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M.O.H. Report For 1943

We continue the report of the Medical Officer of Health, the first instalment of which appeared last issue:

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Maternal and Child Hygiene—There is not yet any instruction in prenatal infant and pre-school care under the direction of the Board of Health. All such activities have been carried out by family physicians.

Tuberculosis Control—The following statement shows the extent to which our programme for the control of tuberculosis has been carried out in the municipality. There were three cases of active tuberculosis in Georgetown two of which are in sanatoria and one adequately cared for at home. Bovine tuberculosis has disappeared in Georgetown during recent years on account of the compulsory pasteurization of all milk.

For the past few years diagnostic clinics have not visited Georgetown as there did not appear to be enough suspicious cases to warrant their continuance. An Out-Patient Clinic at the Mountain Sanatorium, Hamilton, is operated one day weekly for clinical examination and x-ray of any suspected cases. There is no charge for this service if the individual cannot afford it; for those who can, a small fee is charged for the x-ray plate.

An In-Patient at a sanatorium receives free treatment. When discharged, the patient who cannot afford proper food, clothing, housing and medical care can look to the municipality to provide such essentials. Formerly many of these unfortunate people suffered reactivation of their infection when they returned to unhygienic conditions. No ex-patient required such help in Georgetown during 1943. All contacts of active cases of tuberculosis in Georgetown have been re-examined and will continue to be re-examined at regular intervals as long as they remain in the municipality. The tuberculosis situation in Georgetown is satisfactory.

V. D. Control—The following statement shows the number of patients:

- (a) under treatment at the expense of the municipality and the Provincial Department of Health—none;
- (b) number of contacts and sources of infection located and placed under treatment—three.

There has been an increase in V.D. in the municipality during 1943—chiefly in the floating population incidental to war industry. The Local Board of Health have difficulty in tracing those who leave the town while still infected.

Cancer Control—There are no municipally sponsored measures for the control of cancer. Since cancer is not communicable, the most important means of eradication of this disease is by dissemination of information about its early diagnosis. There is not yet any panacea for its cure. Treatment by radium, x-ray, and surgery offers a hope of cure for most cases of malignancy if used in the early stages of the disease. Georgetown is in the fortunate position of being close to two large treatment centres with the most modern facilities for diagnosis and care. No one need forego treatment on account of the inability to pay for it.

Health of the School Child—The Local Board of Health is vitally interested in the health of the school children. Every Public School child is given an opportunity to be protected against diphtheria and smallpox at the Public School Clinics. There is no charge for the treatments. Pre-school children are also accepted by these clinics.

The Public Health Nurse examines any child suspected of having physical defects—particularly those relating to underweight, vision, hearing, unhealthy throats, dental or mental defects or signs of emotional instability. The parents of these children are notified of the disability and are advised to consult their family physician. The Public Health Nurse follows up such cases to ensure that the necessary care is provided.

Ear, nose and throat disabilities are common in Public School children and their eradication at an early age is necessary. Special attention is paid to these defects. Before the summer holidays, a list of such children is compiled, and parents are urged to have them corrected during the holidays. Treatment of most of these defects is by removal of tonsils and adenoids. In case of financial difficulty, arrangements have been made with the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, for their treatment for a small charge. Others are given an opportunity for a special investigation at the hospital, e.g. deafness, visual defects, mental abnormalities, etc. Transportation and financial aid has been provided by the Women's Institute, Local Council of Women, and the Lions Club. These men and women, and the Hospital for Sick Children are to be thanked for their co-operation in this work. During 1943 no children were given this attention. It is expected that there will be about twelve children during 1944.

The I.O.D.E. has provided milk during school hours for certain undernourished children and deserve our thanks. With improved economic conditions there are now very few children whose parents are unable to provide sufficient milk at home.

Communicable diseases (scarlet fever, measles and chickenpox) were prevalent during 1943 and disrupted some

of our health activities. Much of the limited time of our Public Health Nurse was taken for visits to homes in an endeavour to control the epidemic. Communicable skin diseases such as impetigo, scabies and lice were less common during 1943, chiefly due to the efforts of the Public Health Nurse and the teachers. Great difficulty is experienced with a few families who do not cooperate. Their children are forced to remain out of school frequently and unnecessarily in order to protect their schoolmates.

The High School students did not receive any attention by the Local Board of Health during 1943. Tentative plans were made in the fall to tuberculin test the students and x-ray the positive reactors. It was found impossible to have the use of a portable x-ray at that time, so the plan was temporarily dropped. It is planned to have every student physically examined by your Medical Officer of Health during 1944.

DENTAL HYGIENE

Gross dental defects of children are noted by the Public Health Nurse and parents are advised to have them corrected. It is most important that these children be cared for at an early age, it is recommended that a complete dental survey of the Public School be made and necessary treatment provided for those unable to pay for dental attention. Such a scheme would be a splendid opportunity for any organization to sponsor. The Ontario Department of Health will provide considerable financial assistance to such a venture, provided the group responsible will carry on with the plan over a period of years. The importance of the proviso is apparent.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Your Medical Officer of Health with the able assistance of Mrs. T. Grieve (Lady Superintendent) has carried on during 1943, with the bimonthly parades of the Georgetown Brigade No. 97, of the St. John Ambulance Association. There are twenty-two members qualified in First Aid, and Home Nursing. These ladies receive advanced training in First Aid, Stretcher Work, Foot Drill, etc. Under the direction of graduate nurses, members assist at the Blood Donor Clinics where their work has been very commendable. They are on call for any gatherings where First Aid and Home Nursing might become necessary. In addition, a class of forty-two beginners was given a course in Home Nursing during the year. Of these, thirty-nine were successful in passing the examination given by Dr. R. T. Paul. From these classes, new recruits are drawn for the Brigade.

MILK SUPPLY

Milk By-law No. 46A was passed in 1927, and amended in 1929. Pasteurization is compulsory. There is one milk inspector. There are two pasteurization plants. One hundred per cent of the total supply is pasteurized. Total average daily consumption is 930 quarts. Per capita per day consumption is 3/4 pints. There are five producers and 2 distributors. Two distributor's permits have been issued. No permits have been cancelled.

Milk Inspection—Visits made to producers 5; to distributors 40; samples taken of pasteurized milk 5. There were no infections associated with the milk supply this year. The milk situation is satisfactory. The pasteurization plants are inspected by our Sanitary Inspector and by Inspectors from the Ontario Department of Health. Except for minor faults, there has been little to criticize. Residents of Georgetown are assured of good milk.

APPENDIX (A)

Public Health Nursing Service

1. Maternity service:
 - (a) There were 10 births to residents of the municipality, in the municipality.
 - (b) There were no prenatal nursing visits to mothers.
 - (c) There were no maternal deaths.
 - (d) Of one still birth, mother had not received regular nursing supervision.
 - (e) One resident infant died in the first month of life. The mother received no regular prenatal nursing supervision.
2. Infant Hygiene Service:
 - (a) In the year 1943, four infants were visited during the first month of life. There were 6 visits to these infants during the first month. Six other infants were visited after one month of age with a total number of six visits.
 - (b) No infants died after one month of age.
 - (c) No infants attended Child Health Clinic or conference.
3. Pre-School Health Service (year to school age):
 - (a) 27 pre-school children were visited during the year. 41 visits were made to these children.
 - (b) No pre-school children attended the Child Health Clinic.
 - (c) 32 children about to enter school received special attention.
 - 4. School Health Service:
 - (a) The total enrollment in the elementary school was 312.
 - (b) The number of these who received health supervision visits is not recorded.
 - (c) 15 school children were found to have defects other than teeth. The defects were as follows: vision 6, hearing 2, tonsils 2.
 - (d) The number of children found to have new defects corrected was 6. The corrections were: vision 3, hearing 0, tonsils 3.
 - (e) The number of children notified

as having dental defects is not recorded.

5. There were 80 home visits for the control of acute communicable diseases.

6. No tuberculosis patients, suspects or contacts were visited.

7. There were no home visits for the control of gonorrhoea or syphilis.

8. No crippled children were supervised.

9. The number of visits to families made during the year was not recorded.

10. Cooperative arrangements with other nursing services in the community are: nil.

11. Community nursing needs not fully provided for were:

- (a) prenatal visits to mothers.
- (b) group demonstrations for mothers.
- (c) home nursing supervision.
- (d) visits to infants and instructions for mothers.
- (e) visits to ALL pre-school children.
- (f) visits to tuberculosis patients, suspects and contacts.
- (g) supervision of crippled children.

12. In the near future it is hoped that a full time Public Health Nurse be appointed. The present Public Health Nurse divides her time equally among the municipalities of Acton, Georgetown and Milton. Public Health Nurse is Miss Walker, R.N.

APPENDIX (B)

Handling of Food (other than milk)
Restaurants—A by-law is in force. Licenses for eating places are required. Total of restaurants, dining rooms and other eating places numbers 6, of which 3 have suitable toilet accommodation for patrons. Eating places are inspected by the M.O.H. and the Sanitary Inspector 3 times yearly.

Bakeries (and other places for food preparation). There is not a local by-law in force requiring inspection of such plants. Medical examination of food-handlers is not required.

Food Poisoning—There have not been outbreaks of disease traced to food handling within the year in this municipality.

Meat Inspection—A by-law for meat inspection is not in force. Meat for local consumption is inspected at the abattoir.

Slaughter Houses—There is one located within the municipality. Permits are not issued for operation. The slaughter house is inspected yearly by the M.O.H. Remarks—satisfactory.

Plumbing—A plumbing by-law is not in force.

Refuse Collection—This service is provided. It is made by a municipal enterprise. The service covers every house. Refuse is collected twice weekly during June, July, August and September. It is collected once weekly during the remaining months. Supervision of this service is by the Sanitary Inspector.

Refuse Disposal—There is a municipal "dump." The number of loads of refuse hauled per day is 4 or 5. Inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Complaints during the year referred to following points: Improper disposal of sewage material, rats in vicinity of dump, minor nuisances.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all who have assisted in the work of public health in our municipality during the year. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. V. WILLIAMS, M.D.
M.O.H. for the Municipality of Georgetown.



ALL SET!

Every man in his squadron is ready! Every man in the forces of sea and land and air is ready—waiting for the last, BIG PUSH!

ARE YOU? There are some Canadians who aren't! Some men and women who are not taking their full part in the struggle for freedom—who haven't even bought as many Victory Bonds as they possibly can. Are you one of them? It's not too late! Zero hour is near, but there's still time to get in the fight!

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