

2. Leprosaria, Insane Asylums and/or Orphanages.

With the transfer to the Majuro District of Jaluit Atoll, the Leper Colony on Bokkan Island has come under this Unit's jurisdiction. During the recent field trip, the first to this area from Majuro, the writer visited this colony.

It was found that there are eleven people on the island, of whom eight are suffering from various forms of frank leprosy. Two individuals are family members of leprosy colonists, and one man's status is undergoing investigation. One couple, of whom the husband has leprosy, was sent there from Ponape in 1940. No treatment of any kind has ever been instituted, according to the Colony members.

The colony itself is in a state of apparent neglect. There has been no definite policy of supply to the island, with the consequence that a great many of the important factors of life have not been available to these people, such as: Fishing tackle, nails, tools, empty oil drums, tin, etc. Food supply itself has been sporadic, and at times insufficient.

Five oil drums were sent ashore this trip. Through USCC, arrangements were made for a certain amount of supplies to be taken to the island. Every effort is being made to improve the situation by close cooperation with atoll officials and local residents, and by clarification of policy. The next field trip will supply scrap tin, lumber and more oil drums.

At present the people live in small, poorly built thatch huts. There is one "oil drum" head, and two oil drum water catchments. The Ponapeian man has built one paddle-canoë, and this, along with a very decrepit Marshallese paddle-canoë, constitutes their fishing facilities. The island is relatively low on breadfruit, pandanus and papaya vegetation, but has a fair supply of coconuts.