

Veterans' Hospital, Tuskegee, Ala.

PLAN OF WORK

It is difficult to state what is the most important problem in the field of serological diagnosis, for different persons might choose different subjects. However, I feel it is of great importance to conceive and perfect a serological test for tuberculosis capable of making the diagnosis before the physical signs and symptoms are discovered.

As tuberculosis is one of the major problems confronting Negroes today and as early diagnosis is one of the greatest aids in planning therapy, a serological method capable of diagnosing the case prior to the onset of signs and symptoms would naturally enhance the possibility of the tuberculous patient for recovery. Thus I feel that the return, measured in terms of health, would greatly outweigh the money invested in the project if the reaction were found to be dependable. If, on the other hand, the work were to prove the test with less, it would obviate the possibility of other investigators following the same line of endeavor.

The long and discouraging line of experiments in this field has recently had a contribution which seems more promising than others. Dr. William A. Hinton in 1930 described a Glycerol Cholesterol reaction in tuberculosis which is believed to have possibilities as a diagnostic aid. In collaboration with Dr. John B. West I have experimented with this reaction over a period of more than two years during our work at the Veterans' Administration Facility, Tuskegee, Alabama, and we are convinced that an attempt should be made to perfect the technique.

As there are many factors entering into the technique of any serological diagnosis, I feel that undivided time and attention are necessary for a competent investigation of the problem. Because of my interest in the health of my people, I therefore apply to the Julius Rosenwald Fund for financial assistance in furthering this plan.