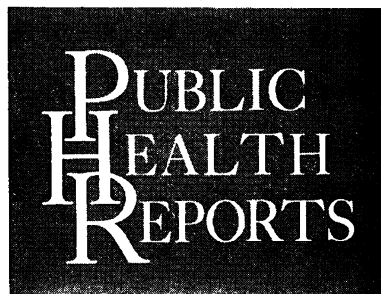


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**DOEGE, THEODORE C. (Public Health Service), LEVY, PAUL S., and HEATH, CLARK W., Jr.: *A diphtheria epidemic related to community immunization levels and the health problems of migrant workers. Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, February 1963, pp. 151-160.***

Between Halloween 1960 and New Year's Day 1961, an epidemic of 56 diphtheria cases including 1 death occurred in Plainview, Tex. First cases were among children of Latin American descent, but other population groups were later involved. Cases were predominantly among unimmunized children and were caused by *intermedius* infection. All severe cases were in unimmunized persons.

Study of the outbreak, including a survey of immunization levels preceding and following the outbreak in all population groups, demonstrated a strong inverse

correlation between the number of cases in each group and that group's level of diphtheria immunization before the outbreak. A vigorous effort by the city resulted in a start toward full immunization for more than 75 percent of the city's children.

Indirect evidence strongly suggests that unimmunized migrant agricultural workers played a central role in the Plainview epidemic. The outbreak emphasizes the need for continuing and energetic immunization measures in all population groups.

**RODRIGUES-DA-SILVA, GUILHERME (Instituto Adolfo Lutz, São Paulo, Brazil), RABELLO, S. IVO, and ANGULO, JUAN J.: *Epidemic of variola minor in a suburb of São Paulo. Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, February 1963, pp. 165-171.***

An epidemic of 54 cases of variola minor in a semi-isolated district of the city of São Paulo, Brazil, in 1956 was investigated during a 3-month casefinding survey. Characteristics of the infection were its limited spread except within households, lack of cases among household contacts who had variola previously, and consistent occurrence of a prodromic period with symptomatology and duration of the period constant.

Variola virus was identified in pock specimens from seven patients, but the

virus could not be isolated from saliva specimens of seven patients and five asymptomatic household contacts.

In an antibody survey of 10 patients and 37 contacts, CF antibody titers of 1 and 64 were found in serums of four patients with *variola sine eruptione*; their histories of previously successful vaccinations partly explain this finding. Titers of CF antibody of 1 in 8 or higher found in serums of six contacts indicated inapparent infection, according to Downie's criteria.

**SMITH, CHARLOTTE E. (Public Health Service), PIPER, GERALDINE M., KERSCHBAUM, SUSAN J., and WILLIAMS, SHERMAN R.: *Questionnaires to identify nursing homes most in need of dietary counsel. Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, February 1963, pp. 175-177.***

The Public Health Service has developed two questionnaires to assist State and local licensure agencies in identifying nursing homes most in need of consultation from a nutritionist or dietary consultant. These questionnaires are considered sufficiently discriminatory and reliable for practical application within the limitation of the methods used. Since they both cover the same subjects, they may be used alternately for periodic re-investigation and thus enhance validity of responses.

Official health agencies of 19 States contributed to development of the ques-

tionnaires by participating in a field test to determine if members of the licensure staff, such as nurses, sanitarians, and inspectors, could obtain reliable and valid answers to food service questions through observation and queries to nursing home personnel. Analysis of test results, based on visits to 258 nursing homes, resulted in elimination of questions on therapeutic diets and on protein content of diet and in revision of other questions. The shortened and revised questionnaires each contains 32 questions field-tested for reliability of results.

*The nature of a paper, not its importance or significance, determines whether a synopsis is printed. See "Information for Contributors" on next page.*

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