

NEW

YORK

CITY

DEPARTMENT

OF

HEALTH

This issue of *Public Health Reports* commemorates the centennial of the New York City Department of Health. But this issue is not a historical review of 100 years of public health in Gotham. Special events and publications scheduled by the department throughout the year undoubtedly will provide this. Historical highlights which do appear in the issue are included principally to set the stage for the reader, to touch upon the conditions leading to development of certain programs and services. Most of the papers prepared by staff members of the New York City Department of Health deal with the public health problems and programs of today.

Public Health Reports is indebted to the New York City Department of Health for its cooperation in publishing this issue, and to the staff members of the department who prepared the papers and assisted with the myriad of publication details inherent in such a venture. Dr. John R. Philp, acting commissioner of health, and Abe Brown, director of the bureau of public health education, were instrumental in developing and coordinating the project.

We hope that readers of *Public Health Reports* will gain from this issue a better understanding of the health problems and programs which sometimes are unique to a metropolis such as New York City. Urban health has been a popular topic at a number of recent conferences; it seems most appropriate to have a closer look at that topic by noting the services and activities of the health department in the Western Hemisphere's most urban of all urban areas.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS may be but a fraction of the eons comprising the world's history, but for the New York City Department of Health it denotes a complete historical span. This year, 1966, marks the beginning of the second century of that department's service to its community. In the 100 years since the establishment of its health department, the community has grown into one of the world's largest and busiest cities, and the health department has developed in concert—meeting the challenges of protecting and promoting the health of almost 8 million New Yorkers.

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