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## School Health News, Vol. VII, No. 1

Mississippi School Health Service of the State Department of Education and Mississippi State Board of Health

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# School Health News

Official Organ of  
Mississippi School Health Service  
of the  
State Department of Education  
and  
Mississippi State Board of Health

State Representative  
John L. Kennedy  
Holly Springs, Miss.

Vol. III No. 1

Fall, 1957

## New Assistant Director of Health Education

On June 1, Miss Mary Ann Elkin became assistant director of the Division of Health Education. Coming to the central office of the State Board of Health from Tupelo where she had served as public health educator, Miss Elkin succeeded Mrs. Cassie Smith Feagin. Miss Elkin is a graduate of Mississippi State College for Women and holds the master of public health degree from Yale University.

In her new post, in addition to performing health education services for the State Board of Health, Miss Elkin is available for consultant and advisory services to all agencies and groups concerned with health education.

## Specialist Tells Advantages of Hearing Testing Program

"The school hearing testing program greatly enhances the early diagnosis and treatment of hearing defects at the stage when a very high percentage of these defects are correctible," stated Dr. R. H. McArthur, specialist with Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic, Jackson, at MPHA in discussing hearing problems in school children.

In urging that the hearing conservation program go forward in the Mississippi schools, Dr. McArthur said that "the longer such defects are allowed to exist, the poorer the prognosis."

Assistance in setting up and conducting a hearing testing program is available from School Health Service. Testing equipment is also available on loan.

## Free X-rays of Children's Teeth at State Fair

School age children under 13 are eligible for two free dental x-rays at the State Fair in Jackson. The dental x-ray unit will be set up and operated by the Mississippi Dental Association in cooperation with the State Board of Health. This large scale educational demonstration has a 3-fold purpose: to call attention to the great number of dental defects among children; to point up the importance of x-ray in mouth health and mouth treatment; and to impress upon parents the need for early and regular care of children's teeth. To secure the free x-rays children must be accompanied by a parent or adult. The x-rays, given on the spot to the parent, may be taken to any dentist in the state for free development.

### PERSONNEL OF THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

N. C. Knight, M.D., M.P.H.  
Medical Director

D. R. Patterson, M.A.  
Coordinator

Russell H. Lyons, M.S.  
Physical Education Supervisor

A. D. Owings, M.A., M.S.P.H.  
Teacher Training Supervisor



### Child Guidance Program Revamped

Instead of regularly scheduled clinics to certain counties, child guidance service will be available in all of the counties on a request basis, beginning September 1. Treatment will no longer be a part of the program. However, after a child and his parent have been seen and the problem involved evaluated, a conference will be held with significant professional persons who can be of help locally in alleviating the problem. By limiting the program to diagnostic and consultative services, it is anticipated that more children can be helped.

Referrals will be made through the county health department to the respective Child Guidance Regional Center; and when a sufficient number warrant holding a clinic, one will be set up as soon as it can be scheduled.

In addition to services for the emotionally disturbed, the new program has been expanded to include children thought to be mentally retarded; they will be seen for evaluation and counseling with the parents. Since much is to be gained by early discovery, nurses and physicians are urged to refer preschool children who appear to be retarded in their development.

### Mental Retardation Information to be Released Soon

Expected from the press this fall is a 250 page record of the proceedings of the Institute on Retardation, which was conducted by the State Board of Health in June with outstanding specialists concerned with mental retardation.

The subject matter included explores the total problem of retardation as to causes, degrees, diagnostic evaluation, alleviation, and facilities available in the state for the treatment and care of the retarded.

Copies of the publication will be placed in every county health department. They will also be available on loan from the Medical and Public Health Library.

### Nutrition Supervisor Now

After a 3-year vacancy, the position of Supervisor of Nutrition Services was filled on July 1 with the appointment of Miss Vonda Webb, who had been serving as District Nutrition Consultant with headquarters in Clarksdale. In addition to supervisory duties, Miss Webb will be available for consultative services for nutritional programs of health departments, schools, and teacher and community groups

She is also developing nutrition materials for use in improving eating habits of preschool and school age children. Ready for distribution, on request, are three functional annotated bibliographies on nutrition education prepared for the following grade levels - elementary, junior high, and high school.

### Cogent Words from the Coordinator

"What I am saying to teachers as I visit the schools is that with the heavy administrative duties under the new school program, it will be easy to alibi - but children have to grow up and we must not neglect their health needs." - That is the message of D. R. Patterson, Coordinator of School Health Service, as he goes from school to school throughout the state.

After spending 4 weeks visiting schools in split sessions in 7 northern counties, Coordinator Patterson reports that public health nurses were getting into the schools and giving immunizations and that some of the schools were having physical examinations.



### Nurses Find Answers to School Health Problems

Four successful regional in-service staff education conferences have been held in Batesville for public health nurses and clerks from 10 counties. Under the general theme "A Year Round School Health Program", the monthly topics were General School Health Program, Program Planning and School Health Records, Special School Health Problems, Use of Health Education Materials.

The conferences were conducted on a problem-solving basis, with the following resource persons participating: Dr. N. C. Knight, Medical Director of School Health Service and Director of Division of Health Education; Miss Dorothy Moore, Psychologist; Miss Mary Ann Elkin, Assistant Director of Division of Health Education; Mrs. Elizabeth Pickett, District Nutritionist; Mrs. Vashti Lewis, Elementary School Principal, Batesville; and Miss Louise Holmes, Director of Public Health Nursing. The conferences were under the direction of Mrs. Edna R. Roberts, Field Advisory Nurse, and Miss Frances Ferrell, Field Advisory Clerk.

A series of similar conferences is under way for nurses in the Northwest District under the direction of Mrs. Nettie O. Turner, Supervisory Field Nurse.

### Health Educator Personnel Changes

Miss Susie Overstreet, after three years as health educator with Lowndes County Health Department, assumed the position of Specialist in Health Education for Extension Service and the State Board of Health on July 1. She was replaced by Mrs. Marie M. Gieger, a scholarship trainee in health education, who received her master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina in June.

Health educator Lou Lewis has not changed positions - but she changed her name in June when she married Troy Dale White, Forrest County school administrator.

### Health Film Library Reports

.....that Supplement No. 1 to HEALTH FILM CATALOG was issued in August, listing 62 new films and 15 filmstrips purchased since January when the latest catalog was released. These additions bring the total number of 16 mm films in the library to 916, and 35 mm filmstrips to 365, and will help to meet increasing requests for films.

.....that the Mississippi Congress of Parents and Teachers moved their film library of 26 films from the Department of Education to the State Board of Health in June. Circulation will be according to the regular policy of the Health Film Library.

.....that in answer to many requests a new film on mental retardation is ready for circulation. It is entitled "Class for Tommy".

.....that to meet demands for visuals on teen-age etiquette, the following are available: "Date Etiquette", "How to be Well Groomed", "Acts of Courtesy".

.....that requests for films should be made direct to Division of Health Education, State Board of Health, in order to save time. Early booking is advised.

### Assistance in Making Teaching Plans

Features of the school health program - such as health records, safety, sight and hearing testing - can be used as a classroom teaching opportunity. For assistance, contact A. D. Owings, Teacher Training Supervisor. Supervisor Owings can also furnish teachers helpful teaching materials on many health subjects, as well as lists of free and inexpensive classroom teaching aids.