

Tuberculosis Hospital

Woodlawn Hospital, a tumbledown structure on Hines Boulevard, must be replaced with a modern tuberculosis hospital before the people of Dallas and Dallas County can do anything like their full duty in curing local tuberculars and in protecting healthy people here from the ravages of the white plague. The Dallas tuberculosis rate is much higher than the national average—71.9 persons per 100,000 compared with 51.9. It may go still higher unless a modern tuberculosis hospital is built here and unless more clinical work is done.

Woodlawn Hospital does not conform to modern standards in the treatment of tuberculosis. It has only 125 beds—not more than one third of the number urgently needed. Houston's new tuberculosis hospital is to have 470 beds. The daily allowance at Woodlawn is only \$1.34 per patient, compared with the state sanatorium's \$2 figure, which is considered inadequate. Administrative personnel there is insufficient for the task at hand, as Felix R. McKnight showed in a recent series of articles in *The News*.

Dallas probably has several hundred tuberculars who are getting no treatment. Some of these do not know they have the disease. This is especially true among Mexicans and Negroes, whose tuberculosis rates are several times higher than that for whites. In one small Dallas home, thirteen Negroes recently were found living in three rooms. Four of them had active tuberculosis, but not one was obtaining any kind of treatment.

Woodlawn Hospital is beyond satisfactory or economical repair. It must be razed and replaced with either a modern hospital on the same or some other site or a large wing for tuberculosis patients at Parkland. No longer can Dallas people afford to tolerate on the part of city and county officials an attitude that views the city-county hospital system in terms of its dollar costs instead of in terms of the service it should give.
