

Dr. Gregg Reviews Work With Health Department

No Epidemics Occurred During 1938; Much Emphasis Placed on Syphilis Campaign; School Programs Took Much Time During Past Year

During the entire year 1938, Vance county was free of diseases in epidemic form, and very few contagions of any description, Dr. A. D. Gregg, county health officer, said in a summary today of the work of his department for the year. He said great emphasis had been put on treatment of syphilis cases, part of which was financed by an allotment of \$1,000 to the county from the State Board of Health.

Much work was done in the schools, including the examination of pre-school-age children before they entered for the first time in the fall. A tuberculosis clinic was held last winter, with 3,086 school children, including also a few teachers, examined with 435 positive reactors. Children were vaccinated against smallpox and inoculated against diphtheria. Typhoid vaccination was given to 1,584 persons. Medical care was provided 32 expectant mothers. Examinations were provided for 143 cripple children.

The sanitary division of the department supervised erection and placing under WPA sponsorship of numerous privies also 53 residential septic tanks. A total of 54 food-handling establishments were inspected, together with dairies serving the community.

The financial valuation of work of the department was placed up in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Dr. Gregg's statement of activities follows:

To tell much about our work during the year would make this report too long for this occasion, so this summary is very brief.

We have one change in the personnel staff from one year ago. The colored nurse resigned last June to accept an increase in salary with another health department. Our present colored nurse, with us since July 5, is paid \$1,500 per year, including travel. The salaries of others in the health department remain the same as effective July 1, 1937.

We are, though, on a smaller scale than some larger counties carrying out all the programs as advocated by the State Health Department, with the exception of a dental program, this we hope to add as a permanent feature by the next school year, if not this school term.

We have had no epidemics of a serious nature for the past 12 months. We have had only 27 cases of measles, including German measles; three cases of typhoid fever, all, colored, and only one case of diphtheria. Chickenpox last winter and whooping cough last spring and this fall have been widespread, but not serious enough to interfere with schools. The school nurse from the State Health Department says that the schools of Vance county are the most completely immunized of any county in which she has worked against smallpox and diphtheria. We vaccinated 1,095 children for smallpox, and gave 175 diphtheria toxoids in the schools.

During the summer we gave typhoid vaccination to 1,534 persons. Since we

have so little typhoid fever, the public is losing interest in the protection and we must depend more and more on sanitation.

In carrying out the program of the U. S. Public Health Service, and the State Health Department, we have put much emphasis and work on the cure and prevention of syphilis. The State Health Department made a special allotment of over \$1,000 to Vance county to be used in equipping our clinics and buying drugs and supplies for this special program. We now have three clinics a week in Henderson, treating an average of 93 patients a week. None of these patients can afford to pay for treatment and many of them are sent to us by private physicians. We have made 1,450 blood Wassermann tests and gave 301 patients a total of 5,888 treatments. More than half of these treatments were given to cooks and nurses of Henderson. The most difficult feature is to keep the patients returning long enough to make treatment effective. Our nurses made 496 visits to delinquent patients to keep them coming back to the clinic.

School work last spring: We made an examination of 523 children who were to enter school last fall. All of these children are immunized against smallpox and diphtheria, and the parents notified of any defects which may hinder their progress in school. A total of 1,437 children were examined by the health officer and 4,314 inspected by nurses. All high school students in Henderson high school were examined as to their physical fitness for athletic exercises.

The health officer gave a total of 28 lectures and talks to schools and parent-teacher associations to a total audience of 2,333 people. 656 children had defects corrected. These were of eyes, teeth and tonsils.

Prevention of tuberculosis: We have inadequate facilities in the county to cure or arrest tuberculosis. So our greatest good can be done by prevention, and early diagnosis. Last January, we secured from the State Sanatorium Dr. Denholm who gave skin tests and chest examinations to 3,086 school children. A few of this number were teachers, finding 433 positive reactors, these 435 were later X-rayed by technicians sent from the State Sanatorium. These examinations disclosed eight cases of incipient or potential cases of tuberculosis. In June we carried out the same procedure on all adults known to have lived with or had been in intimate contact with tuberculosis. Several new cases were thus caught in time to secure treatment before too late. To combat this disease, there are two outstanding needs, more beds in the county sanatorium, a ward for children and legal authority to isolate open cases who are a menace to public health.

Our nurses, through the maternal and infant welfare clinics have provided medical care to 82 expectant mothers, 155 children who were unable to secure a doctor's service. We, however, do not give actual delivery service. This is done by 17 registered midwives. These midwives are regularly instructed and supervised by the health department.

143 cripple children were given examinations by Dr. W. F. Cole, orthopedic surgeon from Greensboro. The children were given hospital treatment, artificial limbs braces, operations, massages and exercises, according to their individual needs. A few were of such nature that nothing could be done for them.

Our sanitary department, under supervision of the sanitary inspector, the WPA sanitary project has built 448 sanitary privies, 53 residential septic tanks were installed, which means that 501 new families have sanitized homes and many private water supplies improved.

The malarial control program with WPA labor cut approximately 60,000 feet of ditching and cleared 25 acres of adjacent swamp land. The doctors

will tell you that we have had very little malaria fever this past year.

We have a total of 54 food handling establishments under inspection of the health department.

We have three A grade dairies and approximately 60 individuals selling D grade milk.

The sanitary inspector, in supervision and inspection of these places that sell food to the public, made 680 visits.

We have had a total of 273 milk cows tested for TB and Bangs disease.

The sanitary inspector investigated 163 complaints supposedly of a sanitary nature.

In the interest of instruction of the general public in health matters, we have written 64 articles published in the Henderson Dispatch; distributed over 600 pamphlets and health bulletins, gave 23 special health demonstrations.

In the administration of his duties, the health officer has attended 33 meetings with official health bodies and had 114 conferences with county and State officials and many other conferences and meetings of various nature.

The staff of the health department during the year made 276 visits to schools and 1,725 visits in the interest of the public's health. They travelled in discharge of their duties a total of 35,552 miles in Vance county.

As county physician, the health officer made 120 visits to county poor in city and county. Gave treatment

to 960 persons in the office, made 59 visits to the county home and 57 to the jail; examined 31 children for industrial work, and made 11 examinations of supposedly insane persons. Examined 258 food handlers, 440 domestic servants and 41 boys for C. C. Camp and smaller items too numerous to mention.

Financial Summary: All above mentioned services and numerous others not mentioned have been given to the people of Vance county at a cost to the county of approximately \$5700, or less than 20 cents per inhabitant; approximately 3.5 mills tax rate. We have received from the State Health Department in money \$6,390, also our share of a laboratory service costing \$225,000 in work and vaccines. By their endorsement of WPA projects, they have given many men work and a living, during the year. Given us the services of experts from the TE sanatorium and a school nurse for three months and experts in public health work.

Money value in service given by the Health Department to the people of the county:

The value of some items of service given by the health department can be evaluated by the value of such services when given by our physicians.

In making the following estimates, I am using a very low fee for such work and in most instances will be below usual fee of most practitioners as my desire is to be very conservative.

In prevention of diseases by use of

various vaccines and inoculations we have \$724,700. Our venereal work in Wassermann test and in treating 391 patients for syphilis amounts to \$20,864. The mileage value of nurses' visits is \$3,450, of the sanitarian \$2,700, giving a total value of \$34,260. As county physician and outside of above enumerated items, the health officer made 165 visits in the county to indigent persons; 59 visits to county home, 57 to county jail, treated or prescribed for 930 persons in the office and examined 510 domestic servants and C. C. Camp applicants and other county services to value of \$2,075. Thus, one half of the health officer's salary comes back in service to the county poor.

Besides the value of health education and the intangible values of the department, there comes back to the county a medical service of not less than \$36,335, a total of 6 1-3 times the money spent by the county for the health department.

HENDERSON MAN PAYS HEAVY OXFORD FINE

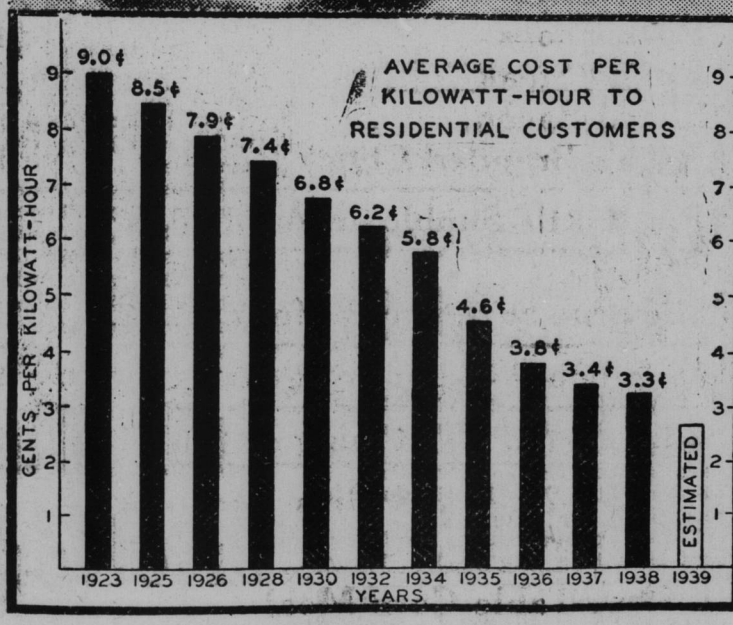
Oxford, Jan. 20.—A fine of \$100 was imposed upon James Madison Young, 23-year-old Henderson man, when he entered a plea of guilty in Granville Recorder's Court, Tuesday morning on a charge of driving while under the influence of whisky. Judge Lester also ordered that the young man's driving license be suspended for a period of two years.

New Members to Committee



Senator Henry F. Ashurst (center), of Arizona, chairman of the powerful Judiciary committee of the Senate, welcomes two new members to the committee: Senators Alexander Wiley, of Wisconsin (left), and John A. Danaher, of Connecticut.

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