

That could go on indefinitely, it might seem, until a string of victims accumulated.

In actual life, it seems that the Indian sentiment was to avoid needless piling up of tragedy. Honor of the family was generally saved by taking wampum rather than blood.

Escape, the first thought of murderers in the white man's America, seems to have been the last resort of the Iroquois killer. He had little hope of casting suspicion on the wrong man, and still less hope that mystery would swallow up the situation. In so small and closely organized a society as the

Iroquois Indian world, personal grudges and hates were too much public property for murder crimes to remain unsolved.

There was no way for the Indian slayer to brazen it out. Escape meant fleeing to another tribe, asking refuge. If they needed warriors badly they might take him in; otherwise they would add his scalp to their collection. Or, he could vanish into the wilderness to become an outcast, there to starve, or to wander hermit-like until some Indian came along and dispatched him. Killing strangers was permitted, by the crime code in those days.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1935

MEDICINE

Convalescent Serum, Hygiene Preventives of Measles

WITH measles on the rampage and new cases being reported at the rate of over 30,000 a week, particular interest attaches to the latest reports on how the disease spreads and on results obtained with convalescent serum as a preventive measure.

Preventive serums have captured the popular fancy, perhaps because of their appearance of magic. A prick of a needle, a "shot in the arm," and presto! your body is endowed with a mysterious, invisible power that protects you against diphtheria or typhoid or some other dreaded malady.

In the case of measles, convalescent serum from the blood of recently recovered measles patients seems to give a fair measure of protection. Equally important, however, are less dramatic hygienic measures.

Measles spreads more rapidly in congested districts and in homes where the hygiene is poor, two New York physicians, Drs. Samuel Karelitz and Bela Shick, the latter of diphtheria test fame, have just reported (*American Medical Association Journal*, Mar. 23). They class as homes of good hygiene those in which the sick child is isolated from other children at an early stage of the disease.

A study was made by these physicians of 106 children who had been exposed to measles. All had been exposed to the disease for from two to five days. All were given convalescent serum in the same amounts. The serum gave no protection to the children who lived in

homes where the hygiene was poor. It protected over half of the children in homes where good hygiene prevailed. Eighty-three per cent. of children who were in hospitals were protected. Children coming from careless homes must be given much larger doses of measles convalescent serum if they are to escape the disease.

These child specialists also report that the degree and frequency of in-

fection with measles, within a period of a few days, determines in large measure whether the disease will develop in the susceptible children. In this respect, measles is like tuberculosis.

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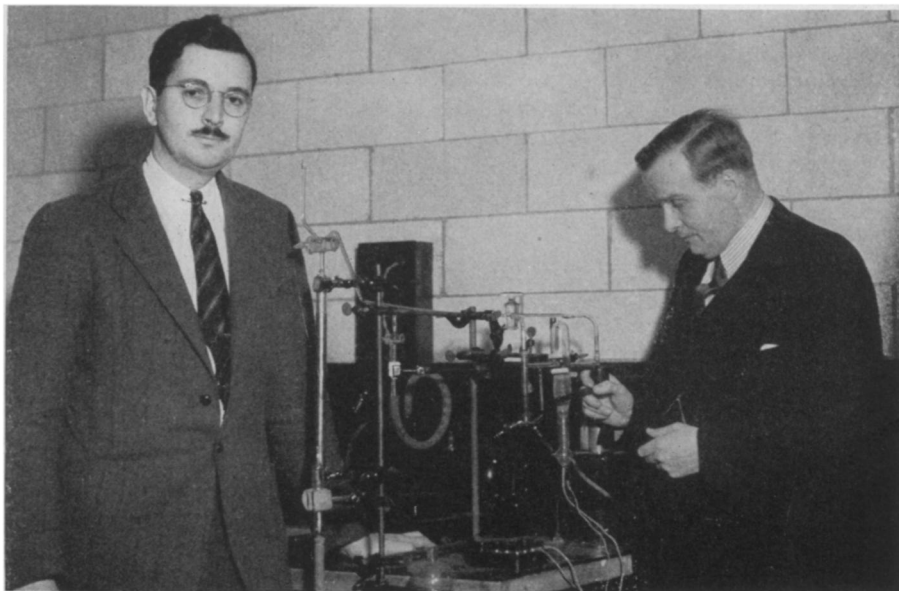
PHARMACOLOGY

Candy Pills Not For Children

NO ONE in his right mind, of course, would think of letting three-year-old Susie eat her fill of chocolate-coated or pink candy laxative pills. Mother keeps them on the top shelf of the family medicine chest and the manufacturing pharmacist may even label them Not For Children.

Susie, however, cannot read the label and she has a way of getting her hands on things not meant for her and, unfortunately, of putting them into her mouth. When they happen to be laxative pills, the results are too often tragic.

These pills generally contain strychnine, a poisonous substance. The amount of strychnine in each pill is not very great—1/120 grain—not enough to hurt an adult. One of them might not hurt a child either, but the danger is that the child who gets at them unobserved does not stop with one. Children have been known to eat as many as 80 to 90 of these pills. (Turn to page 198)



RARE WATER

In the tube which Prof. Hugh S. Taylor (right) is indicating with his pipe are ten drops of water very rich in triple weight hydrogen. The apparatus shown was used to produce these precious drops from 75 tons of ordinary drinking water. At the left is Dr. Pierce W. Selwood who did the research under the direction of Prof. Taylor, at Frick Chemical Laboratory, Princeton. (See SNL, March 23)