

## Preventative and Therapeutic Field Work

Work as outlined under the four major categories listed in the Quarterly Report of July 1 continues, and has shown a gradual overall improvement. Definite improvement has resulted in the collection of Medical statistics. This is due in part to the recently initiated individual card record system mentioned above.

Attention is invited to the table below which lists the number of treated cases of each of the numerically predominant disease conditions found in these villages. Included also is the number of cow pox vaccinations administered. This latter group is largely composed of children ranging from six months of age to young adults of twenty years of age.

Atoll	Village	Yaws	Skin Disease				U.R.I.	Minor		No. Vacc.
			T.B.	G.C.	Dysentery	Inj.		Dental		
Majuro	Majuro	40	90	0	6	2	85	45	10	0*
Arno	Dodo	5	55	0	0	0	30	11	10	0*
Arno	Arno	25	70	1	5	0	90	50	3	15
Arno	Ine	22	60	0	25	0	18	54	2	3
Arno	Malal	40	50	0	20	1	10	30	8	0*
Mille	Lukonor	12	20	0	15	0	10	38	7	10
Mille	Nalu	20	25	1	30	0	12	50	13	10
Aur	Aur	16	65	0	0	0	25	55	7	11
Aur	Tabal	15	72	0	10	1	88	100	15	5
Maloelap	Airik	0**	45	0	6	0	30	20	10	3
Maloelap	Kaven	40	80	0	60***	0	80	20	22	11

\* School age children one hundred per cent immunized for small pox.

\*\* Yaws has been entirely eliminated in this village.

\*\*\* No confirmation of diagnosis here. Made by sign and symptoms only.

From the above table it may be observed that there is no significant departure from the usual order of incidence of leading disease conditions as stated in our last report. In general, numbers run somewhat higher than those of the past quarter, but it must be remembered that the latter statistics did not cover the entire three (3) month reporting period.

Two hundred and thirty five cases of yaws are recorded. It is believed that this increase is in some measure due to the increased incidence of flies during the past three months. This increase, which is easily apparent, is dependent on two factors, namely the loss of the prevailing winds and the advent of the breadfruit season.

Attention is again directed to the deplorable dental situation existing in this area of the Marshall Islands. As indicated in the July report, an advanced degree of dental decay exists in a large percentage of the school age and adult population. From a series of School Surveys conducted in each village under this command, it is conservatively estimated that 50% of the children exhibit far advanced caries. In most cases this process is limited to the molar teeth which are so far gone as to require extraction. In a survey of thirty children of the upper class of the Mjuro Island Elementary School, twenty two or 54% showed dental caries. Of this number only four (4) could be said to exhibit "beginning caries". All others were advanced and showed multiple involvement. As one would expect, the situation is even worse in the adult population.

There are few surgical conditions of importance to report in the past three months. A twenty year old girl reported in from Majuro Island with a complaint of diffuse abdominal swelling over a period of three years, occasional dysphagia and progressive weight loss.

In the following two weeks upwards of 8000 cc. of straw yellow, thick, mucilaginous fluid was removed by paracentesis, 4500 cc. of which was obtained at one sitting. At operation a large, thick walled, shiny cystic mass involving both ovaries and occupying the entire

abdominal cavity was removed. Both ovaries consisted of large, hard nodular masses of tissue, and were removed with the cyst. Other similar masses were scattered throughout the wall of the cyst proper. The diagnosis was "Pseudo Mucinous Cystadenoma".

A Caesarean section was performed on a thirty three year old multiparous woman to remove a dead baby of ten months locked in the transverse position. At operation a partially accreted placenta previa was separated with difficulty from the uterine wall. The baby was badly macerated and apparently has been dead for some time. Although the uterine wall was markedly avascular and atonic hysterectomy was not performed. At the present time (two months after operation) the uterus has resumed normal size. In Sept., Inguinal Herniorrhaphy was performed on a one year old male child for incarcerated hernia. This case was not of the congenital type and is the earliest case in the author's experience in the Marshalls. One (1) Saphenous Ligation and excision was performed. This is the first case of varicose veins encountered in thirteen months in the Southern Marshalls Area. This is worthy of comment when one considers the marked incidence of this condition in other parts of the world.

It is of interest to note the apparent absence of many common surgical conditions and scarcity of others in this area. After fourteen months in the Majuro Area, the present Med. Off. has yet to see a case of any of the following: (1) Bleeding or perforated Peptic Ulcer (2) Intestinal obstruction (3) Neoplasm of the G.I. tract (4) Gall Bladder disease (5) Thyroid disease (6) Breast tumor (either benign or malignant) (7) Pilonidal cyst (8) Neoplastic disease of brain, lung or bone. Appendicitis, hernia, varicose veins and surgical diseases of the rectum are relatively uncommon.

In August during the period between field trips a medical survey was undertaken using the members of the present Majuro Teacher Training School class as a test group. This class consisted of seventy (70) people (fifty nine men and eleven women) all falling

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in the age group of fifteen to forty seven years of age. Complete physical examinations were performed. Laboratory studies included microscopic stool examinations and Kahn serological tests. Two patients were discovered with open yaws lesions of the legs. One of these, aged nineteen years, revealed two large ragged, dirty lesions of the anterior surface of one leg. The lesions were of two years duration and quite painless. This man's Kahn test was four plus although the Darkfield exam proved to be negative. These lesions have responded dramatically to large dosage of penicillin and constant local therapy over the past month. Eight cases of Tinea versicolor and three cases of Tinea circinata were found. One severe and two mild cases of varicose veins were seen. Three patients were found to have heart murmurs, accompanied by no symptoms or signs of cardiac decompensation and were diagnosed as "functional". Two patients have enlarged tonsils with accompanying cervical lymphadenopathy. Of the seventy Marshallese examined thirty eight or 54% showed severe dental decay. Of sixty five Kahn serological tests successfully performed on this group forty or 62% were positive. Of this number seventeen (17) gave a four plus reaction. Of the entire "positive" group only two patients revealed clinical evidence of yaws. To date forty stools have been examined microscopically. In eleven cases parasites have been found, an incidence of 27%. Discovered in this group were: Two (2) E. Vermicularis, Two (2) Taenia, Three (3) Hookworm and three (3) Ascaris. The status of communicable disease is unchanged. No cases are reported. (See July rpt.).

On Sept. Field Trip from Majuro, Ormej Village in Wotje Atoll was visited for the first time. Henceforth this atoll will be included under the operational control of CAU Majuro. Dispensary facilities and Native Med. personnel were found to be above average. Med. equip. on hand was excellent but useful drugs and other supplies were lacking. A

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supply of penicillin sufficient for the coming month was left here and the Health Aide in residence was instructed in its proper use. This drug has not been in use previously. No unusual problems either in health or sanitation were encountered.