

J.J.C.
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LOUISIANA Public Health

Newsletter

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

RECEIVED
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St. John Parish Health Unit
JULY, AUGUST 1960



JERRY MOORE (l.) PHS Health Program representative, conferring with W. F. Roy, chief, VD control section.

VD On Increase In U.S.; Syphilis Cases Up 245 Percent In Louisiana

Early infectious syphilis in the United States is up 46 per cent in the first nine months of fiscal year 1960 (July 1959 through 1960); according to information released by the American Social Health Association (formerly American Social Hygiene Association).

Among the states reporting a significant number of cases, Louisiana shows an increase of 196 cases of primary and secondary syphilis, up 245 per cent.

In the United States, the total increase for calendar year 1959 over 1958 is 36.4 per cent for early infectious syphilis and 3.2 per cent for gonorrhoea. For the same period, early infectious syphilis showed an increase as reported by private physicians as well as clinics.

More states and cities reported increases in VD among teenagers in calendar year 1959 than in 1958.

Nutrition Heart Study Grant Awarded State

The Louisiana State Board of Health has been awarded a grant of \$25,000 by the U. S. Public Health Service National Heart Institute for a special research project in connection with a worldwide investigation of the relationship between dietary habits and the development of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries.

The problem will be a nutrition study of selected Louisiana diet patterns, conducted under the direction of Miss Margaret C. Moore, chief, Nutrition Section, Division of Preventive Medicine, Louisiana State Board of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Pathology of the Louisiana State University School of Medicine.

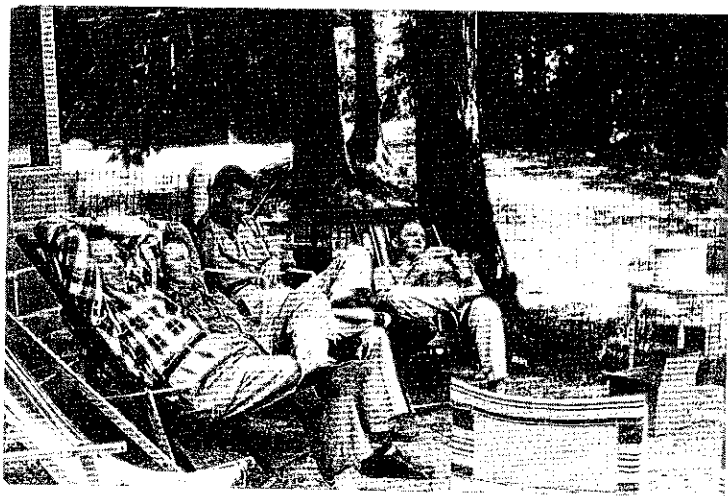
The study will help test the hypothesis that certain diets tend to raise serum cholesterol levels, increase fatty deposits on the inner linings of blood vessels, thus re-

Insect, Rodent Control Courses Set For Fall

The PHS Communicable Disease Center announces fall courses in Insect Control, Sept. 12-23, and Rodent Control, Sept. 26-Oct. 7. Interested persons may enroll for one or both of these courses which will be held in the new Communicable Disease Center facilities at Atlanta, Ga.

Applications for the insect control course must be received by Aug. 12; for the rodent control course, by Aug. 26. For application forms and additional information address: Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta 22, Ga., Attn: Chief, Training Branch.

stricting blood circulation, and making heart attacks more likely. Atherosclerosis is currently rated as a primary factor in the great majority of heart attacks. Heart disease and related circulatory conditions are the leading causes of death both in Louisiana and the United States as a whole, and accounted in 1959 for nearly half of all deaths in this state.



RELAXING AT a fish fry, given for all Ouachita Parish Health Unit employees to "open" the new camp of the O. T. Trapps on Lake Bruin, are sanitarians (from l.) Al Lord, John Hicks, Russell Price and Jesse Carter.

- Photo by Madge Kelly

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ALL ABOUT US

Public health workers are going here, there and everywhere... some studying, some to conventions, some enjoying annual leave... DR. BEN FREEDMAN and DR. MARIE PARETI to Miami (AMA convention) where Dr. Freedman's paper was well-received... DR. JOHN BRUCE attended a 3-week course at the Trudeau school of tuberculosis and other pulmonary disease at Saranac Lake, N.Y.... Dr. Bruce also has the distinction of passing the examination of the American Board of Preventive Medicine in Public Health. (Others in the health department on the Board are DR. ANDREW HEDMEG and DR. CARROLL SUMMER.)... M. E. KOSSACK participated in a 2-week seminar on aging at Chapel Hill and went on to Washington, D.C. at the invitation of Public Health Service.

Hard at work at the University of Minnesota, (June 16-July 30) ROSE ANN LANGHAM, ph nutritionist studying dietary surveys and appraisal in epidemiology research at the Graduate Summer Session of Statistics in the Health Sciences.

Speaking of statistics, our own vital statistics office personnel seem to be Mexico-orientated this summer. MILDRED HOLMES, clerk typist, be-



PEGGY BERTRAND, beauty school student, gets her polio shot from Mrs. Iva Lee De Laune at Calcasieu-Lake Charles Health Unit. The Jane Demmon School of Beauty requires all of its students to be immunized.

- Photo by Lawrence Estaville

came a recent convert to the colorful land South of the Border during a tour that took her all the way to Acapulco... she thoughtfully brought back peso converter information and guidebooks for others who look forward to a similar adventure in August. MRS. PHILOMENE A. LIND, however, headed North to visit her two daughters and their families in New York and Connecticut.

Congratulations to WARREN H. REINHART named "Business Man of the Day" by New Orleans radio station WWOM... MISS ANNA HARRISON, named to the professional committee which will select recipients of the five 1960 health scholarships awarded by the National Foundation... CLIFTON LAWRENCE, new president of the New Orleans Speech and Hearing Center.

Our busy administrative audiologist is also president of the La. Speech and Hearing Association... Tulane university faculty promotions include JOHN E. TRYGG, from lecturer in public health to associate professor of sanitation... DR. GEORGE HAUSER, from assistant to associate professor of epidemiology and pathology.

NEWLYWEDS at Calcasieu-Lake Charles health unit: JOSEPH D. WITHERS, sanitarian, married Patricia Filce of Houma; PEGGIE MC

GEE, steno, became Mrs. Jimmy Jones... GAIL PEPPERONE, vital statistics clerk, Jefferson, married Harold LeNormand

On maternity leave: MARY GAST, nutrition section.

Public appearances: FINDLEY RAYMOND, TAGNO'S versatile public information director, moderated a panel discussion on public health nurse activity, on New Orleans radio station WJBW. Answering questions were MRS. MERCEDES PITTMAN MUNSON, nursing division, and MRS. ANNA AMANN, New Orleans ph nurse.

MRS. N. B. DILLON, Webster ph unit nurse, showed the film, "Rescue Breathing," to members of the Gillark Home Demonstration Club - was rewarded with strawberry chiffon pie.

While MISS ALECIA KLINE, librarian, recovers from an eye operation this summer, her duties are being performed by ELAINE MAY... Another temporary replacement is JESSIE DAVIS, subbing for Nutrition section staff on leave.

Best wishes for a good recovery to DR. L. R. B. CENTANNI, director, Jefferson health unit, who was hospitalized in July.

Pierre Pelican made a mistake... ELIZABETH LEE'S new offspring is a BOY (pictures prove it)!

(Continued on page 5)

Health Nurse Has Adventurous Service at Home and Abroad

" That's the practicing philosophy of St. Mary's nurse, Miss Bertha Dupuy. Her attention, her belief in public health, her attention to the public health clinics in Ama, Killena, Bayou Gauche, as well as weekly all of the other duties of the public health those who need her in the evening — Demonstration clubs, civil defense

Friendship. Help in time of need.

and has made a satisfying hobby of photography.

When did it all start?

Bertha Dupuy, a native Louisiana nurse, received her nursing degree from Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium in Baton Rouge in 1928. After several years of private duty she became a staff nurse at a Wichita Falls, Texas hospital that offered laboratory training. A year-and-a-half later she returned to Louisiana and Lafayette Charity hospital, where she continued her laboratory studies, specializing in X-ray techniques.

In June, 1939 she became a nurse in charge at St. Mary Parish Health Unit and was launched upon a public health career which rapidly took her into the field in Iberville, Allen and Iberia parishes. Her malaria research in North Louisiana stood her in good stead sometime later when, as an Army nurse in England, she was assigned to the malaria ward because of her special knowledge. (The Captain had no experience in treating malaria, and second Lt. Dupuy and her Louisiana corpsmen kept the ward running.)



After 13 months in England, and recuperation from a back injury that hospitalized her for several weeks, Miss Dupuy worked first at a private clinic, then at the Musser-Gordon hospital in New Orleans, while awaiting orders from the Department of Interior. Her next assignment, April 1951, was to Guam where an American nurse was needed to take over the tuberculosis wards in the government hospital.

"I helped the doctor with pneumothorax treatment and supervised 18 nurses," Miss Dupuy said. She also enjoyed deep-sea fishing, picnicking on the beautiful beaches, and mountain-climbing. At the end of her two-year contract she was sent to work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Kakanak hospital in Alaska, 200 air miles west of Anchorage.

That's where she learned to ski and snowshoe, "only they made fun of my snowshoe tracks," she confessed. "The coldest day I can recall was 42 degrees below zero.

Adventurous

Continued from page 3
Piper Cub and Cessna pilots was another phase of the work she particularly enjoyed. This meant flying out to a remote community to bring a patient in to the hospital at Kanakanak, or, when some other hospital in the territory was ready to discharge a patient, meeting the patient and bringing her home.

While at Guam, Miss Dupuy kept in touch with public health work. For two months she was, in fact, the only one on the island who had had public health experience. "I wrote to Miss (Lillian) Jeffers, (director of the Division of Public Health Nursing, Louisiana State Board of Health,) for any material she thought I might use. From the Louisiana and Tennessee manuals we made up policies for public health practices there. When I was on Guam, the nurses had never given DPT's; they'd never seen a case of diphtheria, whooping cough or tetanus on the Island. But after I came back I read that they had had their first case of diphtheria."

Maternity clinics and preschool roundups were held at the government hospital, as they were in Alaska, and Miss Dupuy assisted public health nurses in both places.

In 1954 the much-traveled nurse returned to the States and worked at a diagnostic clinic in Covington. In January, 1958 she returned to full-time public health work. Assigned to the St. Charles Parish Health Unit under Dr. Marietta Alper, she took up residence in Luling, in an "aluminum and bittersweet trailer."

Recently, Dr. Alper wrote in praise of Miss Dupuy's "splendid public health relations" ... "she is well-liked by all principals and heads of civic organizations" ... "she has done a wonderful job of organizing our clinics here on the West Bank."

Around her comfortable, well-equipped trailer home grow the zennias, iris and Princess Feathers she planted. Inside, bloom the floral pictures she paints at night, (instead of watching television), and which she

EPI-TEAM CONFIRMS TYPHOID FEVER CASES

Typhoid fever has been confirmed as the cause of illness reported in St. Mary Parish, the Epidemiology section announced June 9.

Investigation began when an outbreak occurred in the parish last month. The offending food was chicken salad sandwiches, served at a wedding reception attended by approximately 80 persons. Another fifteen persons had eaten some of the sandwiches away from the reception. 27 cases connected with the outbreak have been reported in St. Mary parish, Iberia and E. Baton Rouge parishes. No secondary cases had been reported.

The Epidemiology section said it was reasonably sure it had identified a typhoid carrier, an elderly grandmother who had helped to prepare the chicken salad for the sandwiches.

Investigation and laboratory testing were continuing.

The state board of health's typhoid carrier roster now lists more than 150 known carriers. There were 36 cases of typhoid fever in the state in 1959; 85 cases in 1958, and 64 in 1957.

is beginning to "save for a showing."

Did she choose a trailer home because of her love for traveling? "I bought it because, I couldn't at the time, find any other acceptable housing. But the urge to travel never leaves you," she said, her eyes sparkling, "I wouldn't give anything for my experiences."

It Pays To Be Curious

See page 8



1. If a family is going to have a new house where there is no community sewage system, should plans be made to install a septic tank?
2. Are septic tank systems dependable?
3. Is installation of septic tanks permitted in new subdivision housing?

Dr. Armistead Returns

Dr. T. N. Armistead has returned from educational leave and has been assigned as health unit director in De Soto, Red River and Claiborne parishes. He will serve as consultant to Bienville parish, and as assistant to Dr. H. N. Barnett in Bossier and Webster parishes, the Division of Local Health Services advised June 28.

Dr. Kathleen White will continue to serve as district clinician in Winn, Jackson, Lincoln and Union parishes, and will assist Dr. Armistead in clinic duties in De Soto, Red River, Bienville and Claiborne parishes.

HOW TO SAVE LIVES

You hear about it, read about it, witness it, and someday it may be your story — how you saved a life with mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing.

You may have seen the films, "Rescue Breathing," and "That They May Live;" taken a life-saving course as a member of the Coast Guard auxiliary, Boy Scouts, or other group; seen a demonstration by your public health nurse, sanitarian, or health educator — or you may be one of the thousands who read about the life-saving technique in the Times-Picayune Sunday supplement, Dixie.

Thanks to the widespread publicity, and quick acceptance by the medical and public health profession and the public, lives are being saved everyday through the mouth-to-mouth rescue technique.

ALL ABOUT US

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Sympathy to: JERRY MOORE, VD section, death of brother...MRS. MELBA BOURG, typist-clerk, Jefferson, death of father...CHARLIE MAE SIMS, East Baton Rouge, death of father-in-law; GRACE L. PRICE, Shreveport laboratory, death of brother-in-law; MAY JEANNE STEWART, Crippled Children's Services, death of brother.

Public health workers extend their sympathy to the family of MR. JOHN J. HOLTGREVE, who died Sunday, July 24, following a stroke.

Mr. Holtgreve, former president of the Jefferson parish police jury, was the recipient of the first annual Felix Formento Memorial Award, conferred by the Louisiana Public Health Association in 1956. The award was made in recognition of the promotion of legislation authorizing millage tax elections in support of parish health units.

MRS. WAVA MOUTON, Lafayette regional nurse, made a brief visit to our office so we could admire her new slim silhouette - which we did. While we were assembling the material for this issue, MRS. JOSEPHINE LEVEQUE, vari-typer operator, took annual leave to entertain her daughter from Chicago.

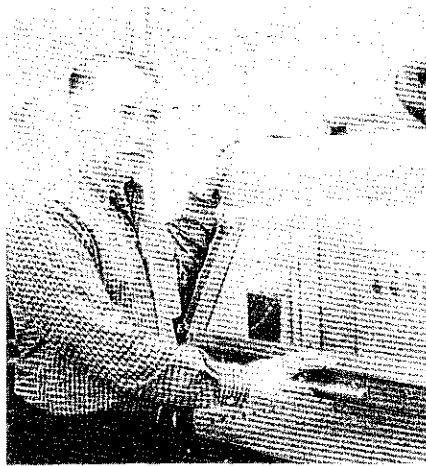
Two Loyola dental students, CHARLES VANDERLICK, Alexandria and BRUCE BUTLER, New Orleans, are getting public health experience this summer under the supervision of the Dental and School Health section.

6 WEEK CLASSES AT YMCA ADULT SCHOOL

New Orleans men and women interested in obtaining information and free catalogues on adult education classes at the YMCA Adult School may telephone JA 5-5141, or visit the YMCA at 936 St. Charles Street. Classes meet once-a-week for six weeks, and there is free dancing and swimming for all students every Friday night.

Friends Afield

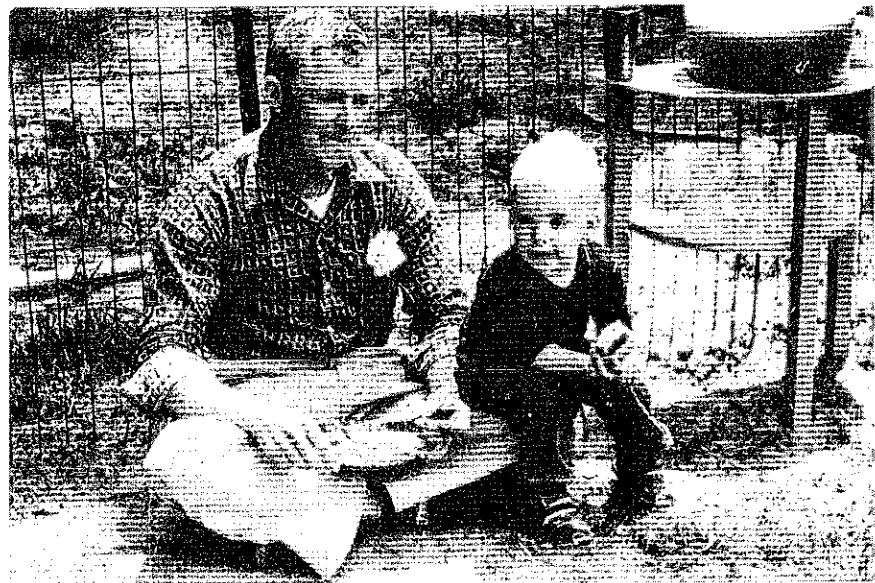
IN LAFAYETTE PARISH



ALBERT F. BOYD, JR., is the man in charge of the Lafayette Regional Laboratory.



EDITH FONTAN is supervisor of public health nurses at Lafayette Parish Health Unit.



A SERIOUS moment at the fish fry. John Hicks, Ouachita sanitarian, and son Randy, might be discussing the "one that got away" or planning their strategy for the next fishing trip.

- Photo by Madge Kelly

Mary Murphy, nursing supervisor, Jefferson, picked up this "Quotable Quote" from Reader's Digest: "In the business world an executive knows something about everything, a technician knows everything about something - and the switchboard operator knows everything."

"Dental racketeers are using every available means to advertise their "buy-direct-and-save" bargains," warned the Texas Health Bulletin in its June issue. Pointing to the tragic experiences of those trapped by dental bootleggers, dental experts warn that there is no cut-rate bargain in dental health.

Summary of 3 Acts Amending State Retirement Laws

Three acts, amending the State retirement laws were passed at the regular session of the Legislature and became effective as law on July 27. The three acts, amending Sections 582, 583, 571.1 and 590 of Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 42, Chapter 10 are briefly summarized, as follows, by the La. State Employees' Retirement System, P. J. Becker, Executive Secretary:

Act 197 (House Bill 819)

Section 582(A) No change, except provisions for retirement at age 60 with 30 years of service incorporated in Section 584 (below).

(B) Provides that a member with 25 years creditable service or who is eligible for retirement and dies leaving a surviving spouse, said spouse upon application shall receive benefits under Option 2 with no reduction if deceased member 55 years of age or over, if under 55 reduction of 3% for each year under age 55.

Section 583 (1) Formula revised from 1½% for each year of service to 1½% for first 10 years, 1¾% for next 10 years and 2% for years of service over 20, other provisions of this computation no change.

(2) The minimum formula for a member who has at least 10 years of service and has attained the age of 65 revised to:

(a) 60% of first \$1,320.00 of average compensation.

(b) 22% of next \$2,880.00 of average compensation.
Plus 1% for each year over 10 years of service to be added to the 22% under (b).

Section 584 Provides that no reduction in computation as provided in 583(1) above for member who has attained age 60 with 30 years of creditable service or disability retiree who has attained age 55.

Provisions of this Act 197 of 1960 extend to all members employed in State Service as of May 1, 1960.

Act 219 (House Bill 1369)

This act amends Section 571.1, Title 42 of Revised Statutes and provides the conditions and methods of securing credit for service that has not previously been accredited, including service prior to and after 7/1/47. Essential requirements for claiming service under this section are as follows:

(1) Membership -

(a) Employee membership must be in effect on or before July 27, 1960.

(b) Person elected to state office in 1960 and who is under age 65 on July 27, 1960 must elect membership before January 1, 1961.

(2) Claim for Service -

(1) Service from 7/1/47 to 10/1/60 must file a detailed statement, showing name of employer and earnings by calendar or fiscal years ending June 30;

(2) Service prior to July 1, 1947 must be claimed before 1/1/61 by filing detailed statement of service claimed.

(3) Payments -

(1) State service for period 7/1/47 to 10/1/60 requires payment of employees and employers contribution, both of which may be paid by the member, based on payments that would have been paid had employee been a member, plus compound interest at 2% per annum. Payable in lump sum or deferred payments as agreed upon; complete payment in any event before October 1, 1964.

(2) Service claimed under subsection "C" of Act 219 of 1960 requires payment of 11% of compensation, plus 2% interest compounded annually payable before October 1, 1964 either in lump sum or deferred payments as agreed upon.

Act 311 (House Bill 452)

2 More Hepatitis Victims in Shreveport

Two more victims of the infectious hepatitis outbreak at a Shreveport elementary school were reported. (NEWS LETTER, June 1960) Dr. Virginia E. Webb, Caddo-Shreveport Health Unit director, said this was the only large concentration of the disease in the parish, although other cases have been reported at scattered points throughout the parish.

Hepatitis is one of the few diseases that showed a considerable increase in the United States in the first half of 1960 when compared with the same period last year.

According to the PHS Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (July 8), about 19,700 cases were reported as compared with about 12,000 in the first half of 1959, or an increase of about 64 percent. Since the beginning of the disease year, which began about September 1, the increase amounted to about 63.2 percent.

One or more states in each geographic division of the country have reported increases in the present year which indicates a countrywide rise in incidence. The reason for this increase is not known although it usually is suggested that it represents part of the upward swing of a cycle.

This act amends Section 592 of Revised Statutes, Title 42, Chapter 10, to provide that retiree receiving disability benefit payments who has attained the age of 60 years is not subject to adjustment of said benefits for any earnings, except in State Employment.

The above brief summary subject to the actual provisions of the acts and as provided by Rules and Regulations of the Board of Trustees of the System.

For additional information, please address your inquiries to Mr. Walter Smith, Personnel Officer, Louisiana State Board of Health, P.O. Box 630, New Orleans 7.

Current Clips

The New York State Public Health Council has passed a regulation making footprinting of newborn infants mandatory, Dr. Herman E. Hilleboe, State Health Commissioner, announced. The new regulation to the State Sanitary Code became effective July 1.

Although small in incidence, tetanus continues to be a highly fatal disease in California. In 1959 there were 43 cases reported, with 22 deaths, reports California's Health, June 1960.

"A study of the nature of injury and type of wound indicates the majority of the cases occurred as the result of home injuries. The most frequent injuries were puncture wounds caused by nails, toys, and splinters in the course of home repair work, gardening, and yard cleaning."

Orchids to Miss Laurraine Goreau, women's editor of the New Orleans States-Item, for her lively, informative feature on poisonous plants. This is the kind of public health support for which Miss Goreau received the Dr. Felix Formento Memorial award in 1958.

Ninety-seven diagnostic hearing clinics were held in 27 Louisiana parishes during the 1959-60 school year, the Section of Dental and School Health announced.

2362 children, an average of 24 per clinic, attended. Each had "failed" an audiometric hearing screening test, given as part of the school health program, and attended the clinic for further testing and diagnosis.

The St. Helena Parish Health Unit at Greensburg held Open House Friday, July 1 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Waterworks Warning Network Plan Is Announced by Trygg

Complete details of a formal water works warning network plan for the Lower Mississippi River were announced in June by John Trygg, director of the division of public health engineering.

Participating in the system would be the water works operators and officials, the state board of health, the Louisiana Stream Control Commission, and state industries.

"The system, (see February 1960 NEWSLETTER), would provide a reasonable safeguard to the quality of water going to the consumers," Mr. Trygg said.

The published plan sets up specific procedures to be followed and lists the responsible persons to be contacted in case of reported accidental discharges by industry into the Mississippi River. Mr. Trygg noted that the warning system will also fit in well with Civil Defense functions.

The Indianapolis and San Bernardino County health departments were judged winners of Samuel J. Crumbine awards for sanitation programs.

The annual competition, sponsored by the Public Health Committee of the Paper Cup and Container Institute, was open to more than 1200 local health departments throughout the country.

A workshop on the Determination of Pesticide and Antibiotic Residue in milk was held June 27-30 at Central Laboratory. Sponsored by the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Center, USPHS, the sessions were attended by 34 representatives from Louisiana and Texas. Participants were from the state board of health central and regional laboratories, and food and drug division, dairy companies, LSU dairying department, and testing laboratories.

HURRY

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PHOTO CONTEST

A limited number of copies of the contest rules are available. If you'd like an extra copy write to the Newsletter, P.O. Box 630, New Orleans 7.

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Theory and Administrative Practice

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ANSWERS TO

"CURIOUS"

1. No. The Louisiana State Board of Health Division of Public Health Engineering discourages the septic tank method of sewage disposal for homes built outside community sewage system areas. Sewage disposal through community collection systems and treatment plants is much more effective and satisfactory. Before planning to use a septic tank, it is best to check with sanitarians of the local health unit, the Engineering division, or both, and to study the division's 1959 "Bulletin No. 3, Subdivision Sewerage Systems - Policy and Maintenance."

2. Within their limits, yes. For example, a vacation cottage in a wooded area, miles from the nearest town, may be adequately served by a properly installed and maintained septic tank. It is another question when a septic tank is to be subjected to year-round use where many houses are close together. Here everybody's septic tank must be properly installed and maintained, or public health problems will develop; in many instances, they develop anyhow. Liquid wastes, overflowing to ground surfaces, may contain typhoid and dysentery germs, create offensive odors, form breeding grounds for mosquitoes and disease-carrying insects. Over the long run, community sewage disposal is more satisfactory, and indeed, is less of a headache and less costly to the individual home owner.

3. In rare instances, possibly yes, but the trend is definitely against it. If homes in a subdivision are to be built with federal mortgage financing aid, plans must be approved by the Public Health Engineering division of the Board. If it is proposed to build the subdivision where there is no community sewage disposal system, and the homes instead are to depend on septic tanks, the builder must submit justification in the form

SAFETY ZONE

Unlike other plants and vines, poison ivy has three leaves on each stem - Leaflets three - let them be! The leaves, during most of the summer, are dark green and rather shiny. In early spring new shoots are quite red and in the fall the leaves take on a red coloring. Leaves and branches contain an oily sap which, upon contact with the skin, causes the characteristic rash of poison ivy.

The onset of ivy poisoning is usually quite sudden and may occur from 1-7 days after exposure. The rash appears as itching water blisters and is accompanied by swelling of the area. Scratching often spreads the blisters to other parts of the body. Scratching also may cause infection, with resultant slow healing.

People seem to vary considerably

.....
of a "feasibility" report.

If (1) percolation, drainage and soil condition tests show that septic tanks can be satisfactorily maintained on a perpetuated basis for no longer than five years or until community sewage disposal becomes available; if (2) the builder or an organization of home owners undertake to supply perpetuated maintenance; and if (3) septic tanks are installed with a system of collecting tank and filter bed effluents for the conveyance of raw sewage which can be readily converted and connected with a sewage treatment plant later, septic tank installation might be acceptable. It is doubtful, however, that all of these conditions can be met satisfactorily in most cases, so approval is problematical.

A NEWSLETTER salute to the daily and weekly newspapers in Ouachita Parish. Clippings for the past several weeks from the Monroe Morning World, News-Star and Ouachita Citizen show a lively interest in public health programs; news articles and editorials encouraged polio immunization, and generally promoted improved health for parish residents.

in their susceptibility to ivy poisoning. Susceptible people should avoid contact with the plant, and also with contaminated tools, gloves or clothing. They should be careful in handling pets which may have been in contact with poison ivy.

The best way to avoid ivy poisoning is to avoid exposure. But, with exposure, prompt action should be taken to remove the oily sap from the skin. Scrub the affected areas thoroughly but gently with lots of strong, soapy lather, and rinse thoroughly with water.

Your physician will advise you about immunization measures.

For further information, a pamphlet, "Poison Ivy," is available from your parish health unit, or the Division of Public Health Education, P.O. Box 630, New Orleans.

Health Teams Go From Door to Door In Polio Campaign

Believing that new methods were needed to step up interest in polio immunizations, the Philadelphia Health Department last summer chose to go out to the people who wouldn't come to the polio clinics.

A 10-week effort was launched last July, involving four teams of health personnel. Each team had a physician to give injections, a public health nurse to go door to door to tell people about inoculations, a nurse to assist the physician, a health educator to act as "advance" man, a registrar, and a sanitarian to drive a station wagon - and make announcements over a loud speaker.

In the ten weeks they inoculated 37,879 individuals, more than 75 percent of whom were preschoolers or persons over 19. While the nation's polio incidence in 1959 soared over the previous year, Philadelphia reported its incidence in 1959 as 73 percent below what it was in 1958.

The program is described in March "Public Health Reports."