

N. C. Selected First State For Survey

By WM. H. RICHARDSON

North Carolina has been selected as the first State in which the American Academy of Pediatrics will conduct a thorough fact-finding survey to determine the needs of children in a post-war world, in order that the medical mind may assume the leadership in making available the facilities with which these needs are to be met. Realizing the importance of this survey, in that it is expected to serve as a model for similar undertakings in every State in the Union, the North Carolina Pediatric Society is throwing the full weight of its influence behind it, and is cooperating to make it a success. Failure in North Carolina might easily delay the entire program the importance of which at this time is recognized by pediatricians and medical doctors.

North Carolina Blazes Trail:

"North Carolina was chosen as the State in which to launch this great movement because of the excellence of its pediatric groups and their interest in child health," said Dr. Joseph Lachman, who has been secured to act as executive secretary during the survey, his services having been loaned to the North Carolina Pediatric Society by the United States Public Health Service. Himself a pediatrician, Dr. Lachman is familiar with the overall importance of child health in its relation to national well-being and will help direct the survey with a view of getting facts, rather than providing any point. Practicing physicians are giving the survey their support, as evidenced by a letter sent out to members by Dr. Arthur H. London, don, Jr., of Durham, president of the North Carolina Pediatric Society.

"In December, a short questionnaire will be sent out to every physician in the State," Dr. London said. "It is of the utmost importance," he continued, "that this questionnaire be filled out and returned. The opportunity is here. The time is short. Will the medical doctors of North Carolina demonstrate to the country as a whole that they are interested in the broader aspects of medical practice?"

Four Avenues of Approach:

"The content of the forthcoming study in North Carolina, which will set the pace for similar surveys throughout the United States, will be divided into four classes," according to Executive Secretary Lachman. He outlined these as follows:

1. Health studies for children, the survey to cover the extent of quality of such services — child health conferences, school-health services, immunization, child guidance, and public health nursing.

2. Distribution, qualification, and activities of professional personnel, with the fact in mind that most of the pediatricians are in cities, but, even then, that much of the care of children is given by general practitioners. In this phase of the study, data will be collected on the distribution of pediatricians, general practitioners and specialists. An attempt will be made, through special questionnaires, to estimate the amount of time devoted by general practitioners to the care of children, and it is hoped also to gather data from pediatricians relating to the size of the

Salt of the (future) Earth



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3. Hospital facilities, including out-patient clinics and laboratories, location, cooperation, and character of public health facilities available, nervous and mental hospitals; tuberculosis, contagious and convalescent.

4. Education of physicians with reference to children, including

quality and quantity for the training of child care. Data will be obtained on staff, curricula, number of pediatric beds available for teaching, and opportunity for study of such pediatric specialties as allergy, rheumatic fever, and mental hygiene. One of the most important aspects of the survey will be that of the medical doctor, and the

activities of public health, including the providing of medical services to children by State and local health departments, as well as by voluntary agencies. This phase of the survey will include child-health conferences, mental hygiene clinics, and school-health programs, as well as public health nursing concerned with children.

General Cooperation Asked.

The State Pediatric Society as a whole, and through various local

groups and individuals comprising it, is seeking the cooperation of all general practitioners throughout the State in the success of this survey. The State has been divided into convenient districts, pediatricians in each of which are to bring the matter to the attention of the medical profession in its entirety.

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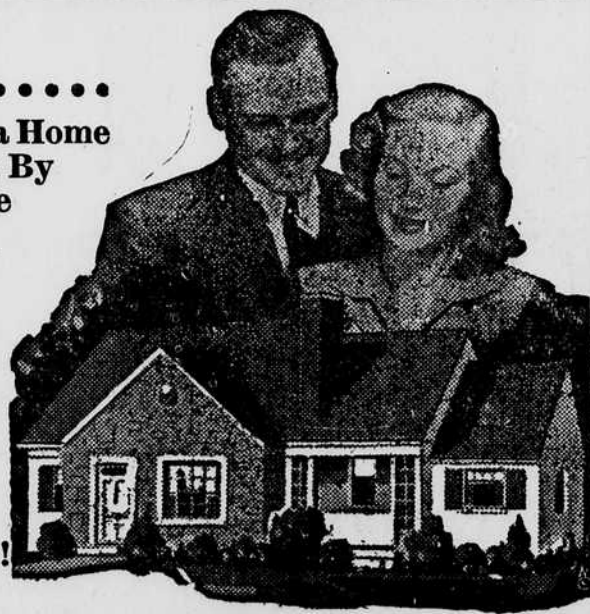
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