REVIEW OF REVIEWS

IS TUBERCULOSIS REALLY DECREASING IN U. S. A.?

Contrary to the popular opinion, tuberculosis is not decreasing, especially in the larger cities of the United States. While there has been a steady decline in mortality during the past few years, still reported figures show that 1926 rates were higher than those of 1925. The Monthly Bulletin of the Department of Health of Newark, N. J., states that there were 368 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis reported in that city, an increase of thirty-three as compared with 1925. The death rate per hundred thousand population was eighty in 1926, while in the previous year it totaled 73.9.

Of the sixteen cities in the United States of 400,000 population and above, eleven showed an increased mortality from tuberculosis (69.3 per cent) as compared with five showing a decrease for the year. Among the thirty-five cities of 100,000 and under 400,000 population, seventeen showed an increase in the tuberculosis rate (48.5 per cent). The cities that reported an increased mortality rate for tuberculosis during 1926 are New York, Detroit, Cleveland. Boston, Los Angeles, Buffalo, Milwaukee, Washington, D. C.; Newark, Minneapolis, Cincinnati; Jersey City and Trenton N. J.; Worcester, Springfield, New Bedford, Lynn, Fall River, and Cambridge, Mass.; Dallas and Houston, Texas; Toledo, Ohio; Richmond Va.; Des Moines, Iowa; Salt Lake City, Utah; Albany, N. Y.; Erie, Pa., and Waterbury. Conn.

St. Paul showed neither an increase nor a decrease as the 1925 and 1926 rates remained at 67.5 per 100,000 population. Los Angeles showed the greatest increase (73.1), jumping to 154.3 deaths per 100,000 population. Other cities that showed an increase of more than ten per cent over the 1925 figures are Dallas, Houston, Fall River, Des Moines, Albany, and Cincinnati.

Observations by sanatorium superintendents and clinic directors point out that the early case is not being reported and is allowed to run its course until the patient is unable to continue work, the disease often being beyond any hope of arrest by this time. Hos-

pital facilities, while not entirely sufficient for the tuberculosis cases, are rapidly assuming that condition, but the delay in seeking treatment has clogged the sanatorium with cases that are hopeless liabilities. Another factor that is legislating against the further decrease of tuberculosis cases, is the extreme prosperity of the country. Constant pressure to secure the demanded luxuries keep the wage earner working when he should be under treatment, and lessened working hours in most skilled craftsman's trades makes it possible for moderate efficiency to be secured even though the disability be advanced.

Recent agitation has encouraged the adoption of state or national pension schemes, whereby the family of a tuberculosis patient may be given assistance during his disability, but the fear of too much paternalism in government machinery forestalls serious consideration, although New York State has recently effected legislation of this nature by passing the Fearon Bill, by which relief is made possible for the family of wage earners afflicted with tuberculosis.

—(From *The Nation's Health.*)

CIGARETTES—THE NEW PATENT MEDICINE

Students of advertising have noted the growing tendency of the exploiters of cigarettes to adopt "patent medicine" methods in puffing their goods. No longer is it good form for politicians, pugilists, prima donna or even queens of central Europe to give testimonial for "patent medicine". But it is perfectly proper for politicians, pugilists, prima donnas, queens, etc., to tell how much they rely for mental equilibrium and spiritual inspiration on some brands of cigarettes.

Now comes a news item that opens up visions of still greater opportunities. In that trade publication, the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter,* for November 7, 1927, we read:

"The Lambert Pharmacal Company of St. Louis is said to be planning to market a cigarette which will be impregnated with the active principles of Listerine."

What possibilities for the impassioned copy writer! Naturally, the slogan for this new brand will be: "Not a halitosis in a hatful".

—(From *Hygeia.*)

NEW IDEAS IN MALARIA CONTROL

For years sanitarians and public-health officials have been urging the abolition of mosquito-breeding foci as one of the surest ways of controlling malaria. While recognizing the desirability of these measures, further study of the malaria problem has suggested other and more economical ways of dealing with it.

James and Shute in England, and Deeks and associates in this country, have been studying the infectivity of mosquitoes of the malaria-bearing type. They find that only a small percentage of such mosquitoes actually transmit the organism and that a large majority of this small group lives in buildings, as houses or barns, where food is abundant. They find further that seldom, does a mosquito become infected by a single meal of blood from a malaria patient. Repeated feedings on such patients are necessary to en able the insect to transmit the disease.

Briefly, the conclusions of these workers are that malaria will be more effectively controlled by the daily destruction of mosquitoes in buildings after they have fed on persons affected with malaria. Each morning the engorged insects may be found resting on walls and ledges where they are easily killed. If this practice is carried out daily there will be little opportunity for dangerous insects to survive, as it requires ten days after feeding for the mosquitoes to become infective.

If the use of the fly water for a few minutes daily will be more effective in the control of the disease than the drainage of large breeding areas, vast economies will be effected; economies, which in many cases, will release funds for other forms of health work. Further studies will be watched with interest, and if the results are as conclusive as indications suggest, they should stimulate new lines of attack against other insect-born diseases.

—(From *The Nation's Health.*)

USE OF AIRPLANE FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL

Owing to the tremendous and rapid development of hydroelectric power and the consequent impounding of water in the South, it has been necessary for the various State Boards of Health and the malariologists of the United States Public Health Service to give serious attention to the possibility of the use of the airplane in controlling Anopheles production in these areas.

Experience at Quantico, Va., had shown that a mixture of Pa-

ris green and powdered soapstone, when applied from an airplane flying over a dense vegetation, penetrated the vegetation and reached the surface of the water in doses lethal to anopheline larvæ.

The South Carolina State Board of Health was anxious to have practical demonstration of the effectiveness of this procedure and offered, for experimental purposes, a heavily overgrown pond near Bamberg, in which dense vegetation, both bushes and trees, shaded almost all of the water surface, flotage was heavy, and the production of *Anopheles quadrimculatus* was large.

At the request of the Public Health Service and the South Carolina State Board of Health, the Navy Department lent an airplane with Marine Corps fliers.

An abandoned field near the pond was cleared by the citizens of Bamberg for use in landing and loading.

The plane, a Ford transport monoplane, was sent from Anacostia to Quantico, where there was installed a plain metal hopper with a sliding valve opening into a venturi tube below the fuselage. The plane was then flown to Bamberg ready for demonstration.

The day before the flight the undersigned traversed those portions of the pond where brush was most dense, making hundreds of dippings among the flotage, searching for anopheles larvæ. Larvæ average five per dip. Eleven out of every thirteen dips secured larvæ.

On September 8, at 11 a. m., 500 pounds of Paris green, with an equal quantity of soapstone, was distributed by the plane over the 500 acres of pond, the plane making two trips with a 500-pound load per trip. The plane flew about 50 feet above the top of the trees; the breeze was very light, the day being nearly calm and clear and bright. The total time of the flight, including landing and reloading, was one hour and thirty minutes.

The plane made successive trips across the pond and up and down the pond, gridironing the area with paths approximately an eighth of a mile apart. There seemed to be a fairly even distribution of the dust over the 500 acres of pond.

Immediately prior to the flight a number of visitors entered the pond with dippers and assured themselves of the heavy mosquito breeding. Two hours after the commencement of the flight these visitors reentered the pond and dipped for larvæ in order to observe the earliest effects. In the small clear areas no live larvæ at all were found and many dead ones were picked up. Where trees and bushes covered the water all full-grown larvæ were dead, but some first-stage larvæ were still alive.

On September 9, twenty-two hours after the dusting flight, the writers went into the pond where the vegetation was densest and the flotage heaviest. Two boats were used, winding about over approximately twelve acres near the lower end of the pond, with the following results:

In all types of flotage 703 dips were made, and there were found three living Anopheles larvæ (two first stage and one early second stage), 84 dead Anopheles larvæ, and six living pupae.

—(From *Public Health Reports.*)

ROBINSON CRUSOE'S ISLAND REPORTS

A hospital has been built by the fishermen on Juan Fernández Island. The little institution is equipped with medical supplies, and has an operating room but no physician. There are about 287 persons living on the island; when one of them becomes ill, the symptoms are wirelesssed to Valparaíso; when an operation becomes necessary, a surgeon is sent over from Valparaiso. Waldo L. Schmitt of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., who recently visited Juan Fernández, found it one of the most fruitful spots in South America. He is reported to have said that every imaginable plant seems to grow there. The island is also the base of a spiny lobster fishery, 80,000 lobsters a year being shipped as far south as Buenos Aires.

—(From *The Journal of the American Medical Association.*)

WHAT THE TEACHER DIDN'T KNOW

"Greeting his pupils, the master asked:
What would you learn of me?
And the reply came:
How shall we care for our bodies?
How shall we rear our children?
How shall we work together?
How shall we live with our fellowmen?
How shall we play?
For what ends shall we live?
And the teacher pondered these words and sorrow was in his heart, for his own learning touched not these things."

—*Principles of Education*, Chapman and Counts (Yale).