

1 Dies, 7 Felled By Lead Poisoning

Evening News Staff Writer

A 2½-year-old girl has died of lead poisoning and seven others, including three of the girl's family, have been admitted to Martland Hospital with poisoning in the last three weeks, a hospital official said.

Dawn Wilson, daughter of Mrs. Lilly Wilson of 195 Renner Ave. has died. Her two brothers, Gary Wilson, 8, and Barry, 6, and a sister, Dionne, 5, have been treated for lead poisoning and released.

The other children are from four different families, in various locations. They were not identified.

In Semi-Coma

Dawn was brought into Martland in a semicoma, and sub-

sequently went into convulsions. She died May 14. Dr. Theodore Kushnik, associate professor of pediatrics at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, ordered the other Wilson children brought to the hospital for examination, and discovered they too were suffering from lead poisoning.

All the families involved live in old houses in various parts of the city. Dr. Kushnik said children absorb the lead by eating paint and plaster off the walls. Prior to 1940, house paint contained a high amount of lead and therefore lead poisoning is a greater danger in old houses, he explained.

If the illness is caught in time it can be fought with new medication, he added, but nevertheless, some children are left with brain damage, and the lead cannot be gotten out of the bones.

Symptoms of lead poisoning are loss of appetite, pallor, abdominal pains, constipation, irritability, vomiting and change of personality. Dr. Kushnik urged parents who see their children eating paint or plaster to bring them immediately to the hospital for tests.

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