

NYT

WASH POST

BOSTON GLOBE

LOS ANGELES TIMES

CHI TRIBUNE.

Crib Gnawing Called Rare in Satisfied Child; Habit Seldom Cause for Alarm, Pa...

By N.S. Haseltine Post Reporter

The Washington Post (1877-1954); Aug 21, 1949; ProQuest Historical Newspapers *The Washington Post* (1877 - 1989)
pg. M1

Rocking to Recovery . . .



The Washington Post

SHE SHEDS A HABIT—Elizabeth Carver, 3, of Hyattsville, Md., rocks in her favorite chair at Children's Hospital, where she is recovering from the effects of lead poisoning caused from gnawing painted furniture. Her sister died from the habit.
(See related story on Page 12)

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

Crib Gnawing Called Rare in Satisfied Child; Habit Seldom Cause for Alarm, Parents Told

By N. S. Haseltine
Post Reporter

A baby's habit of gnawing his toys or edge of his crib is seldom cause for alarm. Washington parents were advised yesterday.

The habit is well known to child specialists. But unfortunately, said one authority the specialists are called in only in those rare instances when it has reached abnormal proportions and after physical harm has been done.

"Treatment," the specialist said, "must begin with the realization that indulgence is rarely encountered in infants whose nutritional and emotional needs are adequately satisfied."

Renewed interest in the habit came last week in news accounts of the lead poisoning death of a 4-year-old Hyattsville, Md., girl, who died after more than a year of gnawing on painted furniture in her home.

Lead poisoning illness of the victim's younger sister, however, was blamed by the specialists on "an even more normal" childhood trait—imitativeness.

The child, Elizabeth Carver, 3, of 1503 Decatur st., now a patient at Children's Hospital, is "more probably" the victim of following her sister's example than a victim of pica (abnormal appetite), they said.

The sick girl was reported "under close observation, but not acutely ill" by hospital physicians last night. She was taken there last Thursday after an autopsy on her sister, Claudette, confirmed

that death was due to lead poisoning from gnawing on painted furniture.

The children's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude G. Carver, told investigators their youngsters gnawed on the paint and chewed it like gum despite every efforts to stop them. Two other children, Esther, 8, and John, 19 months, did not indulge, they said.

Lead poisoning, the specialists pointed out, was a far greater hazard to "gnawing age" children some 20 years ago. Then, with evidence piling up that youngsters were sickening or dying from ingestion of lead from paints, furniture manufacturers switched to harmless vegetable paints for cribs and toys.

The danger still exists, but in lesser degree, the specialists said. Parents repaint cribs with lead-based paints, or pen toddlers in on porches where they are free to mouth the leaded paints of porch rails and furniture.

Dr. Leo Kanner, psychiatrist-pediatrician and director of the Children's Psychiatry Service at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, outlined the problems in a chapter on eating behavior of his textbook, "Child Psychiatry."

The peculiarly infantile habit of eating things of no nutritional value is referred to as pica, from the Latin name of the omnivorous bird, the magpie.

Such perverted appetite, Dr. Kanner wrote, is mostly encountered

in malnourished, poorly supervised and otherwise neglected infants, and is the commonest cause of lead poisoning in the first three years of life.

The child psychiatrist pointed out that any normal infant between four and nine months of age has a tendency to put his hands to his mouth. The behavior loses in frequency and intensity at the end of the first year, but may last longer in "developmentally retarded children," he wrote.

"If the object is too heavy or cannot be grasped with the hand, the Mohammed-mountain principle is applied: the infant brings his mouth close to the object and licks, sucks or gnaws at it," Dr. Kanner wrote.

Of 30 consecutive cases of children admitted to the Hopkins Hospital with pica, Dr. Kanner wrote, one in every five showed some degree of lead poisoning.

Grand Jury Will Hear Poison-Case Evidence
The Washington Post (1877-1954): Oct 19, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1989)
pg. X5

Grand Jury Will Hear Poison-Case Evidence

White Plains, N. Y., Oct. 19 (AP).—Two persons allegedly poisoned by a Korean houseboy hovered between life and death tonight, while Westchester County District Attorney Walter Ferris prepared to present the case to the grand jury Tuesday. White Plains Hospital officials said the two, Mr. and Mrs. George Reeve, of Indianapolis, still were in critical condition in the grip of lead poisoning and "may live and may die."

Ferris said he would question tomorrow Mrs. Ida L. Churchill, wealthy 64-year-old employer of the Korean, Chang Soo Lee, 38.

He also planned to question Miss Ruth Mannix, hospital nurse, who said Chang told her the Reeves, relatives and house guests of Mrs. Churchill, "thought they were going to get her money when she died, but they die first."

S. B. Emerson Joins Morgan Stanley & Co.

New York, Oct. 18 (AP).—Sumner B. Emerson has been elected a vice president of Morgan Stanley & Co. He comes to the prominent Wall street investment house from the Fire Association of Philadelphia, of which he was vice president since 1934. He is a native of Milford, N. H.

Marks 104th Birthday.

Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 18 (AP).—Surrounded by her five children, Mrs. Catherine Hallan celebrated her 104th birthday anniversary today at her home in St. Paris, 20 miles north of here. She said she hoped to live to be 120.

2d Area Baby Dies Here of Lead Poison

Lead poisoning apparently caused by chewing the paint off wood yesterday took its second child victim within the past two weeks in the Washington area.

Louise Pitman, 26-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pitman, 4936 Ayers pl. se., died at admitted Wednesday.

The child, her mother said, had been in the habit of peeling paint off the porch railing and putting it in her mouth. She also would chew at the wall plaster. Mrs. Pitman said she had put red pepper on the walls in an attempt to stop this habit.

Claudette Garver, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude L. Garver, 4503 Decatur st., Hyattsville, Md., died August 13 at Prince George General Hospital of lead poisoning. Her parents said the child had the habit of eating paint from the walls and furniture.

The infant habit of eating things of no nutritional value, one medical authority on the subject has stated, is principally caused by vitamin or other nutritional deficiencies.

Gettysburg Park Tour Set For Sunday

A one-day tour of the Gettysburg (Pa.) National Military Park is among the events scheduled by the National Capital Park Service for Washington-area nature lovers this weekend.

Irvin C. Root, park superintendent, said a bus caravan would form at 1416 F st. nw., Sunday at 8 a. m., returning to Washington about 7 p. m. the same day. Participants, who have been requested to bring their own lunches, are advised that a small fee will be charged for admission to the Cyclorama at the Gettysburg Park.

Other weekend events include a woodland stroll through the Glover and Whitehaven parkways, starting from 41st and Calvert sts., nw., at 3 p. m. Saturday; a fern walk in Upper Rock Creek Park, beginning at 16th and Underwood sts. at 3 p. m. Sunday, and barge trips along the historic C. and O. Canal both Saturday and Sunday. On both days, trips will start from Lock 3, near 30th

and M sts., at 2 p. m., and from Lock 5, Brookmont, Md., at 4 p. m.

Girl Gets Tuition Paid in School Of Experience

Hollywood, Aug. 26 (U.P.).—Carol Ann Beery is going to have a \$500-a-month allowance to teach her to handle money.

The pretty 18-year-old adopted daughter of the late Actor Wallace Beery received the grant from her guardianship estate yesterday. Her mother, Mrs. Mary Areta Beery Foyt, also was allowed \$700 monthly for their joint use.

"The girl will have to handle a great deal of money in the years to come and it's time she began to learn," Superior Judge Newcomb Condee said in granting the allowance.

Guardsmen to Honor Governors at 'Gap

Indiantown Gap, Pa., Aug. 26 (A.P.).—Some 6500 troops of the Twenty-ninth National Guard Division will parade here Saturday to honor the Governors of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

A highlight of the exercises will be the presentation of organization and individual awards in front of the assembled troops.

The Governors' Day event, coming at the midway point of the two weeks' field training, also is traditionally visitors' day. Following the review, guardsmen will show their hometown friends around the huge military reservation.

Welsh Youth Leaves For Llanfairpwli (etc.)

Boston, Aug. 26 (U.P.).—John D. E. Griffiths, one of 12 British farm youths spending the summer on United States farms, today left for his home in Llanfairpwllkwyngylligogerellandyssiliogogoch, Wales.

His one regret, he said, was that while in Massachusetts he had not had a chance to visit Webster and see Lake Chargog Gagoggman-chauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg.

Teething Child May Be in Danger

By Glen Shepherd, M.D.

The Washington Post (1877-1954); Jul 14, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers *The Washington Post* (1877 - 1989)
pg. 15

Doctor's Notebook:

Teething Child May Be in Danger

By Glen Shepherd, M. D.

YOUR TEETHING child can die or be permanently injured by an insidious disease you parents can prevent entirely.

Two-year-old Marilyn lived with her folks in a paint-peeling tenement. Her mother didn't think much about it when Marilyn became irritable and constipated. Then Marilyn began having frequent headaches, nausea, vomiting and pains in the stomach. A frightening convulsion decisively indicated the need for prompt medical attention.

When the doctor closely questioned Marilyn's mother, she recalled the child's picking up flakes of paint and putting them in her mouth. Sometimes Marilyn gnawed on the window sill while cutting her teeth.

Blood tests and bone X-rays proved that Marilyn had lead poisoning. If it had continued longer, Marilyn would have had permanent brain damage or may even have died.

LEAD POISONING is a dangerous health hazard in children from one through five years of age, especially while they are teething. In the past 18 years, 220 Baltimore children suffered from lead poisoning and 78 of them died from it. All of these deaths could have been prevented. Therein is their tragedy. Of these 220 youngsters, 121 were 2-year-olds and 191 were 3-year-olds or less.

Children living in poor, rundown neighborhoods are espe-

cially likely to suffer lead poisoning. The interior walls of the houses usually haven't been painted for years and were last painted with a lead paint, now peeling.

You can entirely prevent this disease by certain precautions. If given the chance, young children will eat anything. When teething, they like to bite and chew. Don't allow them to chew painted surfaces (especially repainted woodwork) such as window sills, cribs, high chairs or other furniture.

Look these surfaces over for tooth marks to see if your child has chewed them. If a child has something safe to chew on such as teething rings or hard rubber toys, he is less likely to bite dangerous, lead-painted materials.

KEEP YOUR child from eating dried paint flakes by cleaning them up and watching

your child more carefully. Old paint should be removed from window sills and repainting done with lead-free paint.

Whenever you paint indoors read the label on the paint can carefully. Be sure the paint does not contain lead pigment. Do not buy lead paint for indoor use. It is false economy to use left-over outdoor lead paint for painting inside the house.

If you suspect that your child has been chewing a lead-painted surface, or if he shows any symptoms of lead poisoning, take him to a doctor and suggest the possibility. He'll give the child a blood and X-ray examination.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment of lead poisoning usually leads to recovery. Better still is removing the hazard entirely by scraping old paint off, carefully discarding the flakes and repainting indoors with lead-free paint.

WILL ENLARGE CLINIC PLANT

People of Moderate
Means Cared For.

New Move at Massachusetts
General Hospital.

One Small Fee for Views of
Several Experts.

Announcement is made in the 102d annual report of the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital of the establishment of a new consultation clinic through which the excellent scientific facilities of the institution are to be put at the disposal of all people of moderate means.

It is pointed out that it has recently become evident "that those without sufficient means of support will receive in the modern hospitals an attention and care far beyond the resources of the self-respecting man who may be unwilling to ask any measure of relief from a charitable institution," and that the rich and poor thus have the best medical care, while the rest—30 percent, it is estimated—must be content with what they can afford, not always the best.

"It has, therefore, been determined to attempt an enlargement of the functions of this hospital," reads the report, "by opening a department of the outpatient service for the diagnosis of such diseases as may present unusual difficulties, requiring all the resources of skill and scientific apparatus which are not, as a rule, combined in any single medical office.

"The fee charged for this service will be as small as is consistent with the requirement that the added expense shall not be inflicted upon the charitable funds of the hospital."

Difficulties in Diagnosis.

Further details of the plan are given in the report of the general executive committee. It is shown that nowadays the diagnosis of obscure and complicated cases of disease can be secured frequently by a combination of many examinations by different experts which would be of prohibitive cost for people of moderate means.

"Diagnosis by a single, unaided physician," says the report, "without consultants, laboratories and machines behind him, is becoming more and more obviously impossible. But group diagnosis, which is the only satisfactory alternative, is ruinously expensive when the patient goes to each of a group of specialists at his office. The hospital offers the only opportunity for the reasonably accurate diagnosis of obscure cases in persons of moderate means.

"During the past year the trustees have given their consent to the opening of a consultation clinic for persons of moderate means. This clinic is to be held in the afternoons when our outpatient department ordinarily stands idle. Physicians are invited to bring or send to it persons for whose disease they desire a low priced consultation with the advantages above described.

"After diagnosis the patient is to be referred back to his physician with a letter giving our opinion and suggestions

the case requires. Wassermann tests \$1 extra and X-ray plates \$2 or \$3 extra."

Case Records by Mail.

Another new practice to which reference is made is that of putting at the disposal of physicians living at a distance the records of cases in which special investigation is made weekly. Many physicians having no opportunity to extend their disease knowledge by seeing autopsies are enabled to receive these four printed case records a week through the mail at a cost of \$5, to cover printing and mailing. This was started last April and in December there were 1092 physicians all over the country receiving the records, including United States Army surgeons.

The usefulness of the outpatient department of the hospital is shown by the record of 29,213 new cases treated last year, as against 24,857 in 1914.

Two physicians are dividing their time in studying lead-poisoning effects on the body, while another is making a complete study and analysis of occupational diseases, which should net valuable results to the industrial world.

The trustees express gratification at the growth of the clinic for a specific disease, and the fact that 90 percent of cases treated are followed up afterward. An important weekly clinic for the treatment of defects in speech has been started this year for the public.

Appeal for Help.

The expenses for the work have exceeded the income for the year, as usual, the balance being made up from the general fund. Operating costs were \$482,786.97, as compared with hospital receipts of \$219,351.88. Gifts to help pay for current expenses are asked.

Among the needs of the hospital, the trustees observe that there should be a special building for the care of patients of moderate means who pay something for their care, though not able to pay for a private ward.

Other needs mentioned are a country branch to which bed patients might be moved for convalescence, a special building for the care of children and a nurses' home, as an increase of 85 nurses will soon become necessary.

A report by Walter J. Dodd shows the increasing value of the roentgenological department, 13,371 plates having been sent out for use. The general report is in two sections or volumes with much interesting data concerning the work of the McLean Hospital, women's visiting committee, etc.

NO TREATMENT. NO treatment will be given at the hospital unless at the desire of the patient's physician, and in cases which require such help as the hospital through its Zander apparatus or X-ray machines is especially fitted to give.

"The fee for examination and consultation is \$5. This is to include the services of as many different specialists as

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.



How to Keep Well. ♦♦♦ By Dr. W. A. Evans

Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation, and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where a stamped, addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnoses or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such service cannot be answered.

[Copyright: 1915: By Dr. W. A. Evans.]

FACTS ABOUT HYDROPHOBIA.

DOES hydrophobia prevail at all seasons of the year? Yes.

Where does the virus of hydrophobia cause its effect? By action on the brain and spinal cord.

How does the poison travel from the wound to the brain and spinal cord? Along the lymphatics in the sheath of the nerves.

What practical bearing does this information have? The poison remains local for several hours, and during this time the poison can be destroyed by cauterizing the wound. The poison is slow in reaching the brain and the disease has a long incubation period.

What is the best way to cauterize a bite to prevent hydrophobia? By swabbing the wound thoroughly with fuming nitric acid. The acid can be neutralized later with cooking soda or lime scraped from the wall.

What is the incubation period of hydrophobia? From fourteen to 285 days.

Is there any other disease with so long an incubation period? No.

If a dog has been bitten by a dog known to have hydrophobia should the bitten dog be killed? Yes, at once.

Does this apply to animals other than dogs? Yes.

If a person has been bitten by a dog suspected of having rabies should the dog be killed? No. He should be chained or locked up securely and held until a diagnosis of rabies can be made with certainty, or for ten days if the diagnosis is doubtful. If the diagnosis is certain or if at the end of ten days a diagnosis of rabies is probable the dog should be killed and its head sent to a laboratory for examination.

What are the symptoms of rabies in a dog? The disposition of the animal changes. If he was by nature quiet he may become noisy and restless. If he was noisy he may become quiet, especially if he is in for the violent paralyzing form of rabies. He hides in secluded spots and starts suddenly. A disposition to gnaw wooden objects is very characteristic. Then restlessness increases and the animal is apt to wander. When in the wandering stage he bites people, dogs, and inanimate objects without reason. He does not bark nor snarl nor foam at the mouth. In the last stage he becomes paralyzed.

MARRIAGE OF SECOND COUSINS.

R. writes: "Will you kindly give me your opinion as to the advisability of the marriage of second cousins? While there seems to be a general disapproval of first cousins intermarrying the marriage of second cousins seems to have a balance of supporters in its favor. Are children from such a union likely to be defective?"

REPLY.

There is no biological objection to the marriage of second cousins as a class. Second cousins with bad family histories should not marry.

MONSTROSITIES AT BIRTH.

G. S. B. writes: "What causes monstrosities? Our first baby, now 3 years old, is a fine, healthy, well formed, bright boy. Our second boy looked all right when born except that his teeth were about ready to cut. He died before he was a day old. Our next were twin girls. One was scarcely formed at all; the other looked almost right, but she died after drawing a few breaths. The mother noticed very little life for the last two months and the babies were born two weeks ahead of time. The mother is 5 feet 7 inches, weighs 146 pounds, and is in good health, except that she needs a curettement.

REPLY.

Before beginning with what causes monsters, let me say they are not caused by fright, worry, or any other emotion. The cause may be any one of several. The parent may be suffering from some form of poisoning, for instance, lead poisoning or syphilis poisoning. The mother may have some local disease. For instance, endometritis is sometimes a cause. The developing germ cells may have some disease that has not affected the mother, or may be suffering from some accident. The unborn child is subject to a fair number of diseases. As to which was responsible in this case you can find out from your physician.

PROBABLY WHOOPING COUGH.

Mrs. C. A. J. writes: "Our little girl, 2½ years old, has been exposed to whooping cough. She has coughed for two weeks, expectorates phlegm, and a few times has coughed until she vomited. Apparently she has had no fever—none we could notice. She has never whooped. From these symptoms, is it your opinion she has whooping cough? If so, when and for how long would she be apt to transmit it? We expect a baby in two months. Would there be danger of it getting it from her?"

REPLY.

It is reasonably certain that your daughter has whooping cough. Probably she will not whoop. In these atypical cases physicians are sometimes able to make a diagnosis by counting the white cells in the blood.

Whooping cough is very contagious for the first two weeks from the start of the cough. It is much less so after the whoop starts. Your new baby will be in no danger.

GUMS SHOULD BE TREATED.

C. A. R. writes: "Would the use of 'Alcresta' Ipecac tablets [alkaloids of Ipecac] be beneficial to a person suffering with pyorrhea? What effect would these tablets have?"

REPLY.

They would be of service, but treatment of the gums is necessary.

EATING OF LEAN MEAT.

J. H. D. writes: "You have advised the eating of lean meat 'sparingly' or 'with moderation.' Would you regard a half or three-quarters of a pound daily, and at the evening meal, as complying with your recommendation?"

REPLY.

Unless he does manual labor he is eating lean meat to excess.

How to Keep Well

By Dr. W. A. Evans

To the limit of space questions pertaining to hygiene and prevention of disease will be answered in this column. Personal replies will be made to inquiries under proper limitations when return stamped envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnoses or prescribe for individual disease.

[Copyright: 1930: By The Chicago Tribune.]

LEAD POISONING.

THE Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life says: "Lead poisoning is a real source of danger to infants and young children, and education of parents concerning this hazard would be a definite forward step in public health education. Lead poisoning is rarely thought of as a cause of illness in infants and young children. Private physicians having a general practice should consider more frequently that they are dealing with this serious disease."

They base this warning upon what they know about lead poisoning in babies due to gnawing the paint from cribs, woodwork, and toys. If toys are painted, the paint should never be one that contains lead. The same advice applies to cribs, chairs, and other woodwork that comes within gnawing range of these young animals. We are assured that the market is well supplied with paints that contain no lead.

Other sources of lead to which babies are subjected are lead nipple shields, and the use by mothers of lead powders and lead ointments, either on the breasts or anywhere else within reach of a baby's mouth or hands. Older children are sometimes exposed to other sources of lead poisoning. Children like to get hold of foil and tags, to handle them, and to put them in the mouth. They are not always averse to foil from snuff and tobacco.

There is some lead poisoning due to drinking carbonated beverages drawn through lead pipes. "Pop" got its name from a soda water bottle in which charged water was in contact with a lead foil. This type of pop bottle is never seen around the cities any more, and it may have wholly disappeared from the trade. It is altogether probable that some of the soda fountains still draw their charged waters through lead pipes and connections. One wonders why this industry has not learned how to lacquer as the canning industry has done.

Doubtless the children with perverted tastes, such as the dirt eaters, sometimes develop the paint eating fancy.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

W. K. writes:

1. How long after the onset of whooping cough does a child start whooping?
2. How long does it last?
3. At what stage is it contagious?
4. Is there anything a doctor can give to help the cough?
5. Is there any danger of its affecting the lungs?

REPLY.

1. As a rule the whoop peculiarity can be recognized about one week after the cough is well started.
2. Some tendency to whoop is usually detectable for about six weeks. It may be

detectable for six months.

3. It is contagious from the onset of the first symptom. It is most contagious during the first two weeks. After that the contagiousness gradually declines.

4. Very little.

5. There is. The danger is great, especially with young children.

SCARLET FEVER.

Mrs. W. J. B. writes:

1. How long is the period of contagion for scarlet fever?

2. Should a child be released from quarantine before all swelling has ceased??

3. Would a discharging ear, from the disease, keep them in quarantine?

REPLY.

1. Four weeks, in most cases; five weeks, in many; much longer, in a few.

2. Follow your state law. Laws usually specify a five week period.

3. It might. Discharging ears after scarlet fever should not be neglected.



How to Keep Well By Dr. Irving S. Cutter

To the limit of space, questions pertaining to hygiene and prevention of disease will be answered in this column. Personal replies will be made to inquiries, under proper limitations, when return stamped envelope is inclosed. Dr. Cutter will not make diagnoses or prescribe for individual disease.

[Copyright: 1940: By The Chicago Tribune.]

LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN.

YES, infants and children are subject to lead poisoning. This statement may seem strange, as we have been accustomed to assume that only workers in lead could absorb enough of this substance to produce trouble. Nevertheless, babies find many sources, altho toy manufacturers are exceedingly careful to omit this material from their colored paints.

We can account for this situation because every tot will put everything and anything into the mouth. Furthermore, the period of teething is especially dangerous, as blocks and other wooden articles may be chewed to the point of destruction. Other origins include unwashed fruit that has been sprayed with insecticide, articles of furniture, and lead nipple shields. Only rarely can the water supply be blamed. Sometimes dyes used in cooking have a metallic base.

Symptoms, of course, depend upon the amount that is taken in—either via the digestive tract or the skin. As a rule, beginning signs include digestive upsets with unaccountable abdominal cramps. The child will be pale, weight will drop, and considerable weakness will become obvious. In addition, discomfort, irritability, and fretfulness are characteristic. Constipation is marked and vomiting is seldom absent. In severe instances twitching of the hands—or even convulsions—may be observed. There may be enough inflammation of some of the nerves to bring about paralysis.

Fortunately, we have in X-ray films an excellent diagnostic aid and—with other causes eliminated—the physician may have recourse to these shadow pictures—particularly of the long bones. If a heavy band appears—indicating greater density near the growing ends—we may suspect lead.

A 14 month old babe presented indications of poisoning and X-rays disclosed heavy deposits of the metal. The mother was unable to furnish the slightest clue. An inspection of the home, however, revealed a row of freshly painted shelves in the pantry. Crawling about, the lad had been chewing and licking the smooth edges.

Another patient, 3½ years old, had been vomiting intermittently for four weeks. Occasionally she complained of burning sensations in the abdomen. Because her history was so puzzling a search of the living quarters was made. It was learned that old battery boxes had been used for kindling and the girl had inhaled enough of the fumes to occasion her distress.

Such cases are usually not dangerous if they can be recognized early. A blood examination will help, as the appearance of certain cells is typical. As we would expect, recovery is prompt if the portion ingested is small. With the nervous system profoundly affected, however, some fatalities have ensued.

Treatment consists, of course, in stopping all contacts with lead, and naturally all toys [and there should be none these days] that have been coated with lead paint should be removed. If a wooden crib or bedstead is assigned to

either alone or in conjunction with a moderate allowance of lime. Even after all manifestations have disappeared it is well to keep in mind that the bones may contain a fair percentage. Hence it is essential that the condition known as acidosis shall not be permitted to develop, as some of the element may then move out of storage and enter the circulation. In every acute illness, therefore—even a cold—small bits of alkali will be helpful.

We must remember that our little ones are in a very delicate balance and it takes but a tiny quantity of lead to bring on discomfort.

PROBABLY NOT.

M. O. writes: After an operation on my head, followed by X-ray treatments, I lost my hair. Will it ever grow back again?

REPLY.

Not likely. Loss of hair following X-ray treatments may be permanent.

RECEDING CHIN.

T. M. writes: Is a receding chin an inherited characteristic? Is there anything that can be done to bring it forward permanently?

REPLY.

Sometimes a family trait. Ofttimes correcting the occlusion of the teeth will restore symmetry.

YES.

M. D. writes: Could tonsillitis cause one to be nervous?

REPLY.

Any chronic infection which tends to lower one's general health may be a factor in increasing nervousness. The toxins produced by growing streptococci are no doubt responsible in your case.

THEY WON'T HARM YOU.

A. G. writes: I've often read that it is not good to have too many draperies in the bedroom. I sleep in a room with five pairs. Will it affect my health?

REPLY.

Not at all. Some persons curtain their beds as well as their windows.

PROBABLY A CRAMPED POSITION.

Mrs. J. K. writes: What causes the left foot to swell when I ride in an automobile?

REPLY.

Swelling of one leg is usually due to some obstruction to the return flow of blood. A cramped position, pressure, etc., may be responsible.

FALLING LASHES.

M. G. writes: What causes the lashes on the lower lid to fall out? I do not use a darkener.

REPLY.

Probably an infection of the hair follicles. Hot applications and mild antiseptic ointments, etc., are of value.

IT MAY HELP.

N. V. writes: Will the taking of mineral oil daily do away with gas?

REPLY.

If due to constipation the oil may help. In some cases, however, the practice may give rise to gas formation.

A NERVE IRRITATION.

G. M. R. writes: What is peripheral neuritis?

REPLY.

the youngster, it may be necessary to cover all exposed parts with cotton sheeting—at least until the teething stage is over.

--
We may look upon the metal—once it enters the skeleton—as relatively harmless, and a diet rich in phosphorus will be curative. It may be necessary for a time to administer disodium phosphate

An irritation or inflammation of one or more nerves. The trouble is usually located in the terminal portion.

SEPTIC SORE THROAT.

J. T. writes: What are the symptoms of septic sore throat?

REPLY.

Pain on swallowing, fever, rapid pulse, and prostration are usually present. In such a malady skilled medical care is required.

CHARGES BUND INDUCED YOUTH TO JOIN ARMY

Jersey City, N. J., Aug. 29 (AP).—The enlistment of a 19 year old youth in the United States army at the behest of the German-American bund was alleged yesterday by Adolph P. Kern, chief Hudson county probation officer.

The youth, David Van Buskirk of Kearny, N. J., was sentenced to a reformatory in connection with the theft of a motorcycle in Oklahoma while on probation for a previous offense.

Buskirk joined the bund, Kern told the court, after meeting a German girl whose sympathies were with the Nazis. Kern said the boy told him bund leaders urged him to join the army and get in the signal corps, which he did last January.

Transferred to the infantry when Kern informed the Federal Bureau of Investigation of Buskirk's Nazi leanings, the youth deserted shortly after and later was dishonorably discharged.

Charge Tainted Milk Hurt Baby; Suit Asks \$200,000

Suit for \$200,000 was filed against the Bowman Dairy company yesterday in the Evanston Municipal court in the charge that an infant contracted lead poisoning thru paint which the dairy negligently permitted to get into a quart of milk. Half the damages were asked in behalf of the child, Sandra Marie Welter, now 5 months old, and the remainder in behalf of her father, Fred J. Welter, 708 Wesley avenue, Evanston. The suit, filed by Attorney Irwin F. Stolle, said the infant was fed the milk last April 18. Attorney L. E. Hart Jr., representing the dairy, said the dairy management denied the milk contained any paint.

YOUR BABY and MINE

by MYRTLE MEYER ELDRED

Mrs. Eldred will be glad to answer all questions pertaining to babies and children. A stamped and self-addressed envelope forwarded to this office will bring a personal reply.

This department offers leaflets on weaning and feeding the child from 8 weeks to 8 years, prenatal care and diet for nursing mother, constipation, eczema, outfits for the new baby, sleeping, walking, teething, thumb sucking, ammoniacal urine, bed wetting, training in cleanly habits, periods of nursing, cod liver oil, orange juice, hives, worms, vomiting, refractory children, prune juice, lime water, rickets, styes and boils and cradle cap. Before asking a personal question about one of these subjects it is better to send a self-addressed stamped envelope for the leaflet you need. If your particular problem is not covered in the above list, Mrs. Eldred will be glad to give you a personal reply.

Show him how to play in the sand with sieve and cups and spoons and a small wagon for hauling. If he persists in eating it, take him into the house, making it plain that eating sand will deprive him of the pleasure of playing in it. If you practice this deprivation right on the heels of his sand-eating, he'll soon see the connection and find it excellent to stop the habit.

SAND-EATING CHILD NEEDS REARRANGED DIET

Eating inedible material is not an uncommon habit in childhood when the sense of discrimination is undeveloped. If a child exhibits such a perverted taste, the mother should turn her attention to the diet first, and with young children should prevent opportunities for further indulgence in the habit.

Babies who nibble paint from their cribs are in actual danger of lead poisoning, and it is obvious what splinters might do to the wood-eating child. Punishments simply antagonize the child and in no way prevent an orgy of eating the moment the punisher is out of sight. Scrape cribs of all paint or cover with strips of adhesive tape. Stone, celluloid, or rubber toys may replace painted ones. Put the wood-eating child in a metal bed, and give any tops except those made of wood.

LIKES TO EAT SAND

Mrs. J. D. G. has a sand-eater. "I have read your column for a long time with great interest and benefit," she says. "Now my 15-month-old child eats sand, handfuls of it. He puts his mouth right down in the sand like a little puppy. He is thirty-one and one-half inches tall and weighs twenty-four pounds. He has the following diet. Please tell me what is missing.

"He has a bottle of whole milk at 5:30 a.m. Sleeps until 7 a.m., and has cooked cereal and stewed fruit. At 10 a.m. he has raw apple or graham cracker. At 12 he has scraped steak or a lamb chop or egg, with two vegetables and a gelatine dessert or a custard.

"When he awakens, he has melted ice cream or a cracker. At 6 p.m. he has cereal, stewed fruit, or cottage cheese and pineapple. He has bread and butter at breakfast and supper. Bottle of milk when he goes to bed at 7 p.m. I give him potatoes only twice weekly. Does he get enough starch?

CHANGE FEEDING SCHEDULE

Your first change is to omit the bottle entirely. Give cups of milk at each meal, and after his nap, if he wishes it, accompanied by one or two crackers.

The meals are unfortunately spaced. Begin your day at 7 a.m. If the baby awakens earlier, give a drink of water or possibly the orange juice. Water is better, however. Breakfast should consist of cereal and toast and milk. For lunch, the meal you outlined for 12. If the baby has no orange juice in the morning, give this in place of milk when he awakens from his nap, or give it at 11 a.m. The night meal is usually cereal, stewed fruit, and milk to drink. Of course

this cupful of milk, if taken right
with the dinner, does away with
that most undesirable bottle at bed-
time.

Watch him when he is in the
sandpile. If he puts his mouth to
the sand, simply lift him up and
start him on some other activity.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

THE WONDERWORK of 1931

RANSOME SUTTON

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Dec 27, 1931; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1985)
pg. J15

WHAT'S NEW IN SCIENCE :: BY RANSOME SUTTON

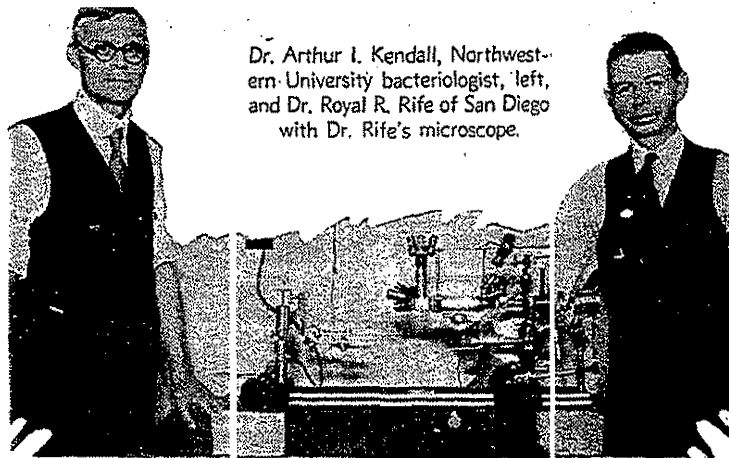
IF THE experimental results obtained at the Pasadena Hospital by Dr. Arthur I. Kendall, bacteriologist of Northwestern University, and Dr. Royal R. Rife of San Diego test true, man now has the knowledge and a weapon which will enable him to win the war against disease-breeding germs, probably during the next decade. The story is almost unbelievable.

Dr. Kendall took a protein culture medium (his "Medium K"—prepared from the intestines of animals) and inoculated it with the well-known, rodlike typhoid bacilli. The bacilli of course multiplied rapidly. He then strained the culture through a Berkefeld filter, thereby filtering out all the rods. Some of the culture medium, however, seeped through the invisible pores in the filter. These seepings were strained through two more sets of porcelain filters, and in the final seepings, bacteriologists have heretofore supposed, it would be impossible to find anything alive. But Dr. Kendall discovered that when these final filterings are placed in a peptone broth new bacilli form and grow to natural size, plainly visible under an ordinary microscope.

What is it that persists through three sets of filters, wherein the pores are too tiny for microscopes to detect, and starts life going again. "Seeds of life," the bacteriologist suspected, although the filtered liquid looked clearer than sterilized water. Nothing much larger than a molecule could have oozed through the three porcelain filters. Yet a drop of that liquid, when placed in a peptone culture, would bring back the rods that produce typhoid. It was getting close to the source of creation. For Dr. Kendall was able to say: "Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life . . . whose seed is in itself," and the willing waters obeyed him.

Having heard about a "wonder microscope," said to have been invented by a young San Diegan, Dr. Kendall asked his friend, Dr. Milbank Johnson of Los Angeles, if such a microscope existed. Dr. Johnson did not know about it, but undertook to find out. Accompanied by Drs. Alvin G. Ford, Joseph D. Heitger and Fossdick Jones, all of Pasadena, he drove to San Diego and found Royal Raymond Rife and a new kind of microscope, which he has been developing, as a hobby, during the past seventeen years. Designed on a new plan entirely, this microscope has six quartz lenses, giving it a magnifying power eight times greater than the high-powered microscopes used by physicists.

Dr. Milbank Johnson arranged for Dr. Kendall and Dr. Rife to get together at the Pasadena Hospital where, we were told by both Dr. Kendall and Dr. Rife, the super-microscope brought Kendall's "seeds of life," distinctly within range of human vision. A bacillus or bacterium—a single-cell organism—was seen to be made up of "granules," like the separate grains in a head of wheat, each granule being a free, motile, living thing. And it turned out that these granules are the "nearly nothings" that ooze through por-



Dr. Arthur I. Kendall, Northwestern University bacteriologist, left, and Dr. Royal R. Rife of San Diego with Dr. Rife's microscope.

THE WONDERWORK of 1931

demonstration—that the claims are possible. For there are factors which limit magnification. Lenses of high "resolving power" are too small to catch much light; hence, it has always been assumed, that what is gained in magnifying power may be lost because of deficient illumination. Immersion lenses with special curvatures, which bring the light to a focus in a drop of oil, increases the illumination, but that practice has its limitations. The absolute limit beyond which microscopes cannot go has been defined in these words: "Any object smaller than half the wave-length of the light by which it is illuminated cannot be seen in its true form and size owing to diffraction."

On the other hand, this is a new kind of magnifier, and the laws governing microscopes may not apply to it.

I witnessed a demonstration of the microscope, but the circumstances made it impossible to form an opinion as to its magnifying power. I think four-fifths of the 250 scientists present would say the same thing, yet the impression prevailed that Dr. Rife—a 44-year "wizard," whose studies have obviously centered in microscopy—has developed an instrument that may revolutionize laboratory methods and enable bacteriologists, like Dr. Kendall, to identify the germs that produce about fifty diseases whose causes are unknown, such as colds, influenza, infantile paralysis, measles, mumps, smallpox and so on, then to find ways and means of immunizing mankind against them.

saved this child, but it was a close squeak.

"Lead encephalopathy," as the affliction is called, affects the brain and is difficult to cure. The easier and safer thing to do is to keep infants from playing with painted toys of the kind they are likely to thrust into their mouths. And nearly everything an infant can handle goes into its mouth.

Snapshots

BECAUSE of the vast quantities of oil taken from beneath it, Signal Hill has sunk from six to eighteen inches, says Frank J. Hogue, former city engineer.

Synthetic rubber, made of salt, acetylene and water, had been pronounced successful by three Du Pont chemists—not as a substitute but as a supplement for natural rubber.

Franklin Thomas, director of the Metropolitan Water District, says sea water is slowly seeping inland, due to the lowering of underground levels along Los Angeles coastal regions.

The last captive penguin has died. One of five brought from Galapagos Islands, he survived four, then like Narcissus fell in love with his likeness in a mirror, strutted vainly for several weeks, but finally gave up the futile courtship.

Princess Alice, an elephant bought by school children's contributions in Salt Lake City, had to be removed to the new municipal zoo. Liking her stall in the old zoo, where she had lived five years, she refused to be removed—ripped and tore and finally bowled her keeper over. In

movement stimulating an eye-movement, but during split-second intervals we are blind to what the fingers are doing."

A good way to test your eyes for motion blindness is to stand in front of a mirror, move your eyes and try to observe the movement. To see our eyes, they must be standing still.

Sex-Appeal Ideas Upset

THAT men and women alike pay closer attention to actors of their own sex, rather than the opposite sex, has been determined by a motion test—conducted by the University Institute of Child Welfare—on 400 adults and 350 adolescents. More men and women answered questions correctly concerning male characters, whereas more women than men answered correctly concerning female characters. The test also showed that there is no detectable sex difference in the abilities of men and women, or of boys and girls, to remember what they have seen. Both sexes, it seems, are equally human.

Nothing Better

THE best food is milk and Americans drink on the average one-half pint a day per person. It doesn't sound sensible, yet statistics show we drink more milk than the pioneers on the prairies. Pioneers allowed the calves to help themselves first.

Womens' Ways

SIAMESE women are said to shy away from cameras, because they think cameras have X-ray eyes and see through clothing, whereas Hollywood women go to the other 'extreme—possibly for the same reason.

Questions

1. Why will an egg discolor silver?
2. Where does brass come from?
3. Where are sulphur deposits found?
4. When we read without sensing the meaning of words, what ails us?
5. Will chromium-plated tableware tarnish?
6. Why do some flowers bloom only at night?
7. Why does an engine keep on puffing after coming to a standstill?
8. Why do approaching bells sound higher than receding bells?
9. Why do we see lightning before we hear its thunder?
10. How far can we see?

Answers on page nineteen

celain and reproduce the kind of an organism as that from which they came. It also appeared that each kind of granule, whether from a typhoid bacillus or some other kind, has—under polarized light—a distinctive color of its own, thereby enabling bacteriologists to diagnose germ-diseases by the color of the germs.

Bacilli may thus be studied by their light, exactly as astronomers study moons, suns and stars by the light which comes from them through telescopes. The bacilli studied are living ones, not corpses killed by stain.

So extraordinary are these statements that scientists generally would regard them as visionary, or scientifically impossible, if they were not vouched for by such distinguished authorities as Doctor of Medicine Johnson, and Dr. Kendall, experienced biologist. It is only fair to say that the physicists and astronomers, with whom I have discussed the matter, are not yet convinced—after witnessing a

Lead Poisoning From Toys

THE information in this item may save more than one baby's life, particularly during the holiday season when painted toys are so plentiful. It is about a nine months old baby that was taken to the Pasadena Hospital because it was having unusual convulsions. The family physician, unable to determine the cause in any other way, decided to have a blood test made. Highly magnified views of the blood showed little black dots in the red corpuscles—like sprinklings of black pepper. To the pathologist, the dots meant just one thing—lead poisoning. But where would a child-in-arms obtain enough lead to poison its blood? The mother brought in its playthings, then the source of the lead became apparent. The child had sucked the red paint off of the end of a wooden toy, shaped somewhat like a drumstick. The skill and prompt action of the physician and pathologist

the eyes of the law, that made her dangerous, so she was sentenced to death. But the school children and newspapers raised a row and Princess Alice still lives—in her new home. And she likes it after all.

Motion Blindness

SINCE hands cannot be quicker than eyes, Dr. Herbert S. Marshutz, optometrist, was asked why eyes are so easily fooled by sleight-of-hand tricks. "Human eyes see," he explained, "only when standing still. While-moving, eyes are blind. We see, therefore, in a series of short, rapid jerks, as when looking at a motion-picture film. Due to the 'persistence of vision,' or the lingering of the image in eyes, however, the sensation of sight is continuous. Now, to follow the movements of a sleight-of-hand performer's fingers, our eyes move unconsciously as rapidly as his fingers, every finger-

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

Answers

To questions on Science page

1. Because of the sulphur in eggs.
2. From foundries; brass is an alloy of copper and zinc.
3. In or near volcanic craters.
4. Dyslexia.
5. Not in a hundred years—they say.
6. Because they can be fertilized only by moths or other night-flying insects.
7. Because compressed air for operating brakes has been mostly used up, and the air pumps puff—as we do after a run.
8. Approaching bells shorten the vibration that reach the ear, whereas receding bells lengthen vibrations—draws them out.
9. Because light travels faster than sound.
10. As far as light travels in sufficient quantity to affect retinas, unless obstructed.

Personal Health Service

BY WILLIAM BRADY, M.D.

(Signed letters pertaining to personal health and hygiene, not to disease, diagnosis or treatment, will be answered by Dr. Brady if a stamped self-addressed envelope is inclosed. Letters should be brief and written in ink. Address Dr. William Brady, The Times, Los Angeles.)

MILD CHRONIC LEAD POISONING

Fairhall and Helm made a thorough study of lead-weighted silk fabrics and found no evidence of lead poisoning from this source, even when the fabric containing lead was worn next the skin under extreme conditions of activity and sweating.

A. J. Lanza, M.D., medical director in a life insurance company, asserts that lead may gain entrance to the body through the respiratory system by inhalation (of fumes or dust,) through the gastrointestinal system by ingestion, and through the skin. It is doubtful though, he hastens to add, whether skin absorption of inorganic lead compounds ever takes place except when the skin is damaged by inflammation or wound. Organic lead compounds, such as tetra-ethyl lead, will penetrate the skin, is the astonishing but unsupported assertion of this writer.

Not Through Sound Skin

Tetra-ethyl lead is quite volatile, and it is as reasonable to assume that it is inhaled as it is to assume that the gasoline in which it is dissolved is inhaled when anybody is poisoned by spilling such a liquid on the clothing. At any rate, there is no scientific experiment which proves that tetra-ethyl lead is absorbed through unbroken skin. That notion is just a conclusion to which some ponderous doctor has jumped. Too often medical writers confuse opinion with fact.

Water conducted through lead pipe may dissolve out some trace of lead, especially if the water contains much carbon dioxide, and as little as 1-500th of a grain daily, taken in the drinking water, or in beer or wine which has been kept in or flowed through lead pipe, may cause chronic lead poisoning in the course of a few months.

Forty rather severe cases of lead poisoning occurred in Baltimore a few years ago, from the use of old discarded storage battery cases as fuel; a similar outbreak in Nashville affected five families and fourteen children.

Sources of Poisoning

Sources of lead poisoning are numerous. Mining of soluble lead salts, not galena (sulphide of lead.) Lead smelting and refining. Manufacture of lead articles. Lead burning, soldering, lead tempering, plumbing. Brass and other founding. Buffing and polishing metal surfaces in which lead is an ingredient. Manufacture of lead salts, pigments, organic compounds of lead. Other manufacturing processes in which lead is used—storage batteries, paints, glass, rubber, chemicals. Application and removal of paints, enamels and glazes containing lead. Painting, spray-painting, vitreous enameling, pottery dipping, sandpapering, scraping and chipping painted surfaces, flame-spraying with painted metal. Tree-spraying with lead-contain-

ing insecticides. Typefounding, electrotyping, stereotyping. Lead poisoning from spray fumes or dust is not necessarily limited to the person doing the spraying, heating or scraping, but may equally affect other persons who are not engaged in the work. For instance, a number of girls was employed assembling brass strips which were passed along to a man to be soldered at the end of the table. The fumes of the lead were carried by the air current along the table and the girls were poisoned, although they had not handled lead at all.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Butcherin Early

Some cattlemen here breed their stock and when about two-thirds of their time is up sell them for slaughter or slaughter them to sell the meat. Does it affect the quality of the meat of cattle, hogs, etc., as to the time they are butchered? (H. R.)

Answer.—No. Perhaps they believe a better price for the young beef makes such early slaughter economical. Some people harbor an artificially cultivated notion that young beef is choicer. That is akin to the common notion that porterhouse or tenderloin cuts are better than the round, but that is not so. If you know how to cook.

(Copyright, 1935, John F. Dille Co.)

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

HOW TO KEEP WELL

By DR. W. A. EVANS

The Washington Post (1877-1954); Jun 4, 1925; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1989)
pg. 12

HOW TO KEEP WELL

By DR. W. A. EVANS

DIPHTHERIA CONTAGION.

"CHICAGO. Flowers taken from the bier of a playmate who died of diphtheria brought death to Anna Gewelke, 6 years old, 28 Newton place, according to the health department. The blossoms were given to the little girl by Lucy Schreiber and the health department claims the diphtheria germs that were fatal to Anna lurked in the flowers."

This notice appeared in the papers 25 years ago. It is altogether probable that the health department was properly quoted, since 25 years ago the quotation represented public opinion. If a health department were reporting on a similar case today they would give a different explanation.

They might say that the two children caught the disease from the same person. Perhaps it was a school teacher who was a diphtheria carrier or some schoolmate who had what was called an ordinary sore throat. They might have said that the second child visited the first child when she was first taken sick. They might say that the second child caught the diphtheria from the mother of the first child at the funeral, or from some diphtheria carrier who was at the funeral.

In most places they do not allow public funerals where death was due to diphtheria. This is not because of fear that the corpse will spread the disease. It is because the parents and other relatives who attend the funeral are frequently diphtheria carriers temporarily capable of infecting. It is the possible contacts between the family and friends that create the danger in public funerals where death was due to contagion.

Twenty-five years ago the theory that contagion was spread by flowers and other inanimate things was generally accepted. Today attention is centered on animate things. Above all, people are the spreaders of human diseases. Even the lower animals escape indictment, or almost so.

DON'T SPREAD DISEASE.

R. X. N. writes: Can bedbugs spread disease?

REPLY.

It is not thought that bedbugs spread any of the ordinary diseases.

CHANGED BRAND OF COFFEE.

Mrs. C. R. writes of the case of Mrs. E. N. W., who wrote that she

more in breach than the observance. I had hives once more from using drinks with a dash of alcohol. When the cause was removed, the cure was effected. Simple as A B C.

THERE IS SOME HARM.

A. O. writes: Is it harmful for a child to sleep with old people?

REPLY.

No. Except as there is some harm from any two people of any age sleeping together.

LEAD POISONING.

B. K. writes:

1. What are the signs of lead poisoning?

2. (a) Is it curable? (b) Either acute or chronic?

3. Does it leave any bad effect or mark after it is cured?

REPLY.

Among the early signs are:

(a) Fine tremor of the hands,

(b) Constipation.

(c) Indigestion.

(d) Pain in the abdomen.

(e) Anemia.

Among other signs are stippling of the red blood cells, lead colic, wrist drop, and lead line.

2. (a) Yes.

(b) Either.

3. Yes. Lead poisoning causes thickening of the arteries, high blood pressure, and premature old age. These are among the after effects.

has had hives for five months. I have had them for eighteen months and finally traced them to a certain brand of coffee I was drinking. I changed the brand and the hives disappeared. A few years later, during a gay and festive holiday season, when prohibition was kept

HOW TO KEEP WELL

By Dr. W. A. EVANS

The Washington Post (1877-1954); Feb 9, 1927; ProQuest Historical Newspapers *The Washington Post* (1877 - 1989)
pg. 12

HOW TO KEEP WELL

By Dr. W. A. EVANS

LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN.

A CONSIDERABLE number of children suffer from lead poisoning. In the opinion of Dr. McKhann. There is a condition known as pica, which is characterized by a desire to eat dirt and other unnatural articles of diet. Small children with pica have a way of eating the paint on furniture, cribs, chairs, toys and such.

Dr. McKhann reports several cases of lead poisoning due to eating paint from furniture and walls. So many Australian children have been poisoned from eating paint that the parliament of that country is said to have passed a law prohibiting lead painting of cribs, toys, and other objects to which children have access.

The symptoms of lead poisoning are not easily recognized. I remember when a physician reported to the health department that he suspected some children in his practice were suffering from lead poisoning. Investigation showed his suspicions to be well founded. The children were being poisoned through drinking carbonated bottled beverages. The beverage was sold in a bottle which is not on the market now. The point is that parents of the poisoned children, and even the physicians in attendance, with the exception noted, did not suspect lead poisoning.

In a mild case the only symptoms of the poisoning may be unexplained paleness and constipation. If a physician suspects lead poisoning he can make an examination of the blood, which clears up the diagnosis in most cases. Somewhat more severe poisoning causes cramps, vomiting and headache.

In very severe cases there may be convulsions, blindness and evidence of inflammation of the brain due to lead.

In some cases physicians find lead in the urine. By using a magnifying glass they can find a lead line on the gums.

The symptoms of lead poisoning are due to the lead which circulates in the blood stream. In a short while this lead is deposited in the bones, whereupon the symptoms of poisoning decline. However, the bones are prone to feed lead back into the blood stream.

Therefore a child who has been a paint eater, and who has suffered from lead poisoning but who has stopped the practice, may again develop lead poisoning, due in this second instance to lead absorbed from the bones by the blood.

A physician treating a case of lead poisoning may have either one of two objectives. If the symptoms are acute and violent he tries to promote the deposit of lead in the bones. To do this he gives lactate of calcium by mouth, or chloride of calcium by injection into the veins. He also feeds meat, milk and other foods rich in lime. All of this is done for the purpose of giving rapid relief in cases of violent poisoning where life is in imminent danger.

But lead must not be left indefinitely in the bones. Later on, when everything is propitious, he tries to delead the bones. To do that he gives a diet which includes meat, liver, potatoes, tomatoes, corn, bananas, and bread which has been made without milk. During the deleading period no milk, eggs, green vegetables, and fruits are allowed.

ADVICE ON DELICATE CHILD.

Mrs. N. S. writes: 1. My girl, 2 years old, has been delicate since birth. She weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces at birth. She is now 2 years and 4 months and weighs 21½ pounds. Is this right?

2. Her appetite is very poor, and she does not like milk. What can I give her instead?

3. She had rickets very badly and her bones and flesh are still soft. I give her cod liver oil three times a day. Will she ever be strong and how long will it take her?

4. She tires very quickly and can not play very long. What is the cause of this? Will she outgrow it? Her tonsils are not diseased. She has a two to three hour nap every day and sleeps in the morning until 6:30 or 7 o'clock and goes to bed between 7 and 8 p. m. What do you think could be wrong? Is it anything to worry about? She does not talk. Says only mama and papa, but she understands nearly everything.

5. What can I do to stop her from sucking her fingernails? I tried bandages, but she pulls them off.

6. Will you please give some advice on how to make a child that age mind her mother?

REPLY.

1. She is considerably under weight.

2. Milk must continue to be the keystone of her diet. If she does not like unflavored sweet milk, try her with butter, skim milk, buttermilk, clabber, cottage cheese, sour milk, milk puddings, milk bread, ice creams, cream on cereals, bread, milk soups, dry milk, evaporated milk. Try mixtures of milk and fruit juices also. Of course, she should have other foods, such as soups, cereals, breads, eggs, vegetables, fruit and meat.

3. She should get strong if rickets is her only trouble. Keep up the oil. Keep her in the sunlight. Find some place where they give ultra-violet light. Many hospitals and some baby stations are equipped with lamps.

4. The rickets might account for that. Have her mentality tested at some child clinic where they grade children as to mentality.

5. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a recipe for a bitter nail varnish. There are finger cots and rings which prevent thumb sucking.

6. That is a matter of training.

Mild Lead Poisoning Common

**Found From Drinking Water
in Pipes—Adults as Well as
Children Affected—Most
Danger in Very Soft Waters.**

To the limit of space, questions pertinent to hygiene and prevention of disease will be answered in this column. Personal replies will be made to inquiries, under proper limitations, when return stamped envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnoses or prescribe for individual disease.

By DR. W. A. EVANS.

OLD-FASHIONED lead poisoning has faded away. There is almost none of it as it was when Sir Thomas Oliver began agitating the subject about a generation ago. On the other hand, a mild form of lead poisoning is about to become well nigh universal. Ordinary water, from the ordinary city supply, picks up lead from the water pipes inside the house. These pipes are commonly made of lead. This conclusion is based on a study of lead in 102 towns in Massachusetts, including Boston. Of the supplies, 72 were public water supplies obtained principally from streams and lakes; 20 supplies were from wells and 10 were from springs. The method of investigation consisted in drawing water from house taps and analyzing the samples for lead, and in examining people promiscuously for evidence of lead.

All of the waters contained lead in measurable amounts. Of 253 people examined, 63 gave evidence of some degree of lead poisoning. Some had had rather definite attacks which were caused by lead. In some, evidence of lead poisoning were found, though the persons did not suspect the nature of their trouble. These people had been drinking the lead water for variable lengths of time. Children were found to be subject to the poison taken in the drinking water. Men were found to be just as susceptible as women. Length of time the water had been consumed and length of time had stood in the pipes were not found to be of great importance.

The amount of carbonic acid in the water was found to be of importance. Live, sparkling waters, rich in gas, were apt to contain more lead; flat waters, less. Very soft waters were more dangerous than hard waters. In fact, one reason for hesitation about accepting this New England experience as a guide for the balance of the countries is that so many of the New England waters are very soft.

PROBABLY A FISH TAPEWORM.

H. H. W. writes: Recently I was presented with a one and a half pound

black bass, fresh caught in northern Michigan waters. While cleaning this fish I noticed several cream-colored spots about the size of a grain of wheat. These were located at various places in the flesh and some were just under the skin. Upon closer investigation they were found to be worms that started to crawl when liberated from the skin that surrounded them. Furthermore, the flesh of the fish was speckled with small black spots throughout, which made it appear as though it had been peppered.

Of course, the fish was not used.

What causes this condition? Is it common? Is there a name for it? What would happen to a person who consumed such a fish?

REPLY.

My guess is that there were larvae of the same worm, probably a fish tapeworm.

Had you cooked this fish very thoroughly and then eaten it, you would have suffered no ill effects. Had you eaten it raw or undercooked, you would have developed one or more tapeworms. And so would your sisters and your cousins and your aunts, likewise the dogs, cats and such.

HOW TO KEEP WELL.

^ By DR. W. A. mll".

The Washington Post (1877-1954); Mar 14, 1929; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1989)
pg. 10

HOW TO KEEP WELL

By DR. W. A. EVANS

LEAD POISON IN HIDING.

ONCE upon a time there was a man who worked in lead. Knowing that he was being poisoned, he changed his job. The lead in him was stowed away safely in his bones and there it lay, causing no harm, for sixteen years. Then he got pneumonia, just the ordinary garden variety of pneumonia. No reason to expect lead poisoning in pneumonia. This man got over his pneumonia just as do about four out of five of those who have it. But when he should have been convalescing lead poisoning developed. From this disorder he died. What had happened? What can be the relation between lead poison and pneumonia?

This is it. When lead poison is stored in the bones it exists there as an insoluble salt. This salt, however, is readily changed to one that is soluble. In this instance the acidosis which developed in the course of the pneumonia changed the lead in the man's bones to a soluble salt. This was dissolved by the blood stream and carried from the bones, where it did little harm, to other and very important tissues, where it did irreparable harm.

This is not a fairy story. It is an actual experience attested by a physician of standing. It is illustrative of what happens every now and then. A man who has been a lead worker and who has not taken proper precautions finally discovers his danger and changes his job. His symptoms disappear. It may be that a lead line can still be seen on his gums, and there may be some reason to suspect that he has lead in his bones. But so far as the ordinary symptoms which make semi-invalids out of some lead workers, there are none. There is lead in his tissues, but it is an insoluble salt, and the blood leaves it alone. He thinks he is permanently out of the woods. Then he develops an acidosis for some reason. It may be a cold, or erysipelas, or any infectious disease, or it may be an acidity, so-called, for some other reason.

The lead is changed to a soluble salt and symptoms of lead poisoning show themselves. Perhaps a physician is called. He suspects lead poisoning, but knowing the nature of the man's present work and not knowing of the earlier job, he dismisses the possibility from his mind. The danger of this form of delayed lead poisoning is even greater with child-bearing women. Vomiting and some other disorders of pregnancy are very apt to result in acidosis.

DEPENDS ON MANY THINGS.

R writes: I am a young college graduate and am deeply in love with my cousin, who is extremely pretty and well educated. She loves me, but we hesitate about getting married because of the ugly stories we have heard about the children of first cousins. People tell us these children are always cripples and morons incapable of being taught. Our family physician tells us this is not always so but that the children of first cousins are more intelligent than the average. What am I to believe?

REPLY.

There is need for a column on eugenics.

The children of parents who are first cousins are likely to be highly intelligent if the parents have that quality. Perhaps your physician knew that you have it and knew what he was talking about.

If the parents are feeble-minded, some of the children will be feeble-minded. The same law holds as to certain types of cripples.

(Copyright, 1928.)

HOW TO KEEP WELL

By DR. W. A. EVANS

The Washington Post (1877-1954); Aug 21, 1931; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1989)
pg. 14

HOW TO KEEP WELL

By DR. W. A. EVANS

To the limit of space questions pertaining to hygiene and prevention of disease will be answered in this column. Personal replies will be made to inquiries, under proper limitations when return stamped envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual disease.

LEAD POISONING IN BIRDS AND BABIES.

IN STODDARD'S magnificent study of quails there is a report of a condition that may interest mothers of young children. One day he found a quail unable to escape from a deep rut in the road. He captured the bird and found him paralyzed in the legs. On another occasion he found some quail that flew poorly. He captured these and found them weak in the wings. Study of the birds showed them to be suffering from lead paralysis—sometimes in the legs and sometimes in the wings. On opening the crops he found lead shot. Search in the fields where these birds had been ranging showed the presence of much shot. The sequence was as follows:

The region had been frequently hunted over. The many hunters of this and former years had left many shot here and there among the pebbles on the ground. Quail, searching for grain, or for pebbles to grind it in their crops, had swallowed shot. These had remained in their crops and absorption from them had produced lead poisoning. This in turn had caused neuritis of the legs and wings. The birds had lead paralysis.

A fair number of babies suffer from lead poisoning, the cause being lead paint rather than lead shot, as in the case of quail. A baby left to himself is likely to pick things. Whatever he picks up is likely to go straight to his mouth. Babies suck paint from toys, bassinets, cradles, carriers, the bars of the bed.

Most paints contain some form of lead salt. This is especially true of the enamel paints. These fine, shiny, substantial, glossy protectives are just the types of paints that a baby can most easily break off and carry into his mouth or gnaw off and swallow. They tempt the baby to indulge in several instinctive acts. Once the lead paint gets into the mouth it is very likely to be swallowed and quite likely to be absorbed. The dose of

lead thus acquired may be large enough to be fatal. It is more likely to bring about colic. Constipation and pallor are other symptoms that may result. Doubtless some of them develop weakness in the arms and legs. Mothers will probably recall many symptoms which their babies have had and which are found in the lead poisoning list. If so, let them investigate the chance that the baby may have gnawed some paint from a toy, or picked some from his shiny bed, and that lead poisoning has resulted.

ANYBODY'S GUESS.

L. M. H. writes: I know a lady about 74 years old, apparently in good health, who has recently lost four fingernails on her right hand. They merely dropped off. The woman weighs about 180 pounds, leads a normal, simple life, and is apparently a well woman.

1. What does this signify?
2. Is it a disease of itself?
3. Is it hereditary?
4. Will nails grow again?
5. Is it a serious condition?

REPLY.

1. One guess is as good as another. It may be due to ringworm, some other infection of the nails, or perhaps to Raynaud's disease.

2. It might be.
3. No.
4. Probably not, but this is speculation.
5. Probably not.

CALOMEL AND SULPHATE OF ATROPIN.

E. E. E. writes:

1. Please write about calomel. What will it do for one in the course of time if taken about once or twice a week?

2. Also, please write on sulphate of atropin.

REPLY.

1. Taking calomel about once a week causes constipation. It may cause mercury poisoning, pyorrhea, and some other disorders. It is useless as well as harmful.

2. Sulphate of atropin is a very strong drug. In minute doses it enters into the combinations called laxative pills and after-dinner pills. Physicians use the drug in full doses for a few disorders. It is much too powerful to be carelessly or ignorantly used.

(Copyright, 1931.)

Doctors Puzzled As Girl Eats Paint

Kingston, Pa., July 6 (A.P.).—A 2-year-old girl, whose name is kept a secret by puzzled physicians, is in a hospital because of an unusual appetite for anything painted.

Physicians said the child prefers linoleum, legs of tables and woodwork generally.

She was brought to the hospital suffering from lead poisoning. Attendants said at first she refused all normal food, and chewed off the leg of a painted doll. Physicians asserted the child's trouble was traced partially to "pica," or an abnormal appetite. They expect her ultimately to acquire a taste for an ordinary diet.

Southern Lines Pick Coordinating Group

New York, July 6 (A.P.).—Representatives of the Southeastern railroads, meeting here today, named the members of their coordinating committee in accordance with the administration's new railway rehabilitation plan. These were chosen:

W. R. Cole, president, Louisville & Nashville; Fairfax Harrison, president, Southern Railway; L. A. Downs, president, Illinois Central; L. R. Powell, jr., receiver, Seaboard Air Line, and George B. Elliott, president, Atlantic Coast Line.

Librarian's Pay Cut Vetoed.

Springfield, Ill., July 6 (A.P.).—Gov. Horner was on record for economy, but insisted it should not be carried to extremes. He vetoed a bill today to cut 10 per cent from the \$3,000 yearly salary of the State historical librarian. The governor said the salary was no more than adequate.