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THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS* NOVEMBER 7, 1969

There appears to be a growing belief that tuberculosis, having dropped from first to a place far down the list of causes of death, is no longer a threat. This is not a new development, really, because from the beginning of public health interest in the disease, its true nature has not been widely understood or appreciated. Physicians and others who, through study and experience, have come to know more about tuberculosis have attempted by various educational devices to inform others of the danger. The Tuberculosis Committee of the American School Health Association has been one group of such "educators" attempting, over the years, at first to reduce and later wipe out the threat of tuberculosis to all personnel in the school environment.

For many years, the tools have been available to eradicate completely tuberculosis in our public schools. All that is needed is a desire to do so, and people dedicated to the task. For instance, if all children entering a school system for the first time were tuberculin tested; if all non-reactors were retested at regular intervals throughout their school years; if all reactors were followed both as to source of their infection and future experience with it through x-ray and other clinical techniques; if all school personnel having any contact with school children were to submit to annual study for signs of tuberculosis, our task would be accomplished. That is what would happen if all our schools were able to display a Certificate of Accreditation for Tuberculosis Control, a plan designed and fostered by J. Arthur Myers, M.D., who for many years was chairman of this committee until he retired.

In recent years, the activities of the Committee on Tuberculosis have been largely devoted to arranging programs, usually at the National level, where successful plans for tuberculosis

control could be described or where well known authorities on tuberculosis described new and exciting facets in the total problem of tuberculosis eradication. Because of a shortened program at the annual meeting of the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association (NTRDA), at which we have for many years, conducted a program, this year (1969) the decision was made to have our "educational" program as part of the annual meeting of our own organization. This meeting was scheduled for Monday evening, November 10, 1969, at the Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia. George Hanzel, M.D., Pulmonary Disease Section, Department of Medicine, Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, discussed "Preventing the Development and Transmission of Tuberculosis in the School Environment; Identification and Management of the Infected".

MAX L. DURFEE, M.D., *Chairman*
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

MLD/sa

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*Of The American School Health Association.