

Since no field trip to outlying atolls was made this month field work was limited to an inspection of Laura Village and Dispensary and to work with the native labor camp population.

All school and Pre-school children totaling seventy-six (76) were examined. The school children were given tuberculin skin tests and showed 10 per cent positive. All positives (5) were X-rayed. One showed minimal primary T.B. and one had scrofula. Of the entire group there were nine (9) children with skin lesions suspected of being yaws. Kahns were done on six (6) and all were negative. However, because of possible faulty reagents, all children were treated with 1,000,000 units of Penicillin. The lesions were promptly healed. If these lesions were due to Yaws, it shows an incidence of 12 per cent. All lesions were of a very mild nature.

Other 'positive' findings were 10 children with extensive dental caries, six (6) underweight, twenty-seven (27) with enlarged but asymptomatic tonsils, and one with bronchial asthma.

Of eighteen (18) other Kahn Blood Tests done during the month on native adults not suspected of having Yaws, only one was positive and he had no lesion.

We plan to continue this program of sampling various groups to determine incidence of Yaws and T.B. and parasites.

An attempt is made in all cases of Gonorrhoea to trace and examine all sexual contacts. This had resulted in finding several new cases and bringing to treatment.

1 April 1947

Majuro Dist.

An investigation was made of the cause of death in three young males at Laura Village on 20 March. The bodies had been recovered from the hold of an L.C.T. which had been recently beached and abandoned there. There was only about two-feet of water in this hold and from a description of the circumstances, examination of the site, and symptoms described by natives who attempted rescue it was determined with fair certainty that the victims were asphyxiated by carbon dioxide formed from fermenting food stored in the hold, and upon losing consciousness became submerged in the shallow water.

With the inactivation of NAF, the native labor force will be sharply reduced. All laborers and their dependents will be examined physically before return to their homes.