

## Communicable Disease Control

I wish to note two errors in Table 4, page 1582,<sup>1</sup> in the number of plague cases reported. In 1971 only two cases were reported rather than 12; neither case died. In 1965, after several revisions, the final case count was 8<sup>(2)</sup> and CDC Plague Bulletin Number 1, page 2, 1970).

Since the annual number of plague cases in the United States is small (1970 was a record year for plague cases from rural sources), the apparent typographical error for 1971 is a serious one. You may also be interested to note also that only one human plague case was reported in 1972.<sup>3</sup>

Jack D. Poland, M.D.

## References

1. Jekel, J. F. Communicable Disease Control and Public Policy in the 1970's. *AJPH* 62, 12: 1578-1585, 1972.
2. Poland, J. D. and Barnes, A. M. Current Status of Plague and Plague Control. In: *Proceedings of the Fourth Vertebrate Pest Conference, West Sacramento, California, California Vertebrate Pest Committee, pp. 29-33, 1970.*
3. Poland, J. D.; Barnes, A. M.; and Herman, Jack J. Human Bubonic Plague from Exposure to a Naturally Infected Wild Carnivore. Manuscript in preparation, 1973.

2 February 1973

Dear Editor:

You and some of our APHA members may be interested in the enclosed letter to Dr. John L. Rice, former Commissioner of Health in New York

City, from Dr. Charles V. Chapin. Furthermore, this annual report, praised with the progress, was prepared during that exciting period when the late Savel Zim and, another Fellow of APHA, was the versatile editor and compiler of New York City Department of Health annual reports, of which samples are in our Historical Medical Library at Yale.

Sincerely,  
Ira V. Hiscock

June 4, 1939

Dear Dr. Rice:

I thank you very much for the fine report of your New York City Department of Health Report. In the old days, when I was young, most of my knowledge was derived from a study of the reports of progressive health officers. Alas, old age and feebleness prevent mental as well as physical work. However, even a most casual perusal shows what splendid and progressive work you are doing. Many thanks.

Yours most sincerely,  
Charles V. Chapin

## Editorial Comment

We are pleased to publish the above letter addressed by Charles V. Chapin, M.D. (1856-1941) to John L. Rice, M.D. This letter, which Dr. Hiscock made available, calls attention to a pioneer and leader of American public health in its great formative period during the decades just before and after the turn

of the present century. Moreover, it highlights the significance and utility of reports from health agencies administered by imaginative and creative health officers. From 1884 to 1932, Chapin was health officer of Providence, R.I., and the reports which he prepared are models of how to use such documents to advance community health. The *Papers of Charles V. Chapin, M.D.* (1934), and James H. Cassidy's *Charles V. Chapin and the Public Health Movement* (1962) are important sources for anyone who may want to learn more about Chapin.

George Rosen, M.D.  
Editor

## Technology of MEDEX

December's APHA (62:1563) hails "The Technology of MEDEX" which involves the training of ex military corpsmen by practicing physicians. MEDEX "appears to be a successful training and deployment system to get health manpower where it is needed." Manpower is right!

Ignored in this breakthrough in the "establishment of a link between physician and community" is a class of adequately trained (if not overtrained considering their activities) persons to whom physicians have been reluctant "to delegate certain medical tasks" for years. This group, nurses, are mostly women.

Deborah M. Roach  
1719 Linden Ave.  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

## CALENDAR OF FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN BRANCH, APHA

1974—Holiday Inn-Coliseum, Norfolk, Va., May 8-10

1975—Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Houston, Texas, April 30-May 2

### AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

1973—San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 4-8

1974—New Orleans, La., Oct. 20-24

1975—Chicago, Ill., Nov. 16-20

1976—Miami Beach, Fla., Oct. 17-22

1977—Washington, D.C., Oct. 30-Nov. 3