

Outline--Major Humphrey's Talk
JAC Public Health Program

HH File
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INTRODUCTION

General good health of community

Safest place in country for woman to have baby; low infant mortality rate at birth.

However, situation in general health field could be much improved. Highest number of cases of diphtheria annually of any city of comparable size. ✓

Number of deaths of infants under one year has increased slightly each of past three years, while rate for country as a whole has decreased.

There is a big gap between ways science has developed to prevent spread of communicable diseases, and the application of these methods by the individual in this community.

Medical authorities agree infants should be immunized against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough before first birthday. Even though this is simple and safe, parents are negligent in Minneapolis in having children properly protected in this respect.

45% of children who entered school for the first time last fall, in Minneapolis, had not been immunized against diphtheria, 37% had not been immunized against smallpox.

Second important angle of improved general health has to do with legislation. For some unknown reason the city council has been resistant through the years to revising health ordinances, as increased knowledge of subject indicated inadequacy of present legislation. For instance, the city ordinance for sanitary standards for food and drink establishments was written in 1921, with very minor changes since.

JAC's to be complimented for bringing this situation to public attention.

State legislature has been negligent in providing, as a minimum, permissive legislation which would permit the cities and counties to form what is known as county or district health departments.

Obtaining necessary local and state legislation is contingent upon public interest and support.

"I cannot over-emphasize the importance of sooner or later coming to grips with our fundamental legislative problem as it pertains to our public health services. It is also important that we have some sort of compilation of ordinances in this city which we can truly call a public health code. If we do not have ~~to~~ personnel to do this on our municipal payroll, then perhaps it can be done by voluntary service."

No public health code available to citizens, including those starting new businesses.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE - Requests received for establishment of a division of occupational hazards in the city health department.

No organized program leading toward detection of cancer, through providing facilities for diagnosis of disease, as there is for t.b.

Health department facilities and services have been expanded but little in past several years. Have expanded some in size, but no extension in services.

Recently attempt made to house health department services and facilities as a single department under one roof. A start was made last year when all clinic services and public health nursing services brought together a Public Health Center, 240 South Fourth St.

The initial step permitted the taking over of only a portion of the building. Funds need to be made available for taking over additional space in the building which will permit housing additional public health nursing staff and the establishment of needed public health clinics such as child health, cancer detection public health clinics. Providing the necessary funds for more adequate public health services to meet community needs is not an expense but an investment. Expenditures of funds for public health give the highest return for each dollar of any public expenditure.

CONCLUSION - Final result from any such expansion of services, or of effectiveness of present services, depends upon use by citizens. Minnesota is one of four states where no laws can be passed requiring various types of immunization. Therefore cooperation of public, for mutual good, will make Minneapolis a healthier place to live. Without that cooperation, no coercion possible to achieve necessary end.



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