

PUBLIC HEALTH

Leprosy Reported Weekly

► WEEKLY REPORTING of leprosy has now been inaugurated by the U. S. Public Health Service. This means that state health officers will include in their weekly telegraphic reports of communicable diseases to the federal health service in Washington any cases of leprosy discovered in their respective states that week.

Actually there are very few cases of this disease in the United States. The total number of new cases reported in 1941 was 49. Nor do the federal health authorities expect any great increase in numbers of cases. They do, however, want to know where the new cases are occurring and especially whether any occur in any of our port cities. Patients with leprosy are excluded from the United States under our quarantine regulations, but the disease in its early stages is very difficult to diagnose so presumably there is always a chance that a patient might come into the country without his disease having been discovered.

The disease is not very "catching" in this country, so there is no reason for great alarm if a patient with leprosy is discovered in a community. In some other countries, such as Hawaii, where it is more prevalent, it also seems to spread much more, especially to young children in families where there is an adult with the disease.

There is a marked tendency toward spontaneous arrest or improvement in leprosy. In Hawaii in one year, about one-fourth of some 500 patients who had been segregated reached the stage of being non-infectious and were allowed to return home. This tendency of leprosy to become arrested spontaneously, while hopeful for the patient, makes it difficult to determine the value of specific treatments. Chaulmoogra oil and its derivatives have been widely used, but after 10 years experience with it in Hawaii, officers of the U. S. Public Health Service concluded it was not of special value and now rarely give it to any except those patients requesting it. For most cases the treatment is like that given to tuberculosis patients in a sanatorium. Local treatment of sores is given as needed and with good care, many of the deformities, such as loss of feet or hands, can be prevented.

The U. S. Public Health Service maintains a National Leprosarium at Car-

ville, La., where patients from any place in the United States may go for the best in modern care of the disease.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Children Think Teachers And Students Like Them

► AN OVERWHELMING majority of the school children recently tested believe that their teachers and other adults like them, and that their fellow classmates also like them. Several hundred children, at all school levels, indicated this feeling of security in a survey conducted by the Research Department of the Los Angeles County Schools.

In the primary grades, 81% of all children questioned felt that adults, including their teachers, did like them; at the elementary level (grades 4 to 6)

the figure was 63%. Of senior high school students, 88% indicated that their teachers "approved of them."

Another interesting fact brought out by the questionnaire was that over three-fourths of senior high school students felt they held a significant place in the life of their school, while not quite two-thirds felt similarly about their homes.

At all levels the students felt secure in the esteem of their classmates. The figures for primary, elementary, and junior high school levels were 93%, 78% and 84% respectively.

Among the minority group who believe their teachers don't like them, there is evidence that the lack of a feeling of "belonging", or "acceptance" accounts for many personality difficulties. The test emphasizes how important it is for teachers to understand the personal problems of their students.

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Meat is absent from the diet of three-fourths of India's population, largely because of religious prohibitions.



WAR METALS are recovered from floor sweepings by this machine at the Vultee Aircraft Company. First device of its kind to be used in the airplane industry, it is saving some 400,000 pounds a year of small parts and scrap. Gold miners will recognize in this device the same principles that are applied to recover yellow wealth from the gravel of stream beds. Like the useless rubble of the placer beds, refuse is forced out the end of the trommel screen. Various sizes and types of valuable material are shunted into hoppers which are located at the side.