

Lead Industries Association

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May 15, 1957

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D., Director
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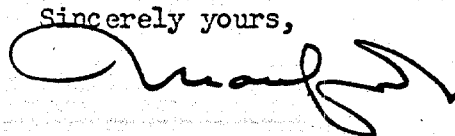
Dear Bob:

The paragraph marked in the reproduction from the May 3rd U. S. Morbidity and Mortality Report enclosed herewith was brought to my attention by Sherman Pinto, who brands it as "nonsense," as do I.

For the reasons (1) that my views on plumbism are apt to be viewed with skepticism by those who are strangers to me, (2) that I have no close friends of importance in the Public Health Service since Seward Miller pulled out, and (3) that you are the outstanding wielder of the trenchant pen in situations such as this, I hope you will feel like asking how come they gave space to so screwy an item.

As Pinto also says, "unfortunately publication in this U. S. Public Health Service bulletin will make many people believe the tale."

Sincerely yours,



MB:gmk
Enclosure:

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly
Report

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Prepared by the NATIONAL OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS Executive 3-6300, Ext. 4744

For release May 3, 1957

Washington 25, D. C.

Vol. 6, No. 17

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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

ery, Alabama, states that at present 30 isolates of influenza have been received by the Center this year. All are clearly within the type A set of strains currently distributed worldwide. Continued studies with representative viruses are in progress with the view toward more detailed antigenic analyses and comparisons of virulence. Regional laboratories are encouraged to send additional isolates so that other variants can be included in these observations. Laboratories collaborating in the program are requested by the Center to send representative isolates to their Regional Laboratories. The plan has been that these laboratories would function as a "clearinghouse," provide rapid antigenic typing service, and forward a limited number of viruses to the Center for more detailed, long-term studies. When laboratories send isolates directly to the Center, copies of the communications should be forwarded also to the Regional Laboratories which may then request the viruses if desired.

Rabies in man

The California State Department of Public Health has reported a case of rabies in a 41-year-old man living in Orange County. The patient developed symptoms on April 7 and died 4 days later. The diagnosis was confirmed by microscopic examination of brain tissue and by mouse inoculation.

Psittacosis

The California State Department of Public Health has reported 2 confirmed cases of psittacosis. One additional case was reported but for it there was no rise in complement fixation titer and because of a long incubation period it was not considered a confirmed case. However, a titer of 1:32 indicated a previous infection. An X-ray examination of the chest of one patient showed an abnormal density inferior to the right hilar area with some discoid atelectasis extending laterally from this region as well as above the right costal phrenic angle. This patient owned a parakeet which was thought to have killed itself. The owner denies that the bird was ill. The other patients also owned parakeets which died. No tests were made on any of the dead birds.

Dr. S. H. Osborn, Connecticut State Department of Health, has reported a case of psittacosis in a 65-year-old man. This man became ill with fever and fatigue, but had no definite upper respiratory symptoms. A blood specimen collected about 3 days after onset of illness was positive for psittacosis in a dilution of 1:64. The patient had been exposed to a parakeet purchased in Massachusetts. The bird died; the body was destroyed and was not available for laboratory tests.

Chemical poisoning

Dr. J. D. Martin, Louisiana State Department of Health, has reported the occurrence of 3 cases of lead poisoning in 1 family. The patients experienced abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and metallic taste from 45 minutes to 2 hours after eating duck. The duck had been killed in the southwestern part of the State and had been stored in a freezer for approximately 2 months prior to consumption. Chemical analysis of the remaining portion of the meat revealed the presence of 0.12 percent of lead (as Pb).

Gastro-enteritis

The California State Department of Public Health has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among 65 persons in a boys' camp. Of these, 11 became ill with fever, nausea, vomiting, headache, cramps, and diarrhea from 3 to 14 hours after eating pork roast and gravy. Bacteriologic examination of raw and cooked pork and gravy revealed a small number of staphylococci.

The California State Department of Public Health also reports 4 cases of Staphylococcus aureus food poisoning following the ingestion of ham sandwiches in a restaurant.

Histoplasmosis

Dr. Mason Romaine, Virginia State Department of Health, has reported a case of histoplasmosis in a 9-year-old boy. This child visited relatives and explored their chickenhouse. One week later he became ill with fever (105 degrees), cough, and weakness. These symptoms lasted for approximately 2 weeks. The patient was hospitalized and a physical examination revealed characteristic radiologic findings and a positive intradermal skin test for histoplasmosis.

QUARANTINE MEASURES

Immunization Information for International Travel Public Health Service Publication No. 384

The following name should be added to the list of Designated Yellow Fever Vaccination Centers, Section 6:

Center	Clinic hours	Fee
Knoxville-Knox County Health Department P. O. Box 1070 Knoxville, Tennessee Tel. 2-5198 or 4-1163	By appointment only	No

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