

# Ideas

How do you go about getting your job done in health department, hospital, school? Are the ways you go about solving your problems likely to interest others who have similar problems? This "Ideas" section is a place for you to share with your colleagues your experience and approaches to the practical problems of public health practice. The "Ideas" space is not for news reports but for ways and means, a place to report trials and errors in techniques and methods. Send your ideas to us now!

—The Editors.

## Boarding Homes

**MINNEAPOLIS.** Elderly residents of boarding homes are meeting weekly to enjoy "purposeful activities" as well as to participate in recreational and entertainment sessions.

Under guidance of the Family and Children's Service, the group sessions were initiated by a professional social worker and later carried on under volunteer leaders who have been given special training for this work. The aim is to help older folks living in boarding homes to have more worth-while and interesting lives.

More than half the 104 residents now in the program have no other activity. They come from all walks of life and seem to be more handicapped physically, mentally, and emotionally than the average older person.

## Departmental Diary

**BUFFALO.** Each Friday morning the elected and administrative officials of Erie County (N. Y.), as well as leaders of community organizations, the board of health, members of the health department staff, and press, radio, and television representatives receive *Health Notes*, a

single-sheet report of Erie County's health week.

Here—in one-paragraph, easy-to-read items—are reported the activities of the department and health events in the community, plus a health education item aimed at the individual and current morbidity data for half-a-dozen acute communicable diseases.

*Health Notes* is reproduced in typescript via a direct-plate office offset process on a prerun masthead in red ink which carries the necessary postal designation. The address is stamped on the sheet itself, which is sealed with a 1-cent, precancelled stamp.

## Disease Detection

**FLORIDA.** Screening for six major diseases—cancer, tuberculosis, diabetes, heart disease, blood diseases, and kidney diseases—is provided all patients entering the regular services of the Volusia County Health Department. Patients entering the cancer detection, maternity, and health card clinics receive the following: chest X-ray, physical examination, hemoglobin determination, blood count, blood sugar, RH (maternity), blood serology, urine analysis (sugar, albumin, specific gravity), stool examination (for food handlers and others as indicated), and smears for gonococci.

## "Slide Rule"

**WASHINGTON, D. C.** A concerted effort to improve the reporting of "length of pregnancy in weeks" on the birth certificate has been undertaken cooperatively by the State health departments, the National Office of Vital Statistics of the Public Health Service, and the Children's Bureau of the Federal Security Agency.

Key element of the program is a "device for computing completed weeks of gestation." The device can be used continuously from year to year. It provides a systematic and quick method for obtaining the number of completed weeks between the first day of the mother's last menstrual period and the date of the

child's birth. Use of the device should reduce inaccuracies now found in reported information because of diversity of computing methods.

The device has been made available to hospitals throughout the country and may be obtained from State health departments, the National Office of Vital Statistics, or the Children's Bureau.

How to use this device to determine completed weeks of gestation for entry on birth certificate.

Set arrow on ruler at first day of last true menses.

Note date of delivery and read off the number of weeks of gestation shown on the ruler. Reduce this number by 1 if delivery date according to the calendar device occurs earlier in week than first day of last menses.

JAN.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
FEB.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
MAR.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
APR.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JUNE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JULY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
AUG.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SEPT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
OCT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NOV.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
DEC.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JAN.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
FEB.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
MAR.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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— Enter 37 weeks on birth certificate since delivery date was earlier in week than first day of last menses.

Address inquiries to your State Department of Health