

THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
(By E. C. N. Sisk)

(Continued from page one)
The program of the Health Department may very well be divided into several divisions:

VITAL STATISTICS: The registration of births and deaths is required by law and for this purpose a local registrar is appointed in each town. The Board of County Commissioners are responsible for the purpose of receiving and properly recording the occurrence of births and deaths. The health department provides a copy of vital statistics reports to be furnished to the health department by all local registrars on the first of each month. The health department uses these reports for the purpose of investigating any unusual conditions relative to maternal and infant deaths and death from various causes. During the year 1937 the health department received from local registrars reports of 401 live births and 6 stillbirths. A total of 122 deaths were reported, including 120 under one month, and 20 under one year of age.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL: The Health Department is charged with the responsibility of enforcing laws relative to the control of communicable diseases by quarantine and isolation. Physicians, nurses, school teachers, and individuals are required to report certain communicable diseases to the Health Department which are listed in a quarantine established by the regulations may prescribe. During this year 15 cases of Diphtheria, 3 cases of Typhoid Fever, 12 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 Measles, and 22 cases of Whooping Cough have been reported to the department.

The health department engages in the administration of vaccines for the prevention of Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, and Smallpox. This work is done in schools, in community clinics, and at the health department office. During the year 244 individuals were vaccinated against Smallpox, 12 children were immunized against Diphtheria, and 823 individuals were inoculated against Typhoid Fever.

Tuberculosis: Although the death rate from Tuberculosis has been reduced from a rate of more than 250 per 100,000 in 1920 to less than 60 during recent years, it is still one of the disease occupying the interest of the health department. In addition to making regular home visits to Tuberculosis cases, suspects, and contacts, the

health department conducts a clinic annually by utilizing the facilities of the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium. During this year 97 individuals were examined in a clinic conducted by a clinician from the Sanatorium. Among this group 26 individuals were found to have either childhood or adult type of Tuberculosis. Effort is made to have all active cases of Tuberculosis admitted to a Sanatorium. During this year two admissions have been secured.

Veneral Disease Control: The facilities of the District Laboratory are used for the examination of blood specimen from all food handlers, and other individuals, for the purpose of determining syphilitic infection. Several hundred blood tests have been made in Jackson County with the location of a few cases of syphilitic infection. The health department has recently established a clinic for the treatment of syphilis in those unable to otherwise secure treatment at the office in Sylva, and 7 cases have been enrolled for treatment.

MATERNAL AND INFANT WELFARE: In an effort to improve an unenviable condition in North Carolina relative to a high maternal and infant death rates the health department through its nursing service renders prenatal and infant care in homes unable to secure this service through the private physicians. During the past year 12 prenatal cases were given prenatal supervision. Since a great deal of births in isolated areas are attended by midwives, the health department assumes the responsibility of controlling the practice of midwifery by making individual contacts, and by holding group classes for instructing midwives in their practice. Midwives showing proficiency are given a certificate and those unable to or indifferent to receiving instruction are prohibited from engaging in practice. Forty-one visits were made during the year for midwife supervision. The nursing service devotes time to instructing and assisting mothers in the care of infants. During the year 95 infants were admitted to this service, and 113 field visits were made to homes in connection with infant care.

SCHOOL HYGIENE: Preschool clinics are conducted in schools large enough to justify it near the closing of each school term, when parents are invited to bring children who are to enter school the following year for the first time, where they are given an examination and the par-

ents are instructed with reference to the presence of physical handicaps. The health department attempts to examine all school children at least three times during their school lives for the detection of physical conditions that may retard their school progress. During the year 2,409 children were examined and the parents were notified when any remediable defect was discovered.

In connection with the work among school children a dental clinic of 14 weeks duration was conducted through the cooperation of the Oral Hygiene Department of the State Board of Health. In this clinic 1,946 children were examined, with 775 receiving treatment, and 592 being referred to private dentists. In those treated there were 4,857 operations performed, including 953 amalgam fillings, 84 cement fillings, 2,079 silver nitrate treatments, with 913 extractions, and 700 having teeth cleaned. The records of this work show that 353 of the children treated were grade repeaters.

A tonsil clinic of three days duration was conducted at the Sylva High School Building, for the purpose of removing diseased tonsils in children from homes otherwise unable to receive this service. An eye, nose, and throat specialist was secured for the operations, and the personnel of the health department rendered medical and nursing assistance. A total of 59 operations were performed during the three days.

The health department cooperates with the Farm and Home Agents in the examination of 4-H Club members to promote the health phase of this club work. During the year 318 club members were given a physical examination.

The health department takes an active part in promoting Crippled Children service in the county. An attempt is made to register all crippled children, and effort is made to have them report to a Crippled Children's Clinic for the purpose of examination and treatment. Fifteen children from Jackson County were examined at a clinic in Bryson City during the year, and 4 received treatment.

SANITATION: The protection of the public against diseases transmitted through unsafe food and milk supplies, and the pollution of water supplies, by improving sewage disposal is an important phase of the public health program. The health department has supervision over all public eating places and makes regular monthly inspection of such places

giving a numerical rating which requires a score of 70 or more to operate. Due to the increased tourist traffic in this area many tourist camps, tourist homes, etc., are opening up requiring the same supervision as do year around places.

The health department supervises public water supplies, including school supplies. A great deal of work has been done in protecting springs and wells as school water supplies, including the installation of drinking fountains.

Essential in the prevention of the spread of such diseases as Typhoid Fever, the laws affecting sewage disposal both for public institutions, and private homes, is a duty of the health department. During this year 388 concrete slab pit privies have been constructed by WPA under the supervision homes and at tourist camps.

The milk supply of Jackson County is regulated under the Standard Milk Ordinance of the U. S. Public Health Service by the health department. At the present time there is only one grade A dairy in Jackson County which enjoys an honor roll rating by U. S. Public Service. The

milk ordinance requires that graded milk be produced by healthy cows, and handled by healthy people in a sanitary and sterile manner.

LABORATORY: The health department and the physicians of Jackson County have access to the District Health Department Laboratory at Waynesville where specimens may be sent for examination including blood for Wassermann tests, sputum for Tuberculosis, cultures for Diphtheria, feces for Intestinal Parasites, and various other things including the typing of Pneumonia.

HEALTH EDUCATION: After all the entire program of Public Health work is largely one of education. Every activity engaged in carries an element of education as well as numerous lectures and talks that are given, together with a certain amount of newspaper articles.

We have reached the stage in our civilization when it has become nec-

essary to violate some of the former rules of personal privilege in order to protect the general public against the carelessness and indifference of an element of our population. We are required to send our children to school and the state should be expected to provide a healthy environment for them.

FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS

I announce my candidacy for Register of Deeds, subject to the Democratic primary, and will appreciate your support.

D. DOUG DAVIS

FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS

I wish to announce my candidacy for the nomination for Register of Deeds, subject to the Democratic primary to be held on June 7. I will appreciate your support.

ROSCOE O. HIGDON

JOE GISH

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