

T1-27-1910 p.5

**TWELVE CHILDREN ILL,
SAYS COUNTY PHYSICIAN**

**Startling Discovery Tuesday, When
Inquisitors Visit School—Efforts
Apparently Successful to Stamp
Out Dangerous Disease.**

"We found no less than fifteen cases of diphtheria in its worst form at the Bonny Oaks Industrial school at Jersey when we visited that institution yesterday."

These were the words of one of the members of the grand jury yesterday morning spoken just as he was about to enter the grand jury room and take up the work of the day with his colleagues.

Fifteen cases of diphtheria at Bonny Oaks! The report spread like fire in dry grass, and by noon it was being discussed with much interest and more curiosity all over courthouse hill.

Because of the strictures made on the institution by the last grand jury concerning Bonny Oaks, much general interest was being manifested in the report that might be forthcoming from the inquisitors now doing duty for the county. From the above it seems likely that this may be even a more sensational document than that handed to Judge McReynolds a few months ago. That served to open the eyes of the people, and specially of the county court, to the real needs of the institution and the members of the jury, who dared to tell of the conditions exactly as they found them instead of bringing the ever handy white-wash brush into requisition, have been warmly commended for their action.

It is said that the members of the present jury are somewhat divided as to what their report may be and as to whether they shall attempt to place the

cases of diphtheria on hand, and acting on his advice they did not enter the main building. Some of them, however, did go into a small building or room where three of the lads who are down with the disease are confined. One of these boys, it is said, told the juryman that he had only been sick since Sunday, but he had been kept in this room by himself for a long time. This was because he is suffering with an ailment over which he has no control. The lad complained bitterly because he was not allowed to be with and play with the other boys. There seemed to be no doubt in the mind of at least one juryman that the disease could probably be traced to the stagnant water in the frog pond.

Dr. W. F. McManus, the recently elected county physician, was seen by a Times reporter yesterday morning just after he had returned from the institution. He said:

**New County Physician
Faithful to His Duty.**

"Yes, it is true that we have an epidemic of diphtheria at the school. There are now twelve well defined cases. With one exception, all are doing well, and I do not expect any deaths, unless some of them should unexpectedly grow worse. I have been visiting the school daily since I was first informed of the cutbreak. This, I believe, was last Sunday. As soon as I diagnosed it as diphtheria I ordered the sick boys isolated from the rest and at once administered an injection of antitoxin. The boy who seems to be the most seriously sick is a half-witted child, and his constitution is not as strong as that of the others. All of the patients responded to the antitoxin treatment, and I found them doing as well as could be expected this morning. I have had all of the buildings thoroughly fumigated and do not look for a spread of the disease."

Asked as to what he thought might have been the origin of the disease, the doctor said that he had made a thorough investigation to try and discover something to which it might be traced. He said that things about the institution were in a sanitary condition and he was inclined to believe that the theory advanced by Supt. Price was the correct solution. He said that this was to the effect that one of the boys, in fact the boy to be taken sick first, had been vis-

ited there. They could not do more for children of their own."

**Superintendent Price
Talks of Conditions.**

Supt. Price was interviewed by a reporter over the phone. He said:

"Yes, it is true that we have an epidemic of diphtheria here, but all of the patients are doing well and we do not look for any deaths. The first boy was taken sick Sunday and most of the others came down Monday. When the grand jury was here, I told them we had fourteen cases, but Dr. McManus has since discovered that two of the boys who were complaining have not got the disease. This makes the actual number down with the malady twelve. I am sure we now have the trouble under control; that there will be no more cases and hope that all of the sick will recover, as they now promise to do."

Asked as to what he considered the source of the epidemic, Supt. Price said: "I can only think of one possible source, and I hesitate to name that, for fear that I might do some one an injustice. A boy named Dewitt Clarkson was the first to be taken sick. He was visited by his mother and some brothers several days before he became ill, and it might be that they brought the disease to the school. However, that is only conjecture, and I make no charges. I am sure that the members of the grand jury will tell you that they found everything clean and sanitary here. There have been no new cases since Monday."

The reporter suggested the pond referred to above as a possible source of the sickness.

"I don't think that could hardly be," replied Supt. Price. "This is the first time we have had diphtheria at the school for twelve years, and the pond has been there all of the time. It is true that the water in the pond is rather muddy, but no scum or filth rests on the surface. It does not even breed mosquitoes. The disease is confined to the white boys. None of the girls are sick, and we do not apprehend a trouble in the colored department, which is situated some distance away."