Superintendent of the Social Service Division having been appointed, a reorganization of that aspect of the work has been made. Investigations have been conducted for the sake of juvenile courts, the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Children and some charitable organizations in the United States besides the usual social work done for the dispensaries. The following exhibits are included:

1. Annual report of the dispensaries.
2. Table of specimens sent to the Biological Laboratory from the dispensaries.
3. Special report on expectant mothers (new cases during the year).
4. Special report on children (new cases taken to the dispensaries during the year).
5. Other services rendered.
6. Report of the Division of Social Work.

Besides those exhibits special reports on the work of the Little Mothers' Leagues, the tours of inspection and the organization of the summer course have been presented by the Chief of the Bureau.

EXHIBIT No. 1

**GENERAL MOVEMENT OF PATIENTS IN THE DISPENSARIES
DURING FISCAL YEAR 1925-26**

Dispensaries	1925 patients remain- ing on June 30	New pa- tients admitted	Patients readmitted	Total	Patients discharged	1926 patients remain- ing on June 30
San Juan.....	895	708	93	1,696	816	880
Sanurce.....	11,539	1,019	109	12,667	1,085	11,582
Barrio Obrero.....	338	696	36	1,070	303	767
Ponce.....	852	629	25	1,506	617	889
Mayagüez.....	161	611	7	779	191	588
Aguadilla.....	383	389	8	780	320	460
Caguas.....	397	537	2	936	193	743
Guayama.....	314	563	877	154	723
Juncos.....	648	201	4	853	7	846
Carolina.....	620	477	13	1,110	500	610
Comerio.....	343	365	13	721	385	336
Villaalba.....	947	759	73	1,779	181	1,598
Total.....	17,437	6,954	383	24,774	4,752	20,022

Patients Discharged During the Year are Classified as Follows

Cured.....	1,893
Improved.....	1,676
Not improved.....	937
Deaths.....	246
Total.....	4,752

EXHIBIT No. 2

SPECIMENS SENT BY THE DISPENSARIES TO THE BIOLOGICAL
LABORATORY FOR EXAMINATION

	Positive	Positive	Total
<i>Emotological examination</i>			
1.—Malaria	80	329	409
2.—Embryos for filaria		1	1
3.—Differential count			20
<i>Serum diagnosis</i>			
4.—Wassermann reaction	396	2,554	2,947
5.—Widal reaction	3	42	48
<i>Exudates, transudates and secretions</i>			
1.—Sputum	121	404	525
(a) T. B.			
2.—Gonococcus	112	498	610
3.—Diphtheria	27	94	121
<i>Urine:</i>			
Chemical and microscopical examinations			280
Intestinal parasites	1,642	1,587	3,229
Total	2,381	5,509	8,190

EXHIBIT No. 3

EXPECTANT MOTHERS

New Cases Admitted During the Year

Dispensaries	Cases admitted
San Juan	184
Santurce	364
Barrio Obrero	288
Ponce	218
Mayagüez	287
Aguadilla	162
Caguas	191
Guayama	164
Juncos	39
Carolina	119
Comerio	120
Villalba	97
Morovis	19
Total	2,252

EXHIBIT No. 4

CHILDREN

New Cases Admitted During the Year

Dispensaries	Males	Females	Total
San Juan.....	332	285	617
Santurce.....	358	366	764
Barrio Obrero.....	214	230	444
Ponce.....	228	208	436
Mayagüez.....	155	176	331
Aguadilla.....	123	112	235
Caguas.....	170	178	348
Guayama.....	217	182	399
Juncos.....	81	81	162
Carolina.....	173	185	358
Comerio.....	118	140	258
Villalba.....	345	390	735
Morovis.....	127	97	224

EXHIBIT No. 5

Other Services Rendered by the Dispensaries

Prescriptions given.....	23, 135
Injections administered.....	3, 655
Surgical operations.....	60
Von Pirquet test.....	38
Vaccinations against diphtheria.....	62
Miscellaneous.....	2, 403

EXHIBIT No. 6

DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK

Resumé of Work Done During Fiscal Year 1925-26

Cases referred to the division of Social Work by the:	San Juan	Santurce	Total
Tuberculosis dispensaries.....	171	94	265
Prenatal clinics.....	66	38	104
Baby clinics.....	217	53	270
Veneral diseases clinics.....		2	2
General cases.....	340	52	392
Total.....	794	239	1,033

Services Rendered to the Above Cases

	San Juan	Santurce	Total
Cases referred to other agencies.....	45	27	72
Referred by other agencies.....	65		65
Patients supplied with medicines.....	320	102	422
Home visits.....	900	982	1,883
Special visits.....	305	905	1,210
Patients hospitalized.....	70	77	147
Cases referred to the venereal diseases clinic.....	65	35	100
Cases recommended for employment.....	103	103	206
Patients sent to the Antituberculosis Sanatorium.....	1	3	4
Special diets furnished.....	35	101	136
Cases given material relief.....		109	109