NOTES FROM KALAHİ LEPROSY HOSPITAL

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The Kalihi Leprosy Hospital is owned, equipped and conducted by the Territorial Board of Health. It is located three miles from town and comprises five or six acres. The buildings include several dormitories, an infirmary, dispensaries, examination rooms, kitchen, dining rooms, assembly hall and steam laundry, all equipped with hot and cold water and electric lights and a school for children. There are in addition recreation grounds, tennis and volley ball courts, billiard rooms, vegetable gardens, piggery, poultry runs, etc. Adjoining the hospital grounds are the laboratories, library and other buildings of the United States Public Health Service Leprosy Investigation Station, directed by Dr. J. T. McDonald, who is also ex-officio attending physician to the hospital.

On July 10, 1920, there were 117 patients, the majority of whom were Hawaiians—sixty-four females and fifty three males; the oldest patient was 62 years, the youngest 7 years, and the average age was 23 years. It should be stated that as a rule males predominate. On this date none of the patients was bedridden, and they were otherwise in good health. The prevailing spirit is one of hope and cheerfulness, and the morale is excellent. Most of the cases are early types, many of the patients having entered the hospital voluntarily. As a rule the patients remain in the Kalihi Hospital six months, or, if they show marked improvement, for longer periods. At the end of their stay they are either paroled or sent to the Molokai Settlement 50 miles away.

The standard treatment here now is the use of ethyl esters of the fatty acids made from the whole crude chaulmoogra oil in the laboratories of the College of Hawaii, according to methods devised by the president, D. A. L. Dean. This preparation carries 2 per cent. of iodine by weight in chemical combination. The preparation is injected intramuscularly into the gluteal region, the initial dose being 1 c.c. per week, later doses being gradually increased to 5 c.c. or 6 c.c. weekly. The preparation contains all the therapeutic virtues of the crude oil, and is almost as fluid and limpid as water, being entirely absorbed in 24 to 48 hours. Internally, appropriate doses of the mixed fatty acids, carrying 2.5 per cent. iodine in chemical combination, are given in capsules three times a day. The preparation is partly predigested in the

laboratory and rarely causes nausea. In addition to treatment with the above mentioned preparations or modifications of chaulmoogra oil, numerous accessory treatments are used, such as strychnin, iron tonics, arsenous acid, hot baths, liniments, escharotics, unguents, heliotherapy and other treatments.

The results have been encouraging. In the period from Dec. 24, 1918, to July 10, 1920, seventy-eight patients have been paroled from segregation and there has not been a single recurrence.

Among the hospital patients, over 10 per cent. have one or more attacks of leprosy fever with macular eruption, but they soon recover from these acute attacks and are in better condition than they were before.