

In three schools where patch-testing for tuberculosis has been completed one school had 25% of the students positive, and the second had 49% positive, while the third had 5% positive. These will be followed up by chest X-rays to find the source of contact.

In one school 56% of the children of ages 5-8 had carious teeth, and 54% of those aged 9-12 had carious teeth, while among the older students it was 45%.

Two schools have 96% diphtheria immunizations and 100% small pox immunizations. At one school, of the 67 students examined by the nurse, 13 will need to be examined by the doctor. Eye examinations have been completed on only 19 students.

A field that is entirely open in the schools is hygiene and physical education. The public health nurse is trying to show the teachers and students in two schools so far some new games and body-building exercises. The students have welcomed it and keep asking for more. Incidentally, it helps them to forget their injections!

All in all the public health program needs to be pushed, we feel, especially in the field of health education. We must take full advantage of this opportunity. For instance, if one can prevent Juan from getting tuberculosis through health education and preventive measures, by finding that his mother had tuberculosis through following up of his positive patch; or if Antonio can be prevented from getting small pox by having a vaccination; or if Candido can be helped to finish school by assisting him to get proper glasses; then one can feel that the program is worth every bit that is put into it.

DISPENSARIO MEDICO

We are now holding two pediatric clinics and one general and prenatal clinic each week in Rio Prieto which is about six miles from the project. The average attendance is about 30 each half day. There are also clinics every day except Sunday in the local dispensary in addition to the many patients who come daily to our out-patient department.

It is a real thrill to see mothers bringing their children for immunization and trying to carry out the advice the doctors give them. One man said, when he brought his child for a check-up after it had been in the hospital with pneumonia, "You know, before you Americanos came, when the children got pneumonia we expected them to die; but look, my child is living!", and he continued to pour forth thanks and more thanks. How glad we are that we can do this little bit, but we always feel sorry for those which we have not yet been able to reach.

AN ENTIRELY NEW THING

is a class for comadronas (mid-wives). We hope to begin the class in December or January with at least six women of this area, and four from the surrounding area who have asked if they could attend. About 90% of all the babies are born at home. One out of every ten babies dies within the first two weeks. This class for comadronas is an important opportunity because: (1) there is an urgent need, (2) local Puerto Rican lay-people will be doing health teaching and health practice, and (3) they will be meeting and thinking out solutions to their own problems.

One thing that is so wonderful about the entire work is that after you have done some little thing for someone, he looks up in your face and asks, "Why did you do this for me?" And one can answer, "Jesus gave his life for me, so isn't it with reason that I should try to give a little?" And the next time he comes to the clinic, he timidly hands you the last two eggs in his house, hoping that you will approve of his gift. And your throat fills up so you can't talk.

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

PERSONNEL:--Elizabeth Roop, laboratory technician of Linwood, Maryland, arrived on the 11th to fill this long-vacant position in our unit. On the same day Erma-linda Selpa, registered nurse of Ponce, also arrived so that we now have a full time nurse in our out-patient department, greatly facilitating the work there. The membership of the unit is now at an all-time high.

On the 13th Maurice Click and Howard Wolf received their CPS discharges. Both Dr. Burke and Dr. Helfrick were in San Juan September 3-9 taking the medical examinations for their licenses to practice medicine in Puerto Rico. On the 15th Dr. Burke assumed the medical directorship in anticipation of Dr. Myer's departure for the States next month. Dr. Burke is also adding tooth extractions and the fitting of glasses to the service of the hospital.

Antonio Gonzalez Arvelo of Lares, who through the efforts of the education committee is now attending Manchester College, recently wrote the unit about his experiences in the States and particularly in college.

SEPTEMBER VISITORS--Robert Bogue of the U. S. Public Health Service in San Juan and his friend, Mr. Kile; Dr. and Mrs. Earl Stover, dentist from Aibonita and the La Plata project; Rev. and Mrs. Paul Lauver, Mr. and Mrs. Springer and son Freddie all from the Mennonite Mission at Pulguillas, near Aibonita; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Martens, former director of La Plata, now returned to the States; Melvin Lauver, new director at La Plata; and Leroy Mann, secretary at La Plata;--the La Plata members were attending the director's meeting held here on Friday, September 9; Florence Wesley, a free lance writer who contributes to the Christian Science Monitor; Virgenmina Bobe who was with us, training in our hospital during the summer, now completing her training at Presbyterian Hospital in Santurce; Wanda Brown, now attending Robinson School in Santurce; Dr. H. J. Williams, and family of the Union Seminary in Rio Piedras.

ALUMNI NEWS:-- Jim and Mary Martin are now at New Haven, Conn. where Jim is attending Yale Divinity School; Jim Mason completed a trip to Europe on a cattle boat this summer and is now attending Bridgewater College, as is also Bill Johnson. Herman Will received his discharge from Big Flata, N. Y. on July 24th, flew from Chicago to Havana on August 2nd to attend two Latin American Evangelical Youth Conferences in the interests of the International FOR, then on to Mexico City August 20th to visit in nine cities, returning home this last month to begin work with the Methodist Peace Commission. Howard Sollenberger has flown to China as director of the China Tractor Driver Unit, two sections of which are already on the way, Mary Gosnell has a nursing position at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, Ore. John Groel had published in The Nation his eye-witness account of the recent La Paz, Bolivia revolution. Fred Kidder reports that another of his Alumni Newsletters will soon be on the way. We are indebted to him for many of the changes of address of alumni on the following page.

CASTANER ALUMNI ADDRESSES

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