

## SPEAKERS PRAISE WORK OF COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AT THE LUNCHEON GIVEN AT SAINT MARKS

The Public Health association of Jackson county enjoyed a luncheon at the St. Mark's parish house Wednesday noon. Over seventy-five members and guests were present.

Dr. Wm. W. P. Holt, secretary of Jackson County Public Health association introduced Mrs. Sadie Orr Dunbar of Portland, executive secretary of the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health association, who told of the beneficial work the state organization is doing. Good healthy children with

active minds, in the aim of this association. A sick child, both in mind and body, is a detriment not only to himself, but to the whole community.

Dr. Estella Warner of Portland, director of Child Hygiene in the state, gave the prime motive of this branch of public health as one of education maternal and infant hygiene work. It is to inform mothers in the care of their children and to keep in mind always to make the present and future generations strong, healthy and hap-

py. Without a healthy body the mind is handicapped and it is to the interest of everyone in the state to do their part.

Judge Gardner of the county court, gave a most interesting address.

"We spend money on our orchards, county and civic interests, but do we give the children of our state as much support for the benefit of their health as we do the other things," said Mr. Gardner. "It is not the healthy child who appears in our juvenile courts but the weak and defective child who thru no fault of his own is placed in such circumstances. The Deformed and Defective Child law of our state is a vital factor and should be enforced at all times. We cannot measure in dollars and cents the value of putting a healthy man or woman in society to help carry on the responsibility of our nation. Our first duty is to report any child in the county who needs attention to the Public Health association, and they will take care of the child to the best of their ability."

Miss Margaret Devereaux, Jackson

county public health nurse, gave the following address and report:

Each year in Jackson county the county nurse and her association have tried harder than ever to put before the public the fact that good health is a purchasable commodity and the price is education.

There are three classes of people we aim particularly to serve, the first of these being the tubercular, to prevent spread of this disease and to arrest its development where found. Sanitarium care is always advised, but if the patient is not amenable to this idea, at least the best home conditions are striven for. Three patients have been helped to gain admittance to sanitarium this year. Also we are putting on a tuberculosis survey this spring which has been approved by the county medical society. In fact it is they who have invited Dr. Bellinger of the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium to hold the chest clinic at the end of the survey. Admission will be free.

Then there is our work with the school child. It has been said that

the health of the growing child determines largely the health and the bodily vigor of the grown man. Therefore we realize the important factor in school medical inspection, that is, to note and to urge the correction of any physical defects of the child in order to insure the future efficiency of its manhood. Experience shows that the failure to prevent and correct impairment of vision and of hearing, failure to secure dental attention, failure to correct postural defects, failure to place the normal child in an environment best suited for physical development greatly restricts the range of industrial, business and professional opportunities in adult life. A number of defective children are unable to take full advantage of their educational opportunity.

Eleven hundred seventy-one children have been inspected since the latter part of August. 348 were not defective, leaving 68 per cent defective. Perhaps a list of the defects found would show further the need of this work. There were 114 cases of

defective vision and eyes; 273 cases of defective tonsils; 68 cases of nasal breathing; 413 cases of defective teeth; 99 cases of enlarged glands; 66 cases of skin diseases; 4 orthopedic; 2 hair lip; 3 cleft palate; 4 tongue tie.

One child disfigured by double hair lip and cleft palate is in Portland at the expense of the county court receiving surgical treatment as allowed by the Crippled Children law. One case of tongue-tie has been successfully corrected and there have already been tonsillectomies, etc., performed as a result of the nurse's visit this year. 256 corrections had been made during the past year as a result of Miss Fairdine's work. 90 visits were made to school children's homes. 863 written notices were sent to parents regarding defective children. 427 children have been weighed and measured. 112, according to the nurse's cards were found seriously underweight. The nurse regrets to state that those assisting in the weighing did not at first always write the weights given on the pupils' card kept

by the nurse. Some districts I found particularly healthy, others in such a malnourished condition it was enough to haunt one.

**Infant and Pre-School Work**

To insure healthy school children we find our infant and pre-school clinics a very necessary part of our program. 13 clinics with a total of 295 attending is what has been done since July. Over 300 children were weighed, measured and advised at the fair. Our clinics are diagnostic with a doctor attending or in the form of a children's health conference where the nurse and home demonstration agent weigh and measure the baby and advise the mother as to feeding and care. Any abnormal condition is always referred to the family doctor in both kinds of clinics. It is wished, however, that supervisory clinics with a doctor in attendance might be held monthly in certain of our communities to prove to the mothers the greater value of regular checking up visits to the doctor than only calling him in when the child is ill.



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