

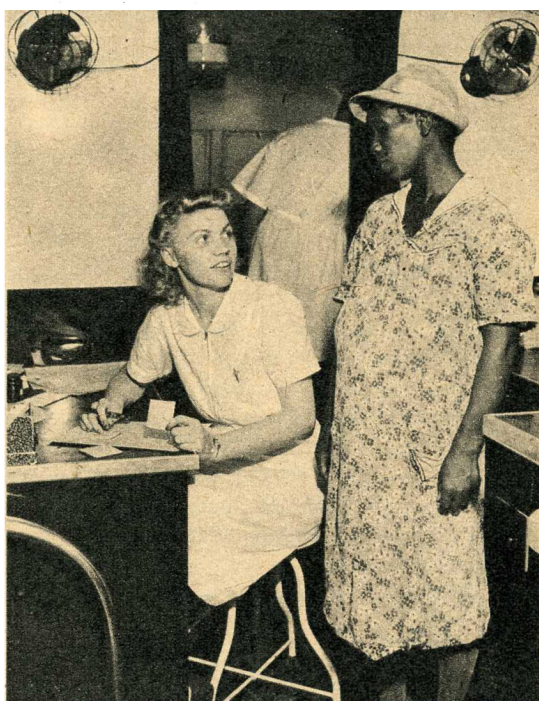
A MODERN CLINIC

Mobile Hospital Fights Superstition Of Deep South To Bring Medical Aid To Negro



Shelby County Mobile Hospital crosses a trestle on its way to their various stops

A **SIGNIFICANT** work in planned births, comparable to the stride made by the Chicago Maternity Center, is in progress in Shelby County, Tennessee. Operating in a territory steeped in superstition, with staggering maternal death rate figures, the Health Department is doing a missionary job of national importance. The Shelby County Mobile Health Unit, under the supervision of Dr. H. S. Rhea, and with the co-operation of leading Negro doctors and medical schools, is bringing care and education to remote areas which had never heard of such ideas. The way the unit operates is careful in the extreme. The section to be covered is mapped out so that any patient needing care will never be more than four miles from a stopping point of the gigantic medical bus on its regular rounds. Twelve visiting nurses, with prescribed territories, do the preliminary work of preparing the patients, emotionally as well as medically, for the visit of the doctor. There are 66,000 inhabitants in Shelby County, and in the past two years, the mobile hospital has made 110,000 visits. The results of such careful study and guidance are naturally excellent. Even though in the heart of a backward area, Shelby County ranks third in the nation in syphilis control. The Health Department also believes, as do other experts, that birth control, while it cannot solve all the problems facing the Negro, can go a long way toward easing the situation. It can lower the death rate by enabling mothers with serious ailments to avoid pregnancy until cured. It can also raise the standard of living somewhat, by allowing the parents to adjust the family size to the family income. At the start of the project there was considerable opposition due to the backwardness of the area, and one of the greatest features of the work is its missionary value. The Negroes and whites who formerly were very frightened of the idea, now look forward to the visits.



DOROTHY FITZWATER, a clerk who travels with the unit and keeps the important records, admits a new patient to the care of the unit, taking her name and all the vital information needed.

modern clinics



NURSE LEOTA HARTLEY GIVES INJECTION FOR SYPHILIS TREATMENTS, 7,000 BLOOD TESTS.



ON LEFT, BABY RECEIVES SMALLPOX INJECTION. ON RIGHT, SALLY WHERRY, 65, ONE OF COUNTY'S 56 MIDWIVES WHO MUST NOW GO TO SCHOOL.



THIS 31-year-old girl, the wife of a concrete worker, has had seven children. One more child might well result in her death, so she underwent an operation. Many cases such as this exist here.



A YOUNG, pregnant girl waits eagerly for the regular visit of the bus, at Eads, Tennessee. The Mobile Hospital Unit, in the course of every week, makes forty-seven regularly scheduled stops.



FRANCIS Y. ANDREWS, Commissioner of Health of the county, confers with Dr. W. D. Burkhalter, County Health Director, over the careful records compiled over two years, by the doctor and nurses of the Mobile Hospital. All the work of the traveling unit is closely supervised and the statistics gathered are invaluable.

P I C

D e c e m b e r 23, 1941
p . 10