

The work of the State Department of Health is obviously of paramount importance. The Department was much concerned about illness and deaths resulting from pneumonia. With modern control methods, it is now possible to reduce sickness and death from this disease. In the past, pneumonia in Maryland has been fifth in the causes of death. It has been exceeded only by diseases of the heart, nephritis, cancer and cerebral hemorrhage, but exceeds deaths from accidents, tuberculosis, diseases of early infancy, diabetes and syphilis. I included in my budget an appropriation of \$10,000 to the State Department of Health for pneumonia control.

Dr. Maurice C. Pincoffs, whom I appointed a member of the Board of Health, developed a State-wide program of pneumonia control which last year was effective in reducing the mortality rate from 94.8 to 77.8 per 100,000 of the population. This was accomplished by free distribution of drugs and serum to physicians for treatment of patients who could not afford to but the same, and by assisting doctors in diagnosis and treatment by examinations of specimens in bacteriological laboratories. The promptness and reliability of this service has been of great help to practicing physicians. A total of 50,000 sulfaphradine tablets (the drug largely used in the treatment of pneumonia) were distributed to physicians last winter.

Bacteriological laboratory service is a vital element in the program of public health and medicine. More and more the essential nature of laboratory service in these two fields is becoming apparent. Laboratory service is not only of vital importance to both public health and medical practice, but is a most valuable link in bringing these two groups into an harmonious relationship which is necessary to a realization of the potential good which both these fields can be to society as a whole.

There has been a marked increase in the work of the Bureau of Bacteriology reflecting the greater activity of both groups. Examinations have increased from 131,140 in 1935 to 244,510 in 1939. New branch laboratories have been opened at Frederick, Elkton, and Annapolis. Two other laboratories are planned for opening before long. One of these will be at La Plata and will, through close affiliation with three small hospital laboratories, give public health and medical laboratory service so badly needed in Southern Maryland. The other will be at Easton and serve Talbot County and adjacent counties and aid in the public health control of the shellfish industry in this area.

Two matters of supreme importance to health authorities are deaths from diseases of the heart and the hygiene of maternity and infancy. Within the last year, the Health Department has organized two demonstrations in Anne Arundel County; one offering obstetrical services to women unable to pay the cost, and the other a study of heart disease in children. These studies are being made in cooperation with the Federal Government and, because of the efficiency of the State Health Department, Maryland was selected as the demonstration area for this important work.

The above statement recites a gratifying increase and expansion of activities which have become accepted as public health procedures. It is not enough, however, to stop there. I have been much interested in and have supported two other constructive projects which will be most beneficial to our people. Reference should be made, first, to the work of the Committee on Medical Care and, second, to the work of the Almshouse Commission. With reference to the first, I have approved and made available sums of money for a survey