

## REGISTRATION NECESSARY

### TUBERCULOSIS CASES SHOULD BE REPORTED



**R**EGISTRATION and reporting of living cases of tuberculosis, in a manner similar to the reporting of other infectious diseases, is now required by state law or regulation of boards of health in 33 states and territories out of 53. Five years ago only 14 states had legislation on this subject. The increase is looked upon as a sign of marked progress in the anti-tuberculosis movement by The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, which issues a bulletin on this subject to-day.

Based on figures obtained from cases of tuberculosis reported in Cleveland, New York, and other cities where thorough registration is employed, is estimated that for every death from consumption in the United States, of which there are on an average 200,000 annually, there are constantly more than five living cases, making at least 1,000,000 in all. Of this million cases, it is estimated that the health authorities have records of not more than 100,000 to 150,000, or one in every eight or ten, and that, for the great majority of cases recorded, no hospital, home, or dispensary care is provided. Practically nothing can be done to control the spread of tuberculosis in the unreported cases.

Of the 33 states where reporting of cases is required, adequate or reasonably complete records are kept in not more than eight. Twenty state and territories have no laws or regulation requiring the reporting of tuberculosis and in most of these states consumption is not classified officially by the health authorities as a communicable, infectious disease. These states are, Arizona, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Philippine Islands, South Dakota and Wyoming. Special laws requiring reporting and registration of tuberculosis have been passed in Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. In twenty other states, tuberculosis is included in the lists of infectious diseases that must be reported by physicians.

In concluding its bulletin, The National Association says: "Reporting of living cases of tuberculosis to the local and state health authorities in the first requisite in any adequate campaign to control the disease. No efforts to prevent the spread of consumption can be successful until the actual living cases are both known and properly cared for."