

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PENNA.

July 6, 1905.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I inclose herewith report of the school physician who, in compliance with your letter, "Education 23138-1905," dated March 29, 1905, has examined all of the students that he has been able to reach, many of them being absent under the outing system, and the results of his examination he has set forth in his report. The suggestions that he therein offers as to their future care, etc., I fully approve of and have given directions accordingly. Those three students who have well developed cases of pulmonary tuberculosis should be sent away from the school, but, unfortunately, being Alaskan children, we cannot do so. I believe that the health of the children should not be subjected to the dangers of infection from those who carry this disease, and where a well developed case has occurred among the Indian children I have sent the pupil home. Such action not only relieves the remaining students from chance of infection, but many of the students so sent home have improved in health and are getting along nicely.

The few cases which, under the physician's examination, seem to show the presence of incipient tuberculosis will be kept under strict

surveillance until it is determined definitely whether they are affected or not and every precaution taken to prevent the other students from being contaminated. Unfortunately, owing to the press of other work, we have not yet been able to complete the pavilion authorized for just this purpose, but I hope to have it ready before long and shall then isolate all suspects.

In this connection I deem it my duty to call attention to the fact that the examinations of students about to leave the reservations for non-reservation schools are apparently not carefully and thoroughly made, for it frequently happens that well developed cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are discovered upon the arrival, or soon thereafter, of pupils at the school. Every pupil that arrives here is subjected to a thorough physical examination and if considered in such an unhealthy condition as to endanger the health of the other students they are immediately returned to their homes with letter to the agent or other official in charge explaining the condition. I presume that the experience of Carlisle is also the experience of the other non-reservation schools, and doubtless applies even to the large reservation schools. If such is the case it seems that positive instructions should be given to all superintendents and agents to take the same precautions that we at Carlisle do in the cases outlined above.

In all cases where a bacteriological examination reveals the presence of bacilli in the sputum we are now requiring the use of the sanitary spit cup, made by Seabury and Johnson. This cup consists of a metal holder with spring top inclosing a

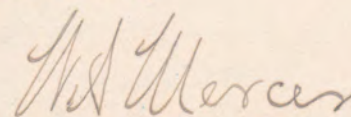
square paper box about three inches in diameter. The inclosed paper box is burned every day and a fresh one inserted. These sputum cups can be bought cheaply and are very necessary in preventing the spread of tuberculosis by properly collecting and destroying the sputum.

The examination of the students and the recording of their physical condition at frequent intervals will be continued, and especially of those who are now out under the outing system as fast as they return to the school. It has taken some time to conduct these examinations because of the fact that it has been carefully done, and for several reasons but a few students a day could be handled.

If similar examinations have not been held at other reservation and non-reservation schools I believe that if ordered by your office you would be somewhat astonished at the cases of well developed pulmonary tuberculosis that exist among the Indian pupils, and that you would also find that healthy children are being daily subjected to infection thereby.

I cannot but believe that if the Government had erected a hospital at a suitable place for the proper care of Indians suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis that it would have been a great deal more beneficial to the Indian race than an asylum for the insane.

Very respectfully,



Major of Cavalry,
Superintendent.

52220

Indian Office,

Incl. No. /

1905

Department of the Interior,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa.

July 1, 1905.

Maj. W. A. Mercer, Supt.,
Carlisle Indian School,
Carlisle, Pa.

Sir:

In accordance with Department order of March 29, and by your direction, I have completed the physical examination of all pupils of the school with the exception of those who were away for the summer on the outing system. The total number examined was 459, of which 286 were boys and 173 girls.

Of this number there are three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, all Alaskans, two of which are well advanced.

There are seven cases that might very properly be classed as incipient tuberculosis, six girls and one boy. Some of these cases may go on to complete recovery and not pass beyond the incipient stage.

In addition to the above there are about

sixty cases, all presenting some abnormality, however slight, that entitles them to be classed as more or less doubtful cases. There are none in this list presenting symptoms at this time sufficient to justify a diagnosis of incipient tuberculosis. A number of these have only slight defects that may never develop into anything further, while there are some that may possibly develop a tuberculosis at some future time.

Considering the time at my disposal it was not practicable to make but one thorough examination except in a few selected cases, when a second examination was made.

It is a well established fact that it is frequently a very difficult matter to recognize tuberculosis in its incipency, but the above report quite fairly represents the physical condition of the pupils of the school at this time.

In order to protect the health of the other

pupils I would recommend that those cases that are suffering with undoubted tuberculosis should, whenever practicable, be sent to their homes. The other cases, classified as incipient tuberculosis, should be given rooms to themselves and, when necessary, confined in the tuberculosis pavillion, which is to be constructed at the school. All other doubtful cases should be caused to room together rather than to be given rooms with perfectly sound, normal pupils. There will be a list kept of all such cases and they will be kept under strict observation.

Very respectfully,
J. F. Shoemaker,
School Physician.