

A. System
Stat. Div.
Pm. 23

TUBERCULOSIS IN NEW YORK CITY 1957

SEARCH FOR TUBERCULOSIS IN A TRANSITION PERIOD

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A review by

ANTHONY M. LOWELL

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NEW YORK TUBERCULOSIS
AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION



Alex Lyden

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Search For Tuberculosis In A Transition Period

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AD ASTRA PER ASPERA -- This motto might well serve as a guide for the anti-tuberculosis movement at the present juncture in its long road toward the eradication of tuberculosis. That it is a long road and beset with difficulties few will deny. Yet it is one which gives hope in that we have a goal, that some of us may see attained, when the White Plague will be more or less of a medical curiosity rather than the relative scourge it is today. The last decade has been a period of transition in tuberculosis control. There is real need of revitalization of viewpoint and aims. The routine everyday tasks in controlling tuberculosis may dull our sense of achievement and vision so that there can be a lessening of the enthusiasm that is so sorely needed in fighting a disease of chronic character. We must retain a sense of dedication to the cause which is as urgent today as it was in the time of Trudeau. The ultimate objective should be constantly in the mind's eye in the midst of our daily work.

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Special acknowledgments are due the Bureau of Tuberculosis, the Bureau of Records and Statistics of the Department of Health and also the Department of Hospitals, City of New York, who have generously made available important detailed statistics of their community-wide activities. Thanks are also due the cooperating tuberculosis hospitals throughout the New York Metropolitan Area, and other Authorities who have continued to furnish reports and have assisted in providing basic information on tuberculosis. -- A.M.L.

TUBERCULOSIS HIGHLIGHTS
NEW YORK CITY
YEAR 1957

TUBERCULOSIS, among eight million New York City residents, was responsible for:-

- 982 deaths in New York City,
- 6,117 newly reported with active disease,
- 20,716 known active "cases" on record during the year, and
- 11,364 persons still under medical care or supervision on December 31.

* * *

Thousands of other New Yorkers were going about the city, with unknown active tuberculosis, unaware of serious illness. These unwitting potential spreaders of disease remain a constant health threat to their families and friends.

* * *

Routine chest x-ray examinations of 246,503 on admission to General Hospitals disclosed 1,643 with active pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Department of Health and the Tuberculosis Associations took 769,628 x-rays in case-finding programs.

Specific antibacterial drug treatment for tuberculosis by the Department of Health alone was being provided to 5,709 individuals by the end of the year.

At year-end 11,364 residents with active tuberculosis were under medical care and supervision. Of these 5,756 were in hospitals and sanatoria, 3,481 attending clinics, 778 under private physicians' care, and 1,349 under other types of supervision.

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