

SLOW GAS LEAKS FOUND MENACE TO CHILDREN

Are your gas fixtures all tight? There is a definite cumulative poisonous effect from repeated or continuous exposure to even small amounts of the deadly carbon monoxide in illuminating gas. The acute cases of gas poisoning are dramatic and obvious, but according to Dr. A. M. Stevens, the danger from gradual poisoning is just as great, young children having been found particularly susceptible.

In a report to the American Medical Association he cites several cases of such slow poisoning in infants. He says that the cold weather and dark days of winter bring about a seasonal increase in the occurrence of these cases. Leaky gas jets, imperfect gas heaters and closed windows all contribute to their incidence. With the coming of spring and its attendant exodus out-of-doors there is an appreciable falling off.

These cases of gradual gas poisoning are difficult to recognize, says Dr. Stevens, and clinicians should be on the watch for it particularly in infants. In the serious cases tests will show as much as ten per cent. carbon monoxide in the blood while five per cent. will accumulate in the blood of adults without their displaying any very obvious symptoms.

WHOOPIING COUGH HELPED BY SIMPLE REMEDY

That old reliable remedy, sodium bicarbonate, is now recommended in the treatment of whooping cough.

Recent work of the Kingston Avenue and the Kings County Hospital Laboratories, Brooklyn, N. Y., by Drs. J. C. Regan and Alexander Tolstouhov shows that this familiar bane of childhood is accompanied by a condition of severe acidosis which may be counteracted by small repeated dosages of simple alkaline salts, such as sodium bicarbonate, calcium carbonate or magnesium oxide. In patients treated by this method early or late in the disease, a cure is induced.

Blood examination shows that the inorganic phosphorous content during whooping cough is lowered and the hydrogen ion concentration is greatly increased. The alkaline doses bring about a rapid return of the phosphorus to its normal proportion in the content of the blood and counteract the acidity. These chemical changes in the blood are accompanied by pronounced improvement in the patients so that vomiting ceased, according to Dr. Regan, on an average within one week and whooping within two weeks, with occasional exceptions. The patients generally showed corresponding improvement and increase in weight. It has been suggested that the characteristic symptom of vomiting in whooping cough is a compensating mechanism of the body to eliminate the excess acid.

Marquis wheat, now grown on 20 million acres of land, all comes from a single head produced by hybridization in 1903.
