Medical care in the Japanese internment camps was very important but a lot of times it also hurt the patient and the treatment was very painful. The medical care was primitive and the doctors who went above and beyond for their patients were often underpaid. The all volunteer group of doctors, nurses, and dentists were paid as much as $19 in one day. The camps did not have all of the necessities of basic medical care. There also weren’t enough personnel for all of the internees. At the Manzanar Camp there were 7 doctors for 10,000 internees. Finally, there had to be special sanitary precautions taken to prevent disease epidemics. Cost wasn’t a problem for the patients. The care was free unless you needed special medicines or treatments. If that was the case, you had to cover the cost. The precautions of the camps were necessary but they did not always work. As soon as the internees entered the camp they were given a series of very painful shots. Age did not matter.
Doctor treating patients

These shots helped most but some disease epidemics spread anyway. Typhoid, Tuberculosis, and Dysentery were common at all of the camps. Among children, chicken pox and measles were common. At the camp in Granada, Colorado, polio was common. Also at the camp in Arkansas, Malaria was common. Medical effects of the camps are still felt today all around the world. The mental and physical trauma of the camps is still felt today among former internees and their children. Most Nisei were permanently altered in their attitude. There has been found to be a twice greater risk for heart disease and premature death among former internees.