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No. 4

Dr. Byington and Dr. Roy Jones Join Advisory Committee

Dr. LeGrange Byington, Surgeon of the United States Public Health Service in charge of the Baltimore Quarantine Station at Curtis Bay, and Dr. Roy R. Jones, Passed Assistant Surgeon of the United States Public Health Service assigned to the Division of Labor Standards of the United States Department of Labor, have accepted invitations to serve as members of the Advisory Committee on Sanitation of the Baltimore City Health Department. Dr. William H. Howell has been the Chairman of the Committee since its organization in February, 1933.

Dr. Byington will fill the vacancy created when Dr. Harry F. White was transferred from the local Quarantine Station. Dr. Jones, who has had wide experience in the field of industrial hygiene, has on numerous previous occasions assisted the Health Department in developing its program in this important branch of public health service.

Lead Poisoning in Children

Lead poisoning is rarely thought of as a cause of illness in children, yet this malady appears far more frequently in young children than one would generally suppose. A dramatic incident which recently occurred in the southern section of the city is typical of the entire problem. A workman painted the fence of the factory where he was employed. Having some paint left over, he painted his child's high chair and bed. Several months later the infant was dead of lead poisoning. Subsequent investigation showed that the child had chewed on the paint and that the paint was of high lead content.

During the last three years, 57 cases of lead poisoning with 22 fatalities are known to have occurred in Baltimore children, particularly among those in poorer economic circumstances. Improved and more readily available methods of detecting lead in the blood and the other body fluids, together with a growing "lead-consciousness" on the part of the medical profession are factors largely responsible for the increased recognition of this condition in children.

The following table for the year 1936 shows the age, sex and color distribution of the 23 cases of clinical lead poisoning which are known to have occurred that year among children in Baltimore:

Table No. 1

CASES OF LEAD POISONING IN BALTIMORE CHILDREN, 1936

Age	Total	White		Colored	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	15	5	4	3	3
2 years	4	1	2	—	1
3 years	2	—	1	1	—
4 years	1	—	—	—	1
Unknown	1	—	—	1	—
Total	23	6	7	5	5

The clinical diagnosis of plumbism was facilitated in each of these cases by "blood-lead" analyses performed in the Bureau of Laboratories of the City Health Department.

The following table gives similar data for the 8 known fatalities from lead poisoning which occurred among Baltimore children in 1936:

Table No. 2

DEATHS FROM LEAD POISONING IN BALTIMORE CHILDREN, 1936

Age	Total	White		Colored	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	2	—	—	1	1
2 years	5	2	2	—	1
3 years	1	—	—	—	1
Total	8	2	2	1	3

The above tables show that the incidence of lead poisoning is highest among children of the "teething age." Investigations conducted by inspectors of the Health Department's Bureau of Environmental Hygiene revealed that in each of the above cases of lead poisoning the child had a perverted appetite which manifested itself in chewing paint from cribs, high chairs and woodwork painted with a lead-containing pigment. Laboratory examinations of paint scrapings, taken from the suspected articles, proved the source of the lead beyond a doubt. Children's furniture, especially the crib, was most commonly involved. In every instance the furniture had been reconditioned in the home with a lead-containing paint.

Thus it is clear that parents are frequently unaware of the danger of the paint-eating habit in their children. New cribs and other children's furniture are seldom painted with a lead-containing material, but the repainting of these articles at home with a paint of unknown composition may result in a fatality. Only too often are parents fearful of wet paint but oblivious to the danger of dry paint which contains lead.

Shore Resorts

A tentative schedule of inspections of shore resorts by the Maryland State Health Department has been ordered that any need for the opening of the season.

The resorts to be inspected are more, Calvert and Annapolis County Health Officer French, Dr. J. S. Brown. Since the inauguration of the health department ago there has been a most of the resorts.

City and County

At the monthly meeting of the Health Board, held on Monday, the effect of the health department's work was discussed.

That the health department's work is real and that the State Health Department is used to the health department's work.

It is expected that there will be a large number of cases of syphilis in the city. A health department has been organized to take per cent of the population, but the magnitude of the present problem is not yet known.

The present situation in the country is a recent year in Baltimore. On October 20, it is possible to supply a total of 100,000 constantly. There will be these two tasks: the task of the health department is to request the United States