



An
Investment
In
People

Cook County
Department of
Public Health

ANNUAL REPORT

1959



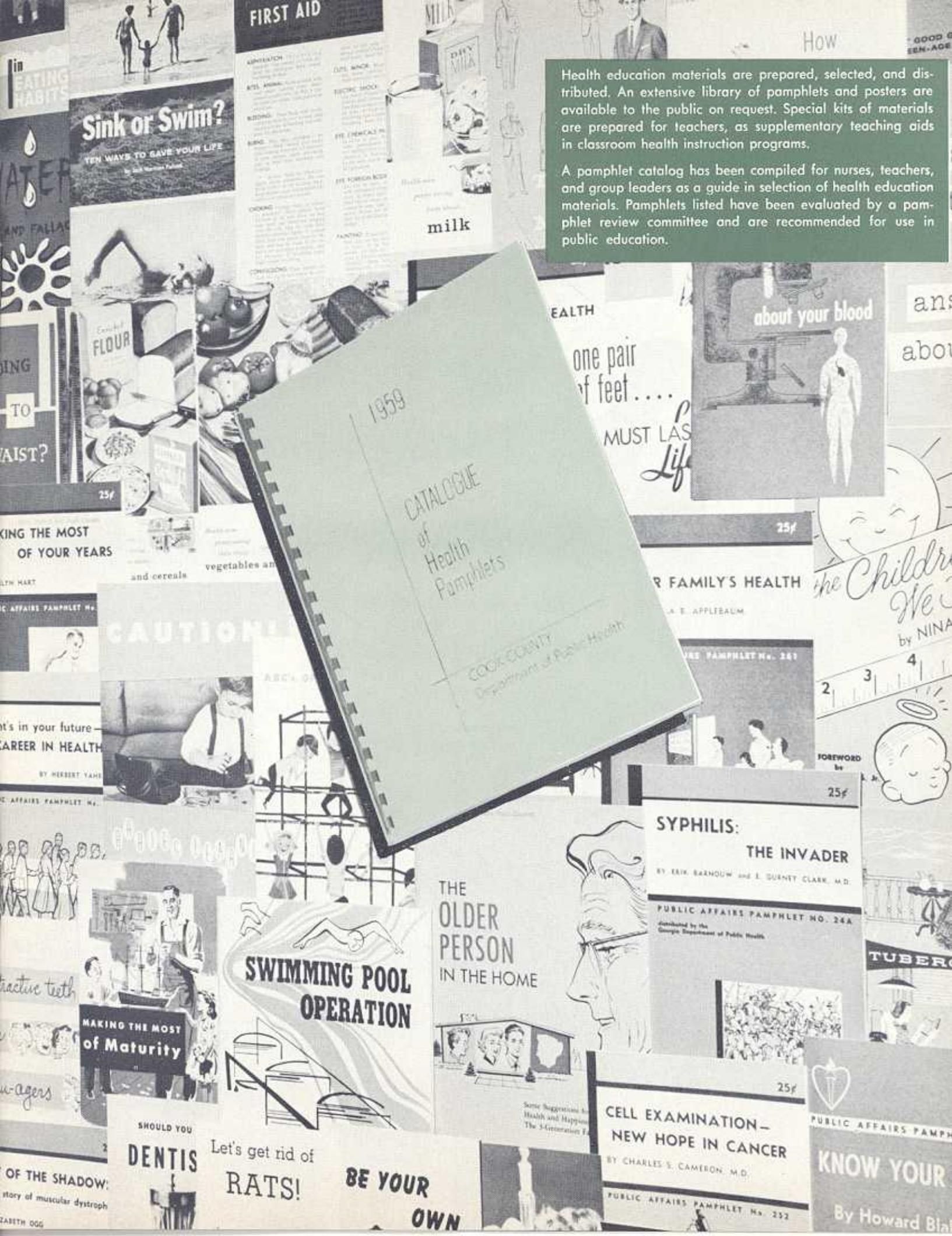
**danger
at
hand**

Accidents . . . not polio, pneumonia, leukemia, tuberculosis or communicable diseases, are the No. 1 killer of children. Nearly half of these accidents occur at home. Information from death certificates indicate that home accidents claim the lives of more children between 1 and 4 years than any other single cause.

During 1959, there were 472 cases of accidental poisoning reported to the department. Of these 90 per cent occurred in children under 6 years old; half were due to non prescription household remedies, such as solvents, insecticides, mothballs, and paints.

Unsuitable storage of toxic substances within the reach of small children caused 80 per cent of these poisonings.

The public health nurse visits the homes where children have accidentally taken poisons. Attention is also focused on potential accident hazards in home visits, child health conferences and schools. The department recognizes the need for greater emphasis in home accident prevention programs.



Health education materials are prepared, selected, and distributed. An extensive library of pamphlets and posters are available to the public on request. Special kits of materials are prepared for teachers, as supplementary teaching aids in classroom health instruction programs.

A pamphlet catalog has been compiled for nurses, teachers, and group leaders as a guide in selection of health education materials. Pamphlets listed have been evaluated by a pamphlet review committee and are recommended for use in public education.



Sink or Swim?
TEN WAYS TO SAVE YOUR LIFE
By John M. Edwards

FIRST AID
ADRENALIN
BITE WOUNDS
BURNS
CUTS
DISEASES
EYE WOUNDS
FALLS
HEALTH
KIDNEY
LIFE
MILK
NAILS
NOSE
POISONING
RIP
SCALDING
SHOCK
SUNBURN
TORN
WOUNDS
ZEBRA
ZEBRA

FLOR
25¢

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR YEARS

CAUTION!

CAREER IN HEALTH

MAKING THE MOST of Maturity

SWIMMING POOL OPERATION

THE OLDER PERSON IN THE HOME

SYPHILIS: THE INVADER
BY ERIC BRANOUW AND E. GUENY CLARK, M.D.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLET NO. 248
Distributed by the Georgia Department of Public Health

CELL EXAMINATION - NEW HOPE IN CANCER
BY CHARLES S. CAMERON, M.D.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLET No. 252

DENTIS

Let's get rid of RATS! BE YOUR OWN

KNOW YOUR
By Howard Black



Last year over 1900 babies arrived prematurely to suburban Cook County residents, requiring special medical and nursing care. Private ambulance service is provided to transport these babies to hospitals equipped for their care. Homes of babies weighing four-and-a-half pounds or less are visited by the public health nurse to help prepare the mother and family in the care of the new baby.

A prenatal clinic is conducted twice each month at the health center in Robbins. Prenatal and postnatal care is given to registered patients by obstetricians who are employed on a part-time basis. Plans for delivery are made at Cook County, Illinois Research and Provident hospitals.

Preschool years are important in the development of every child. Mothers of well children, ranging in age from birth to four years who are not under the care of a private physician, may receive counseling and a continuing appraisal of their child's health in one of the child health conferences sponsored each month.

Mothers are helped to understand feeding problems, as well as physical and emotional development of growing children. Immunizations are given against whooping cough, smallpox, diphtheria, tetanus, and polio. These conferences are staffed by pediatricians assisted by public health nurses.

Birth certificates are reviewed for premature births, home deliveries and evidences of birth abnormalities. Investigations are then made by the medical and nursing staff. Certificates showing cause of death due to communicable diseases and complications of pregnancy are reviewed, as well as death certificates of new born infants.

At the end of October, 1959, when a case of typhoid fever was reported in a resident of a trailer park, an all out campaign was instituted in the immediate area to prevent the spread of the disease. The ensuing investigation and control program was an example of swift and efficient teamwork by all divisions of the agency.

The sanitation department immediately investigated and cleared the sewerage and water facilities of the camp. The clerical staff, at a moment's notice, prepared and mimeographed hundreds of record cards and information leaflets for the residents of the park who might have been contacts to the case. These leaflets were planned by the health education division. Finally, the nursing and medical personnel set up a series of four weekly on-the-spot typhoid immunization clinics which were well and gratefully utilized by the park inhabitants.

The owners and operators of the trailer park gave enthusiastic support and the loan of facilities for the immunization program.

Eight immunization clinics are held monthly at the district offices of the department for medically indigent persons. Emphasis is being placed on promoting immunization of adults as well as children. The department has aided several community groups in planning adult immunization clinics and will encourage more of these facilities in the future.

TB is killing fewer people every year in the suburban area, even though the number of patients discovered are increasing slightly. More and more children are being discovered with tuberculosis. This trend was noticed in 1958 and continued during 1959. There were 308 TB cases in 1958, and 37 deaths.

School health services continue to increase with larger school enrollments, more teachers and many new buildings. Packed school rooms and limited public health nursing personnel have necessitated a shift in emphasis from direct school health services to one of advisory service and health counseling to school personnel.

Throughout the school year, the public health nurse meets with the school administrator and faculty to help plan health programs. She helps prepare them for emergencies, first aid, physical and dental examinations, and meets in teacher-nurse conferences. Throughout the year, she helps with screening programs, and the health needs of children with special physical and emotional handicaps.

With the valuable aid of volunteer workers recruited from the community, the school child's health receives careful and continuing attention.

Many requests for aid in planning health instruction programs for elementary schools have been channeled to the public health educators during the past year.

Dental examinations conducted during the past year by the department revealed 92 per cent of school age children needed dental care. In fifteen school districts, where families are unable to afford to go to a private dentist, complete dental care was provided for children from 2 to 16 years. Clinics are set up in schools and health centers and a traveling dental unit serves the rural areas.

Although the corrective dental service is important, it is through health education that children and adults are guided in developing wholesome attitudes regarding care of the teeth. Dentists, nurses and health educators work together in promoting dental health programs.

**POLIOMYELITIS CASES AND DEATHS
IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY 1955-1959**

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cases	311	220	36	6	18
Deaths	19	7	1	0	2

**CASE REPORTS OF SELECTED
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES 1958-1959**

Disease	1958	1959
Chickenpox	2,472	1,679
Diphtheria	1	0
Encephalitis	18	11
German measles	2,750	253
Measles	3,447	501
Meningitis (all types)	50	37
Mumps	1,110	578
Psittacosis	0	4
Rheumatic fever	73	109
Scarlet fever	397	459
Strep throat	346	763
Typhoid and paratyphoid	1	3
Whooping cough	12	11

No smallpox reported in Suburban Cook County since 1942.

**LIVE BIRTHS; DEATHS, ALL CAUSES; AND
TWELVE LEADING CAUSES
SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY: * 1957 and 1958**

	Number	
	1957	1958
POPULATION, Estimated	920,000	1,178,000**
LIVE BIRTHS	30,375	30,966
DEATHS, All causes	8,387	8,862

TWELVE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH
Ranked according to 1958 experience

	1957	1958
Heart Disease	3,594	3,754
Cancer	1,478	1,566
Vascular lesions of central nervous system	805	837
Congenital malformations and certain diseases of early infancy	513	584
All accidents	421	410
(Motor vehicle)	(186)	(206)
(Other accidents)	(235)	(204)
Influenza and pneumonia	335	322
Diabetes mellitus	129	168
General arteriosclerosis	96	115
Suicide	89	108
Cirrhosis of liver	105	94
Hypertension, without heart involvement	44	74
Nephritis and nephrosis	89	70

*Health Department Jurisdiction

**Chicago Community Inventory

VITAL RECORDS FILED FOR YEARS 1955-1959

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Live births	641	1,377	1,548	1,759	1,936
Stillbirths	22	26	31	35	27
Deaths	3,254	3,470	3,901	4,033	4,047
Total	3,917	4,873	5,480	5,827	6,010



Foods for senior citizens and children differ little. This grandfather needs meat, milk, fruit, vegetables and breads the same as the youngster, though in smaller amounts. A happy meal-time is important to oldsters and youngsters alike. Nutritionists are available to give consultation on food needs, food values, and food services.

Water supplies serving ten or more units are under the control of the State Public Water Supply Control Law. One hundred and twenty serve incorporated and unincorporated areas. Seventy draw water from their own wells; fifty use Lake Michigan water from Chicago and other communities on the lake.

The health department public water supply program includes plant inspection, routine monthly water sampling for each community, review of plans involving plant changes and main extensions, and technical advice.

Analysis of samples from public and private water supply systems, swimming pools, private wells, new main installations and Forest Preserve District wells are made to confirm results of inspections. Approximately 9,000 samples a year are submitted to the Chicago Branch Laboratory of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Reports are prepared by the engineering staff and forwarded to the responsible individuals.

Sewage disposal in Cook County is accomplished through various methods. The concern of the health department is with the small treatment plant serving a unit such as the trailer park, restaurant, motel, etc., and with the private sewage disposal system serving the individual home.

Approximately 135 treatment works investigations were made in 1959 and about 70 stream pollution inspections.

To install a private water supply and sewage disposal system, an approval must first be obtained from the department. On May 1, 1959, a further restriction was instituted and now, prior to issuance of an approval, our field personnel make a field survey of the lot in question.

Approximately 1100 approvals were issued exclusive of revisions and rejections.

Sewage disposal and stream pollution is becoming more acute in Cook County and more time should be spent on these problems; however, due to lack of personnel, time can be spent on a demand basis, only.

Before a new subdivision utilizing individual sewage treatment can be platted, the section of the report dealing with percolation testing must first be reviewed and passed on by the health department. Thirty such subdivisions were reviewed and approved in 1959. We now require that overall subdivision test be witnessed in the field by health department sanitarians and engineers. This regulation resulted in the rejection of six subdivisions and should prevent large scale private sewage disposal system failures.

There are 85 outdoor and 28 indoor public swimming pools to be inspected and graded each year. In addition, a number of new pools are proposed. These pools are inspected and graded each year by our personnel under the State Swimming Pool Law.

Tourist parks are regulated by the department through enforcement of a County Tourist Camp Operating Ordinance. Operating permits are issued following inspection.

Municipalities having local stringent ordinances exercise control over the tourist camps within their limits. In several instances, the health department acts in an advisory capacity in the enforcement of local ordinances.

There are 88 trailer parks and 62 motels in Cook County. Some are in areas that are exempt from licensure; however, check inspections are made yearly. Two trailer parks have been closed and 14 have been referred to the State's Attorney for legal action for various violations.

Requests for service or abatement of nuisances are received in connection with private water supply and sewage disposal systems, e.g.; bathing and recreational areas and subdivisions, stream pollution nuisances, garbage and refuse dumps. Investigations are made, information furnished or corrective action requested.

In many instances, failure to secure voluntary correction, necessitates enforcement proceedings through the State's Attorney and the County Courts although this is used only as a last resort since court procedure is time consuming and expensive. About 400 nuisance complaints have been received in the Central Office of which 68 per cent have been closed.

Through cooperative programs, the Sanitary Engineering Division makes inspections and prepares reports on all sanitation facilities and establishments in Cook County which are the responsibility of the State Health Department. There is no countywide ordinance for regulation of sanitation of food handling establishments. The health department advises communities having regulations, and upon request, makes surveys of food handling establishments and conducts classes for food handlers.

Advisory service is furnished engineers, contractors, homeowners, and others interested in the facilities and conditions affecting environmental sanitation. Many meetings are held with official, community and private groups and individuals to furnish correct and advisory service relative to these problems.

To help secure sanitation facilities to comply with accepted standards of design, the sanitary engineers review and approve plans and specifications for proposed projects.

Today, as a population we are growing older and increasingly are becoming victims of the many disabilities of aging. Chronic illness, especially among older people, is the No. 1 health problem. People over 65 represent eight per cent of our population. Rehabilitation of the chronically ill and aged means restoring these patients to self-help and greater independence. Better coordination of services are needed by the many agencies and institutions that care for the chronically ill.

The demand for bedside nursing care to the aged with chronic illness is on the increase. This service will continue to be limited unless there is an increase in the number of nurses available to give this care.

As a means of preventing heart damage the department in cooperation with the family physician is on the lookout to find and bring under treatment all rheumatic fever cases. Patients in need and unable to buy medicine are furnished sulfa drugs and antibiotics. A registry is kept up-to-date of all patients receiving medications. Information is sent to the family physician when records indicate the patient is not following recommended medication schedules. This is done so these persons may be returned to regular treatment.

Patients taking regular prophylaxis and observing good rules of health seldom have a recurrent attack of rheumatic fever. When the department is notified of a case, a public health nurse visits the patient. Of the 225 patients receiving drugs, the majority are children. This program has been developed in cooperation with the Chicago Heart Association.

NUTRITION

Chief.....Martha J. Thomason, M.S.
Nutritionist.....Martha M. Tosti, M.S.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Chief.....Thelma Cline, M.A.
Assistant Chief.....Myrtle Sorenson, M. Litt

SUPERVISORS

Bridget M. Campbell, M.Ed.; Maria Coburn, M.A.;
Elaine Nemoto, M.A.; Edith Nyden, B.S.
Assistant Supervisor.....Faye Krauss

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Katherine Ase, B.S., Rita Bakewell, B.S., Joanne
Becker, B.S.*, Marilyn Becker, B.S., Harriet Blain,
B.S.*, Dorrence Calhoun, Carol Chwatal, B.S., Mary
Dawson, Annelle Durrenberger, Rosella Fingert*,
Nancy Folan, Willa Mae Hinson*, Rosella Honey,
B.S., Elizabeth Howard, B.S., Lois Jarnigan, B.S.,
Marsha Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Joyce, B.S., Joan
Kostick, Barbara Kudrnosky, B.S.*, Mary Maloney,
Mary McCann, Mary Jane McElligott, Helen Nys-
trom, B.S., Frances Oakes, B.S., Irene O'Connor,
May Omura, B.S.*, Frances Peterson*, Adele Rich-
ardson, B.S.*, Mary Stypul, B.S., Patricia Tivnan,
B.S., Darlene Wilke, B.S.*, Eleanor Coghlan, B.S.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Donna J. Thiemann, B.S.†

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

SANITARY ENGINEERING

Chief.....Robert R. deJonge, B.S.
Assistant Chief.....Steven W. Nich, B.S.

PROGRAM SUPERVISING ENGINEERS

LeRoy V. Dzierzanowski, B.S.
Robert J. Wollschlager, M.S.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

John F. Schultz

SANITARIANS

Chief.....Joseph W. Svec,
Morris Albaum, Stanley Gizewski, William Hoffman,
Sylvan Kahn, B.S., Bruno Mannella.

*Resigned **Deceased †Part-Time

AN INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE

Annual Report '59

Cook County Department of Public Health

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Division of Public Health Education

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Organized public health services have been operating in the suburban Cook County area since July, 1940. At that time the Cook County Public Health Unit was established in the Bureau of Public Welfare.

In December, 1945 the Board of Commissioners established by unanimous resolution the Department of Public Health. The department has the responsibility for safeguarding the health of the citizens living in the suburban area, but does not serve communities that maintain full-time health departments as defined by the Illinois Department of Public Health. About 84 per cent of the suburban population is within the CCDPH area, and the other 16 per cent is served by four health departments.

The health department is organized into nine major divisions: General Administration, Preventive Medicine, Dental Health, Maternal and Child Health, Nursing, Health Education, Nutrition, Sanitary Engineering and Veterinary Public Health.

Each division is headed by a chief who is responsible to the director of the department. As a group, the chiefs form a professional team to assist the director in planning health services, determining health needs and establishing broad program policies. Field services are provided largely through four district offices located in Des Plaines, Melrose Park, Evergreen Park and Harvey.

The staff is composed of professional and clerical workers. All professional personnel must meet education and experience qualifications established by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The health department is financed from the general fund of Cook County with additional financial assistance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health. About 53 cents per person is spent for public health services. Experience throughout the nation indicates that a minimum of \$1.50 per person annually is needed to provide a reasonably well-rounded public health service.

Budget—Cook County	\$383,878.00
State of Illinois	150,293.00
	<hr/>
	\$534,171.00



During 1959, emphasis was placed on control of the more than 100 animal diseases that can be a threat to human health. These diseases may be transmitted to man by contact with infected animals or by consumption of meat and milk products that are not wholesome.

The incidence of both tuberculosis and brucellosis in the 10,000 head of cattle in 1,000 herds in Cook County has been reduced to less than one-half of one per cent infection in less than five per cent of the herds.

Routine testing of all of the breeding cattle in the county is making it possible for Cook County to maintain its status as a modified accredited area for tuberculosis and a modified certified area for brucellosis.

Each year there is an increased attendance at the 4-H fairs held in urban Cook County. Since there are more than 750 animals on exhibit at these fairs, extensive precautions are taken to insure the exhibit of only healthy animals. This helps eliminate the possibility of the spread of diseases or infections from animal to animal or from animal to man.



Since the establishment of the birth and death registration system in 1954 there has been a continuous increase in the number of records filed. In 1959 there were 6,010 *births, stillbirths and deaths registered*. A 10 per cent increase in birth registrations is anticipated within the next year. This estimate is based on an increase of about 900 beds in six hospitals under construction and new additions to three hospitals.



The Staff

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

Director..... John B. Hall, M.D., M.P.H.
Resident in Public Health..... George M. Keranen, M.D.
Administrative Assistant..... Leo Hennessy
Administrative Clerk..... Jessie Pierson
Custodial Worker..... Nathaniel Jones

HEALTH EDUCATION

Chief..... Irene Fahey, M.P.H.
Health Educator..... Addie Reninger, M.P.H.*

SECRETARIAL DIVISION

Chief..... Lorraine Johnson
Betty Allen, Rose Berry,** Bessie Bezemek, Mossie Blanton, Alice Buck, Mylah Diffay, Irene Erickson, Josephine Iacuzzi, Dolores Judge, Rose Keenan, Fredrika Kirklng, Lillian Klose, Ruth Lloyd, Margaret Moulding, Agnes Mulvihill, Nanette Rechor,* Cele Riffkind, Marilyn Rosone, Mildred Stockling, Jule Sullivan, Thelma Tarrant.

MEDICAL

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Chief..... John B. Hall, M.D., M.P.H.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Chief..... William M. Hanrahan, M.D., F.A.C.S.

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Chief..... Clarence Hostetter, D.V.M.

DENTAL

Seymour Gould, D.D.S., W. C. Lukaszewski, D.D.S.,
Frank Nuccio, Chauffeur.

Cook County Board of Health

Daniel Ryan, *President*

Elizabeth A. Conkey, *Secretary*

Edward J. Barrett, *Clerk*

James F. Ashenden

Frank Bobrytzke

Charles F. Chaplin

Jerry Dolezal

John J. Duffy

Arthur X. Elrod*

William N. Erickson

Fred A. Fulle

Christ A. Jensen

John Mackler, Jr.

Clayton F. Smith

Edward M. Sneed

John J. Touhy

*deceased

Health Department Offices

Central Administrative Office

737 South Wolcott Ave., Chicago 12
CHesapeake 3-5833

West District

1907-09 Rice Street, Melrose Park
Fillmore 4-6052

Southwest District

3411 West 95th Street, Evergreen Park
GArden 2-7424

North District

1755 Oakton Boulevard, Des Plaines
VAnderbilt 7-5188

South District

51 East 154th Street, Harvey
EDison 3-0006

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . *Tuberculin tests* were done on over 14,500 students in 129 public and parochial schools between October, 1958, and May, 1959. Results of these tests indicated that one out of 25 of the children tested have positive reactions . . . As part of the *communicable disease control* program about \$60,000 worth of biologics were distributed to physicians.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . *Venereal disease* appears to be on the increase particularly among those 15 to 19 years of age . . . Over 5,000 *animal bites* were reported to the department, one animal was found to have rabies . . . *Influenza immunization* was administered to 1,143 county employees by the department's medical staff.

For You Who Live in the Suburbs . . .

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . The *Chicagoland Health Fair* held at the Museum of Science and Industry attracted over 1,200 people to participate in the health quiz planned by the health education staff . . . Equally significant was the number of people who asked for guidance regarding health problems, resources, and community facilities.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . The control of *radiological accidents* . . . The department has a list of hospitals, industries and laboratories using *radioactive materials* . . . In case of an accident involving these materials, an emergency plan has been set up.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . The grass-roots approach to public health . . . Many communities are diligently studying their health needs and resources and planning for more adequate health services . . . The health department staff has been working with these local groups in interpreting the department's services and giving assistance in *community organization*.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . The *School Health* conference held November 21, 1959, for principals of Catholic schools . . . Discussions centered on health needs of school age children and resources available to cope with these problems . . . The meeting was co-sponsored by the Catholic Board of Education and the health department.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . Inspection for *licensing of the 65 nursing homes* is a joint responsibility of medical, engineering, nutrition and nursing personnel . . . The trend is toward an increasing number of nursing homes and the recognition by administrators of the assistance that can be given by the health department.

To the People We Serve:
We need continued support of the citizens and public officials to fulfill our responsibility.

J. B. Hall, M.D.

