

PECK SPEAKS TO CLARA HEARNE P.-T. A. GROUP HERE

T. B. Specialist Says Disease Is Heavy In County

Dr. W. M. Peck, X-Ray specialist and member of the staff of the State Sanatorium, speaking before the Parent-Teachers association of the Clara Hearne school last Wednesday, warned of the prevalence of tuberculosis in this section and told of methods to be invoked to prevent the increased evidence of the disease.

Dr. Peck, who conducted a series of tubercular X-ray clinics in the county during the past few weeks in cooperation with the County Health Department, stated that Roanoke Rapids has a great deal of tuberculosis, probably more than anywhere else in the State.

"The large number of X-rays for extensive study of tuberculosis," the specialist pointed out, "are finding a lot of tuberculosis everywhere. The skin test for tuberculosis on a child who has never inhaled T. B. germ will be negative because the child has never been exposed. However, he will inhale the germs from some person who has it. Nothing more will happen for a month. Then, the skin test will become positive. If an X-ray is taken at that time, they will find a large spot. Primarily tuberculosis is not active on a child. A child cannot give this disease to anyone else. The child usually gets better. He may be run-down and have a little cough if he is weak to start with. This type of tuberculosis will leave a little spot of calcium. The child may live the rest of his life in good health.

"In adolescence the child may come in contact with tuberculosis again. If, when 18, he comes in contact with another case, there will be a different start. He will become sick. Cavities will form in his lungs, and he can give it to another person.

"As you can see, the far most important factor in control will be finding the active places and isolating them so that they can't come in contact with other people. It takes two contacts in order to develop the disease.

"There is a lot of tuberculosis in Halifax County at this time," the doctor said. "Most of the patients have been uncooperative and stay at home not caring that they are giving it to their families. We have four or five new cases at this time. These that are not cooperative give the disease to everybody they come in contact with. Some of them have open tuberculosis and have had it for years and refuse to do anything about it. This group of patients, to whom you cannot do anything about the disease until you can do something about them, will keep on having tuberculosis.

"One big thing we can do is to persuade the people with tuberculosis to go to the sanatorium until they can be taken to the State sanatorium so that someone there can and will take care of them better than you can take care of a member of your own family."

As one method of helping to combat the disease, Dr. Peck cited his listeners to try to get a law compelling them to go to the sanatorium, adding that we have more than our share of people who will not go to the sanatorium. Another thing, he said, was to try to get more beds in the state sanatorium so that all patients can be hospitalized.

Birthday Party

Mesdames Dora Hawkins, Helen Kee and F. M. Coburn gave their sister, Mrs. Lucille Cherry, a surprise birthday party last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Cherry. Mrs. Cherry was invited on a visit, re-

turning to find about thirty friends in her living room. Several contests were given and Bingo was played.

A lovely birthday cake centered the dining table.

A salad plate with coffee was served to the following: Mesdames Irvin Powell, Frank Shearin, Linwood Allen, Bertha Allen, Carrie Ivey, Eugene Etheridge, T. B. Turner, J. O. Matthews, Sam Powell, Edna Mitchell, Florence Robbins, Emma Elmore, R. L. Meade, J. F. May, Grady Pearson, Thomas Cook, C. W. Cook, V. I. Hockaday, M. E. Faison, Estelle Kee, Misses Mary Lillian Meade, Susie Kee, Mary Johnson, Howard Hawkins, and Wrennie Elmore.

Mrs. Cherry received many gifts.

NEGRO HEALTH WEEK

Health Dept. Will Assist In Program For County Negroes

The Halifax County Health Department has mailed letters to every colored school principal in the county and to all colored leaders asking them to plan at least one program on health in each community. Posters and bulletins have been distributed to key communities. In these letters was included a list of the important services rendered by the county health department and complete schedules, with dates and locations. The children have been asked to learn these services and to take this information to every nook and corner of the county.

Since the very first of the year I have been asking the colored people to learn the facilities that are offered by their health department and to take advantage of them. I am greatly pleased to see that the text of the official National Negro Health Week key address for radio broadcast, prepared by Dr. E. R. Coffey, Assistant Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, is as follows: "Get acquainted with your community services to promote health. Use those services. Get acquainted with your health department and find out what it has to offer. Don't wait for the public health nurse to find you. Go find the health department."

When I recently appealed to the leaders of the colored race in this county to work with the health department in bringing their people to our clinics for such services that would improve the health of the Negro race, I was attacked by some of these leaders for my statement that their race needed these services as badly as I indicated.

To emphasize my point that these services are still needed and that the death rates have not been improved to the extent that we can afford to relax our efforts for one moment, I quote further from the address of the Assistant Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, which has just been released, "The death rates for Negro mothers and babies are twice those for white mothers and infants. About 21,000 Negro infants die every year before they are a year old. Every year 2,300 Negro mothers die from conditions arising from pregnancy and child birth. The number of these deaths can be brought down. It is lower today than it was ten years ago. But too many mothers still die. Too many babies die or are born dead. If these figures prevail for the county at large, where the Negro

population is between five and ten per cent, it shouldn't be hard to understand why I cry out for action here among the colored people where the population is fifty-eight per cent of our total population. And please notice that the keynote of this address is an appeal to the colored people to take advantage of the services that are offered them and is not a sermon on poverty.

The County Health Department will also examine all colored boys during the Negro Health Week in the junior and senior classes and will examine the colored boys and girls in the 4-H clubs to select a Health King and Queen.

Motion pictures have been booked for the colored high schools and health literature on tuberculosis supplied by the Tuberculosis Seal Committees throughout the county will be distributed.

This will be one of the most extensive health programs among Negroes since the health department was organized twenty-three years ago.

Robert F. Young, M. D.
County Health Officer.

BEER CLEAN-UP SOUGHT

The Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee today requested Roanoke Rapids and Halifax county officials to deny 1942-43 retail beer licenses to undesirable persons.

Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro, state director in charge of the beer industry's 'clean up or close up' campaign in North Carolina, cited the statute which prohibits the issuance of retail beer licenses to persons guilty of liquor law violations and 'to those who are not of good character'. The 1942-43 tax year for beer licenses begins May 1.

"We are writing again to bespeak your continued cooperation in our efforts to keep beer sales in North Carolina from remaining in the hands, or falling into the hands, of undesirable persons", Colonel Bain wrote the local officials. Similar letters were sent to the governing bodies of 98 counties and 155 cities and towns. "All retail beer licenses come up for renewal on May 1," the letter continued. "We are certain that you will continue to scrutinize all applications for licenses with great care and deny licenses to those who are not of good character."

Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Wooten Jr. had as house guests on Friday, April 3, Dr. Wooten's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Etheridge of Norfolk and his mother, Mrs. A. M. Wooten Sr. of Pinetops.

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