

Mr. LAVERGNE

TO : Dr. Peterson, Chief, Div. of Health and Sanitation. DATE: September 27, 54
Attn : Dr. Bernard W. Rosenburgh
FROM : Betty Weeks, Nursing Consultant
Thru : Mary Lester, Chief Nurse
SUBJECT: Survey of Refugee Centers

Following a suggestion from the Ministry of Health, various refugee camps in the area have been visited by STEW nursing consultants. From observations made in these visits we would like to make the following suggestions:

1. Dispensaries, provided in each camp; in the larger camps, in the ratio of one per 6000 population; dispensary to be well marked by a flag (a red cross on a white field) clearly visible from all sections of the camp.
2. If the dispensary is to fulfill its role, a first aid kit and equipment necessary for the functioning-basins for handwashing and washing of equipment, emesis basins, instruments (forceps, scissors), alcohol or kerosene burner are essential.
3. The number of nurses assigned to a camp should be in proportion to its population, in a ratio of 1 to 2000. Services may then be expanded to include tent visiting as well as 24 hr. nursing service. This is important, as many who are ill are reluctant to go to the dispensary, fearing that, if hospitalized, their families may be moved, they will lose contact. In this way communicable diseases are unreported and the danger of epidemic is increased. Tent visiting is also important in overseeing the general cleanliness and sanitation of the camp.
4. A nurse supervisor for the purpose of consultation with the camp nurses and to act as liaison between the camp and the dispersing office for supplies, is also essential. This nurse supervisor will be expected to visit each of the camp dispensaries frequently, at irregular intervals, to check on the activities of the nurses.
5. Some means should be provided whereby families that have members hospitalized may be assured they will not be moved from the camp while that person is hospitalized.
6. Wherever possible an ambulance and driver should be assigned to a camp or to a limited number of camps near each other, for transporting patients to the hospital when necessary.
7. It is recommended that a group of refugees, in ratio of 2 per 1000 population, be designated as "permanent" residents of the camp, and be employed to keep the grounds of the camp cleared of refuse and debris.

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8. Covered containers should be provided for refuse so that breeding places for flies, mosquitoes and other insects, and feeding places for rodents, are kept at a minimum.
9. Lights (lanterns where there is no electricity) should be placed in the areas of the pit privies so that people may find their way to them at night.
10. A public address system would be very helpful in mass education dissemination of information, ie : arrival of milk for distribution. All people arriving at a camp to give service should report to social action, who then could make a suitable announcement. This would also assist in coordination of services.
11. Posters and slogans on sanitation, health habits and use of facilities should be developed and pasted in conspicuous places.

BWeeks, K1