

Tropical Disease!

New Center in New York City Maps Defense

By DORIS PETERS
(NC News Service).

New York — Tropical diseases, especially in today's mobile society, can no longer be viewed as exotic intruders when they make their appearance in a temperate climate.

Millions of newcomers from tropical areas are now permanent residents of the United States; more than a million of them are living in New York alone. And a large percentage of these newcomers harbor disease-carrying parasites.

In this era of international mobility there is a growing awareness of the need for knowledge in tropical diseases.

Members of the armed forces, Peace Corps volunteers, missionaries, tourists, and others are traveling to the tropics in increasing numbers.

While the speed of travel increases the incidence of tropical diseases in this country, it also provides the opportunity

to carry on research in other countries with little difficulty.

And so a Tropical Disease Center here may be called unique, but it can hardly be called an "intruder."

As part of St. Clare's Hospital here, the Tropical Disease Center is one of the main lines of defense against tropical diseases both in this country and around the world.

St. Clare's — "the Belle of 51st Street" — is not an old hospital, as hospitals go. Opened in 1934 by the well known, and much loved, Mother Alice, who with six other Sisters of St. Francis of Allegany, "successfully tackled the job of making a run down tenement into a hospital," St. Clare's has accumulated a distinctive record of achievements. Its facilities now are spread over several blocks.

The Tropical Disease Center of St. Clare's reaches around the world. Research programs in Africa have been a feature since its inception. Lack of modern laboratory and clinical facilities in the emerging countries often hampers research programs being conducted there.

Dr. Kevin M. Cahill, director, points this out as one reason why a center in tropical diseases "flourishes almost better" in New York than it would in the tropics.

Here, sophisticated research methods can be applied to the diseases that exist in great numbers elsewhere; here they can be studied either by an intensive investigation of a few cases or by the analysis of specimens brought back from the field to a modern up-to-date laboratory.

Opened in 1966 to provide a comprehensive training, research, and service program in clinical tropical medicine, the center also assists practicing physicians by communicating recent advances in the treat-

ment and management of tropical diseases.

According to Dr. Cahill "the work of the center also is directed at the numerous foreign physicians who are serving internships and residencies at many of New York's hospitals.

"These young physicians come from countries where tropical diseases constitute the major medical problem," he explained, "and their training in the United States' hospitals only occasionally includes exposure to tropical diseases. The center's program is intended to keep these doctors abreast of latest developments and techniques in tropical health, to better prepare them for practice when they return to their native countries."

Missionaries — 3,500 of them — assigned to work in the tropics provide a steady supply of unusual clinical problems and are being used in a

number of controlled studies at the center.

Prior to their departure and on their return they are given thorough physical and laboratory examinations. Blood is obtained and stored in the center's serum bank providing the basis for ongoing immunological studies.

The center has a series of research fellows from mission-

ary orders who spend from one to six months before leaving for the tropics. An individualized training program for non-medical personnel is another feature of the center.

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Notre Dame Plans Coed Experiment

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — The University of Notre Dame curriculum revision committee has recommended a coeducation experiment beginning in the fall of 1971.

A new 11-point program for increased flexibility in the school's curriculum, approved by the university's academic council after two years of preparation, involves students deeply in the proposals for change.

The most far-reaching of the group's recommendations was the proposal for a residential, coeducational Notre Dame-Saint Mary's College experimental program.

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