

RESULT OF EXPERIMENT WITH TUBERCULOSIS VACCINE GIVES HOPE OF COMPLETE SUCCESS

Greatest Discovery Ever Made For Immunizing Against Tuberculosis.

A plan for an extensive trial of Dr. Albert Calmette's BCG, a substance used in the vaccination of cattle against tuberculosis, is made by Dr. Allen K. Krause, Editor of the American Review of Tuberculosis, in the October number of that journal. Doctor Krause points out that Doctor Calmette's position as Assistant Director of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, and his extensive studies covering over twenty years give sufficient warrant of success, so that American investigators are being asked to repeat Calmette's experiments and confirm them by demonstrations on cattle in various parts of this country.

BCG, which is the name that Doctor Calmette gives his vaccine, is a strain of tubercle bacilli which has been grown through 230 different generations on medium of potato cooked in ox bile. The peculiar characteristics of these germs is that while they are like other tubercle germs in most particulars, they are unlike them in this respect—that they do not cause the ordinary processes of tuberculosis, the setting up of tubercles, and the subsequent destruction of bodily tissue. When these germs are introduced into the system of young animals they protect these animals against attacks of tuberculosis.

Calves inoculated with BCG have resisted efforts to give them tuberculosis with virulent tubercle bacilli for as long as eighteen months. Calmette and his associates have aimed within five years to rid previously infected farms of tuberculosis by gradually doing away with the non-vaccinated cattle and keeping only the vaccinated ones, as these through the natural increase by birth would replenish the herds. Up to May, 1924, they have vaccinated 127 young calves all of which remained in perfect health. The conclusion reached by Calmette is that present vaccination and annual re-vaccination are absolutely harmless.

Since forty per cent of mature adult cattle, that is, 5 years of age and over, generally throughout the country give evidences of tuberculosis, Doctor Krause points out that any efforts to extend Calmette's experiments and make BCG useful everywhere would mean a saving of countless millions of dollars to the cattle industry of the world.

Doctor Krause points out also that Calmette's experiments in vaccinating babies within the first nine days of life are suggestive, but he questions whether the time has arrived to experiment on the active immunization of children in this country. He intimates that before this is attempted, the most exhaustive investigation should be made on cattle; for, as he says, "one cannot help feeling certain that whatever will keep cattle from getting tuberculosis will also eventually be found to prevent the disease in man." Calmette's BCG is useful only in animals that have not previously been infected with tuberculosis. For others the BCG is of no value.

Notwithstanding the knowledge and previous scientific work in tuberculosis by Dr. Calmette, and the implicit confidence placed in his ability and integrity, yet it is necessary that his work, as Dr. Krause says, should be "checked by many observers in many lands on many animals, and later on many infants that will likely be exposed to infection by their mothers, and that the United States of America, with its favored economic and scientific outlook and its warm appreciation of the author's work in the tuberculosis world, is the place to have a large share in proving the value of Calmette's method."

Notwithstanding the fact that the proof of the value of this BCG or vaccine cannot be accepted at this stage of the investigation, as typhoid and diphtheria preventive inoculations are, and notwithstanding the fact that it is only effective as an immunizing agent in those who have never had any infection of any kind by the tubercle bacillus, yet in all probability this is the greatest discovery that has ever been made toward immunizing against tuberculosis.

Arrangements have been made by the National Tuberculosis Association whereby investigators properly approved may be able to secure Calmette's BCG for experimental purposes, provided that such investigators meet certain conditions laid down by the Association.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

At the last regular meeting of the North Carolina Club, Mr. Paul W. Wager discussed Business Efficiency in County Government. As an introduction to his paper Mr. Wager recalled that in 1917-18 the Club had discussed this subject and the discussions when published in the year-book had attracted great attention within and without the state, in fact more than any Club. The North Carolina Club was exploring a new field. The awakened interest in local government created by the appearance of the Club Year-Book led to the State and County Council held on this campus in September 1919. Here were gathered more than three hundred representatives. The Governor presided, and state and local officials brought their problems up for discussion. It was a unique conference and had a healthy effect on North Carolina government, both local and state.

Two years later came the first Regional Conference on Town and County Administration. The state association of county commissioners at their 1922 meeting endorsed practically every one of the suggestions which had grown out of these conferences.

Owing to lack of time Mr. Wager had to confine his remarks to the necessity for a more business-like administration of county affairs. He said, there is not a Democratic way and a Republican way to run a courthouse or build a highway, but there is a business-like and an unbusiness-like way, the business-like way being to administer public affairs as simply, as directly, as openly, and as cheaply as possible.

Tax Assessing
There are three phases of county finance: tax assessing, tax collecting, and tax expending, and North Carolina counties have been deficient in all three.

As for tax assessing, it is to the interest of taxpayers that all property be properly listed, and at a uniform valuation. Every assessing officer is required to swear that he will enforce the provision in the constitution requiring that "all property be taxed by uniform rule according to its true

value in money." Yet the law had been so completely disregarded that in 1919 the Legislature had to pass a Revaluation Act requiring that all property be listed at its market value. The result was that the assessed value of all property rose from \$1,099,000,000 to \$3,156,000,000, or an increase of nearly 200 per cent. There were added to the tax books more than one million acres of land that had previously escaped taxation. Unfortunately this valuation was made during a period of inflation and after the slump there had to be a readjustment which was left by the Legislature in the hands of separate counties with the result that we are now further away from a standard valuation than ever before.

Tax Collecting
Mr. Wager next mentioned the delinquent taxpayer, and the listing of his property for sale, but in actual practice not conducting a bona fide sale. Nobody will buy because of the annoyance involved in getting a valid title, and the county officials do not

buy in the property because they are afraid of the political effect. For a while the unpaid taxes stand against the land, but soon a new set of county officers come in; they do not wish to make themselves unpopular by trying to collect old debts, so the state is wiped off and the new administration begins afresh. In some counties the loss from uncollected taxes, due to these lax methods, is as much as ten or fifteen percent.

The cost of collecting taxes has been unnecessarily high as a result of paying the sheriff on a commission basis, since he is paid 5 per cent on the first \$50,000 collected and 2 1/2 per cent on the balance. It is evident that with taxes averaging \$280,000 per county, this is a pretty lucrative commission.

The treasurer has been another unnecessary expense, for there are clerks in every county which would gladly handle county funds for nothing. At least twenty-six counties have abolished the office of county treasurer, or rather have chosen some clerk as treasurer.

Tax Expending
The other main source of waste is in the expenditure of the funds. In 1922 there were only fourteen counties whose current expenditures were less than \$100,000, while there were

fifteen that spent over \$500,000. Strange as it may seem, only three or four of these counties have systematic business-like methods of handling these funds—no business manager, no complete audit, and no methodical book-keeping. Most of the officials are elected because they are good fellows and need the office. They are not selected for their business qualities in the majority of cases.

Mr. Wager cited a long list of actual cases recently brought to light within the state which illustrated his charges of waste, inefficiency, and occasionally fraud.

In one county it was discovered that a carload of flour had been loaned to a merchant. If the flour was ever returned there was no record to show for it.

In another the sheriff had collected about \$2,000 after the reports had been sent in to the auditor. He had paid all the state had demanded and was yet due \$2,000 but did not know it.

In Lenoir county an audit saved the county about \$30,000, still the auditors did not charge any official with intentional wrong-doing—just a result of laxity in the keeping of the records.

One county reports "The tax collected after the books were closed and the errors and insolvents just about

balance, so we make no record of these."

In one county of the state the sheriff is \$50,000 short. Yet in spite of this the voters of his party re-elected him. He later withdrew his candidacy.

In one county the Clerk of the Court, who was a good fellow, misappropriated some \$27,000 before finally being caught.

In a nearby county the County Board of Education has been found guilty of practices that are not only unbusiness-like but illegal.

It is a common thing to begin making collections for the new year before the books are closed for the previous year. In this way shortages may be concealed for years. In one county the Commissioners had not had a settlement with the sheriff in four years.

No Headship
In our national government we have a chief executive in the President who appoints the heads of the departments. In a city either the mayor or the city-manager has the appointive power. But in the county there is no chief executive and no gradation of authority. Even the county commissioners have no effective control over the separate offices. They simply audit the books for payment after the debt has been contracted. If the bill is reasonable they pay it, if it is unreasonable they fume a little and then pay it.

Some Remedies
In conclusion Mr. Wager mentioned ten principles of business efficiency in county administration that would help to lessen the waste of public funds.

1. List all property at a uniform rate of valuation.
2. Attach a heavy penalty to willful concealment of taxable wealth.
3. Abolish township assessors and all other township officers.
4. Abolish the office of county treasurer.
5. Collect all unpaid taxes from personal property if possible. Land should be sold as a last resort and then it should be a bona fide sale.
6. Except in the poorest counties put all officers on a salary basis; every fee and commission to be collected and accounted for.
7. Devise and install a simple and uniform accounting system in every county, with a manual of instructions.
8. Secure adequate appropriations to provide the state auditor with a competent set of field agents so the annual audits may be completed.
9. Provide a full-time business manager to execute the orders of the

board, act as purchasing agent, audit the bills as represented, and prepare the annual budget.

10. Establish a budget system in every county and publish each year an intelligible report of the finances. —University News Letter.

"NOTICE OF RE-SALE"

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of an order of re-sale given from the Superior Court in the matter of F. W. Hoyt versus The Peoples Bank, the bid at the former sale having been raised within the time required by law and in a manner prescribed by law, the undersigned Receiver for The Peoples Bank, will on Wednesday, the 26th day of

November 1924 at twelve o'clock M. in front of the Courthouse Door of Martin County at Williamston, N. C. offer for sale, at public auction, for cash, to the highest bidder, said sale to be made subject to confirmation by the Court, the following described property, to-wit:

That certain property in the town of Williamston, N. C. on Main street, known as The Peoples Bank, together with certain easements thereto belonging, and all furniture and fixtures thereof, and being the same property heretofore sold by the undersigned Receiver, and now being resold on account of the bid at the former sale having been raised.

This the 10th day of November 1924.
J. G. STATON, Receiver
for The Peoples Bank.
11-11-24

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John C. Scholl, painter, Ford Motor Company Charlotte, paid annual premium of \$2.00 on August 8th, 1924, for one of our Federalized Travel Accident policies. He was instantly killed, November 6, 1924, when his automobile was wrecked at Statesville Avenue crossing in a collision with a switch engine. Above check shows that claim was paid on fourth day after accident.

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