before they become problems. A health department that does not provide this important service to architects, builders, contractors, plumbers, equipment dealers, fabricators of equipment, and food service industry management can not hope for a fully effective food sanitation program.

10. Efforts have been increased to control the tuberculosis hazard by requiring annual chest x-rays of all foodhandlers. Statistical data published in the 1958 Annual Report of the Division of Public Health, Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, shows that almost twice as many new cases of active tuberculosis were found among foodhandlers as among the general population in Marion County.

LOOKING AHEAD

Health departments of the future, to qualify for a fair share of the tax dollar and the continued support of the food service industry, must prove their worth in services to the communities they serve. Environmental sanitation programs, employing horse and buggy methods that were acceptable a decade ago, are no longer in step with present day needs. Progress in environmental health programs can be attained if we stand ready to question accepted practices, investigate new approaches, test new ideas, and set new objectives.

"Give me the serenity to accept what cannot be changed. Give me the courage to change what must be changed. The wisdom to distinguish one from the other."—REINHOLD NIEBUHR.

REFERENCES
1. National Food & Beverage Council, % The National Sanitation Foundation, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SANITARIAN

E. Lee Everett

Tri-County Suffolk Health District, Suffolk, Virginia

Local health departments have great responsibilities. Our first concern should be, how can the health department make the maximum contribution to the people it serves, therefore, the first responsibility of each of us is to the department.

In no other vocation are personnel more related than in Public Health. Every person in the department, no matter what his specific job may be, has a mutual interest and a common objective. In order to produce more and better results we must think and work together and utilize the contributions of all.

In the past there have been periodic outbreaks of public interest in sanitation, but during the past several years and particularly during the war, interest has increased. We sanitarians must realize that our programs are largely dependent upon the understanding and support of the public. If we are to succeed the public must understand, appreciate, and apply sanitation. Nothing should ever be done to discourage this growing public interest, on the contrary, we must encourage and stimulate it at every opportunity. This is a responsibility of the sanitarian, and can best be accomplished by education and salesmanship. Just as an industry salesman depends in a large measure upon his attitude, thoroughness, creative imagination, adaptability and knowledge to sell merchandise, so must the sanitarian develop and use these identical characteristics to sell his programs. We must equip ourselves mentally to do this.

Instruction is effective in direct proportion to the skill of the instructor. The field of sanitation is a diversified one. Some of the activities that this occupation embraces are sewage disposal supervision, water supply investigation, food establishment inspection, milk inspection, insect and rodent control, refuse disposal and housing. You can probably think of more. If the sanitarian is to be a skilled instructor in his field, he must have a thorough knowledge of all of these activities. If we are to become competent, we must take advantage of every available means to learn more about our work.

In my opinion the first qualification necessary to a good salesman or teacher is personal interest. Without this attribute you will find it difficult if not impossible to interest other people. Radiation of personal interest is essential. Always remember, if the learner did not learn, the teacher did not teach.
It is realized that education is an essential in carrying out sanitation programs; it is also realized that education alone is not enough. If programs were limited to formal instruction, they would progress very slowly and would not reach some of the worst offenders. It is easy to control things but it is difficult to control people. It is, therefore, necessary to supplement the educational phase with enforcement. If it becomes necessary to resort to legal action in order to accomplish an objective we should not hesitate to do so. The sanitarian should, however, be more interested in leadership than in the application of police power.

All too often sanitarians are prone to criticize without giving the reason for their criticism. Many operators of food establishments and dairies have been requested to do things that they did not understand or did not know how to do. Sometimes this is the reason for failure to comply with our requests. Always remember that criticism should be accompanied by suggestions for the correction of the defects under discussion.

In order to obtain a maximum of results, full utilization of the sanitarian’s time is essential. A sanitarian’s value can be appraised by how he uses his time. It is often difficult to avoid wasting time. For instance, it often happens that you will be in one section of your county and a call will be received requiring your presence in another section far distant from your present location. This requires a lot of driving, and at first thought we feel it is unavoidable so we answer such calls without a second thought.

Many times we have heard program planning advocated. Very few of us pay much attention to it. Frequently we assume this attitude, “That sounds fine, but it is impossible.” With calls coming in from all parts of the County how can you plan any kind of a schedule or program? The only thing I can do is answer them as they come.” I wish to defend the policy of program planning. If a schedule is arranged so the sanitarian will be in a certain section of the county on certain days, and if this schedule is made known, those concerned will know when to contact you. In the beginning there might be some difficulty, but as people learn your schedule they will save their time and yours because they will know when to expect you. I have seen this tried and it works. All of the sanitarian’s activities are important; however, many of us are sometimes prone to do the things we like and forget others. A planned program, in which all phases of sanitation are considered, will be advantageous in having a well balanced program.

Many sanitarians accept responsibilities that are not rightly theirs. These responsibilities are time consuming and are definitely detrimental to a good sanitation program. For instance, the responsibility of operating clean, sanitary food establishments rests squarely with the management. It is the sanitarian’s obligation to make certain that the management accepts and fulfills this responsibility. A sanitarian should do all he can to help operators properly equip their establishments. He should teach them accepted practices and routine operations incident to proper sanitation but he should not waste his time doing work that rightly should be done by the operators. It is not the sanitarians responsibility to get their repair work done for them or purchase their supplies, nor supervise their personnel. If we accept these responsibilities, the operators never will be concerned about them. Why should they? They will always leave it up to us and the overall program will suffer.

In his dealing with operators of food establishments the sanitarian should avoid needless conversations, arguments, and listening to excuses. He should be courteous, positive, and impersonal. A firm, polite approach is much more effective than useless arguments.

There are a number of agencies with which the sanitarian has to deal. Some of these are city councils, boards of supervisors and school superintendents. It is essential to have good relationships with these groups. Keep your council or board advised as to the progress being made. Many of us think of these people only when we need something. If you have an occasion to ask for the passage of an ordinance, and are successful in getting it, then report to appropriate people the results and advantages gained by having it. This will make it a lot easier the next time you want something.

We should strive for a good, cooperative relationship with all of the agencies with which we come in contact. It is a good policy to call occasionally at the office of heads of various agencies with whom you deal. In addition to official reports, talk over a problem with them. Ask their opinion on a subject. Their response often will prevent their building up passive resistance to programs you are attempting to carry out. By all means report to them good things about their agency as well as the bad.

The primary function of the sanitarian is to control the factors in environment that adversely affect public health. We should therefore confine our activities to those things having public health significance. I have had many calls asking to have weeds cut on vacant lots because mosquitoes were breeding in them, or to have old buildings torn down, for the same reason. We all know that mosquitoes don’t breed in weeds and old buildings, and although they are unsightly, they don’t cause diseases. If we spend
Responsibilities Of A Sanitarian

As long as most areas still have need for more effort in enhancing sanitation, and I confess ours has, we are not ready to undertake refinements which may be only indirectly connected with public health.

The health department, like all public agencies, is always in the public eye. As we go about our daily activities people observe us. We should remember this and never bring reproach upon the department by our conduct. The sanitarian should be rigidly honest and straightforward in his personal dealings with the people of his community.

The sanitarian is in a position to make an outstanding contribution to his community. A recently released definition of sanitation is as follows: "Sanitation is a way of life. It is the quality of living that is expressed in the clean home, the clean farm, the clean business and industry, the clean neighborhood, and the clean community." There is a personal satisfaction in knowing we have a part in making this way of life a reality. We must continue to improve our work and render high quality service to the people. Their confidence in our ability and integrity will increase, and as a result sanitarians will enhance their professional status.

NEWS AND EVENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE SANITARIANS AWARD FOR 1961

Announcement is made that nominations will be accepted for the annual Sanitarians Award until May 1, 1961. Members of the International Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians, Inc., are requested to give consideration to the nomination of individuals whose professional work in the field of milk and food sanitation in their communities has been outstanding.

The Award consists of a Certificate of Citation and $1,000 in cash, and is sponsored jointly by the Diversay Corporation, Klenzade Products, Inc., Oakite Products, Inc., Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company, and the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. It is administered by the International Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians, Inc., and is presented annually. The Sanitarians Award was initiated in 1952, and last year it was presented to Mr. James Barringer, director of sanitation for the city of Evansville, Indiana. The next presentation will be at the annual meeting of the Association at Jekyll Island, Georgia, next August.

The Executive Board of the Association has established the following rules and procedures governing the Sanitarians Award.

Eligibility

The rules concerning eligibility of candidates for nomination are:

(1) Any living citizen of the United States or Canada who, at the time of nomination, is employed as a professional milk and food sanitarian, or both, by a county or municipality, is eligible for the Award, except members of the Executive Board and members of the Committee on Recognition and Awards of the International Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians, Inc. Employees of State or Federal agencies and of industry are not eligible for the Award. Membership in the International Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians, Inc., is not a prerequisite of eligibility, and there are no restrictions as to race, sex, or age.

(2) A candidate shall have made a meritorious contribution in the field of milk and food sanitation to the public health and welfare of a county or municipality within the United States or Canada.

(3) The achievements and contributions on which the Award is to be based, must have been completed during the five-year period immediately preceding January 1 of the year during which the Award is to be made. Under special circumstances, consideration will be given to related work accomplished by the candidate during the seven-year period preceding January 1 of the year during which the Award is to be made.

(4) Co-workers are eligible for nomination if both have contributed equally to the work upon which the nomination is based.

(5) No person who has once received the Award shall be eligible for nomination.

Nominations

Nominations of candidates for the Sanitarians Award may be submitted by the Affiliate Associations of the IAMFS, or by any member of the Association in good standing except members of the Executive Board, members of the Committee on Recognition and Awards, and employees of the sponsoring companies. Nominations from persons who are not members of the Association cannot be accepted. No member or Affiliate may nominate more than one candidate in any given year.