

This means work, hard work, but the reward will be living souls.

I shall expect each superintendent to acquaint himself with the home conditions of every Indian family on the reservation and to adopt practical and effective means for quick and certain improvement.

Superintendents must organize such a system of cooperative information through their employees as will enable them to do this, exercising, of course, great care and discretion in gathering the requisite information.

I shall consider, on the Superintendent's recommendation, a reasonable use of individual Indian moneys for the improvement of insanitary homes, where the family has such funds. In the absence of such moneys, every effort must be made to secure clean and wholesome conditions through the efforts of the adult members of the family. If there are no members physically able to labor, expenditure may be recommended from the funds, "Relieving Distress and Prevention, etc., of Disease Among Indians."

The crux of the matter is this: We must, if possible, get rid of the intolerable conditions that infest some of the Indian homes on the reservation, creating an atmosphere of death instead of life.

It will be the duty of the field matron to learn of conditions existing in the Indian homes and of cases requiring medical attention and report them to the Superintendent. It will be her duty to see that the prospective mother knows what equipment is necessary for the proper care of her new-born babe, and the importance of the provision which the husband should make for the health and comfort of the mother and child should be early and urgently impressed upon him.

Physicians must be promptly advised of all cases of prospective motherhood and they must see that proper attention is given before and after that event, arranging, if practicable, for hospital facilities where the home surroundings are unfavorable. Special effort should be made to see that the mother has nourishing food before and following child-birth.

I am advised that the death rate among Indian babies is most excessive after the nursing period when, through ignorance or carelessness, they are given improper food, such as green fruits, melons or corn, made further harmful perhaps by the presence of flies, and from the use of which intestinal disorders are almost sure to follow.

There should be vigilant and unrelenting effort to impress upon parents the great importance of supplying food which will furnish proper nourishment for the growing child. There should be constant endeavor to educate parents to an understanding of the value of a sufficient supply of cow's or goat's milk, or condensed milk, pure water, and suitable solid food, and to the necessity of maintaining cleanliness of person,