

Ideas

Seeing Is Believing

CONNECTICUT. State restaurant inspectors recently introduced a modification in their swab-testing program. They streak a Petri dish of nutrient agar and leave it on the premises to incubate.

At the end of the 48 hours, they revisit the establishment. The food service personnel are asked to estimate the number of bacteria colonies. Then, the cover of the badly contaminated dish is removed, and the personnel are given a whiff of the obnoxious gases which have accumulated.

Such an olfactovisual demonstration is far more convincing to owners and food handlers than a mere

typewritten report of the number of colonies discovered by laboratory count. The State health department reports that it has had a veritable spate of requests for materials and methods to improve dishwashing procedures. So satisfactory has been the demonstration, the health department believes special classes for food handlers can be eliminated this year. Proprietors and food-service personnel alike have exhibited a sincere desire to improve the sanitary ratings of their establishments.

Community Evaluation

NEW JERSEY. The State health department has developed a survey or evaluation form for use by local citizen groups who are concerned about their local health situation—what it is—what is needed.

The citizens group fills out the survey form, requesting the assistance of the State health department

whenever necessary. The completed survey is analyzed in the State office. Then, a health planning team—State district health officer, public health engineer, supervising nurse, community health organizer, and statistician—will meet with the local group to explain the deficiencies found in the local service and ways of overcoming them.

Laboratory Suggestion

BROOKLYN, N. Y. Save purchasing capillary tubes—substitute a 4-inch metal needle for a capillary pipette in adding blood to the Wintrobe sedimentation rate tube. The needle should be long enough to reach to the bottom of the Wintrobe tube.

Glass capillary tubes may last only once, the laboratory of the Public Health Service Hospital at Manhattan Beach has discovered, but a steel needle will last indefinitely.

Immunization Drive Cartoons

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. For 3 years in a row, artist Bruce Russell of the *Los Angeles Times*, a Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist, has contributed his gifted pen to the annual immunization drives of the Los Angeles health department.

Titled (reading from the left) "The Narrow Distance Between Two Points," "Two Birds, One Stone," and "Guardian Angel," one of the cartoons below appeared on the opening day of immunization in the public schools when wide-scale pub-

licity called the attention of parents to the need for immunization.

Immunization results showed the effectiveness of intensive newspaper, radio, and television publicity—each year's drive from 1949 through 1951 went over the goal.

