

Point, where they first came to light.

Features of their unusual culture include: a unique type of crude black pottery, decorated by the thumbnails of the potters; soft-soled moccasins resembling baby booties, and mittens with the thumb ingeniously tailored, both of which, Dr. Steward believes, were borrowed or inherited through some relationship with far northern hunting tribes; a variety of gaming devices, in-

cluding flat bones, cane gambling pieces, a netted hoop and dart game, and an ornamented beaver tooth rather similar to those used as dice by northwest coast tribes.

Promontory people of Utah were economical, Dr. Steward's findings show, for out of 248 moccasins found in one cave, all but 58 had been repaired with half soles, patches, and even patches on patches.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1937

MEDICINE

Nose and Throat Specialists Told How to Use Polio Spray

Zinc Sulphate Used to Blockade the Nerves of Smell Recommended By Organization of Physicians To Members

EYE, ear, nose and throat specialists throughout the nation now have information on how to apply the new protective nose spray against infantile paralysis.

An "emergency communication" has been rushed into the mails by Dr. William P. Wherry, executive secretary-treasurer of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, to all members of that professional organization in order that they may be equipped to treat protectively children and others in the epidemic areas.

Zinc sulphate is the chemical used to blockade the nerves of smell in the upper part of the nose and thus close the road of the virus to the nervous system and brain.

Special Instrument

The specialists are warned that an ordinary atomizer such as used for spraying the nose does not reach the olfactory area. It is recommended that the one per cent. zinc sulphate solution with 1/2 per cent of saline, be sprayed on both sides of the nose by use of a long metal tip (De Vilbiss No. 156) which has been inserted between the middle turbinate and septum. The mucous membrane is shrunken with benzedrine inhalant or aqueous ephedrine solution.

Recognizing that this protective treatment may cause rather severe headaches, particularly in the case of adults, one per cent. of pontocaine, a local anesthetic, is added to the solution.

The treatment is given on two consecutive days and then repeated once

every two weeks until the epidemic subsides.

For little children who can not be treated successfully with the spray, dropping the solution into the nose with the patient lying on his back with head dropped back over the edge of a couch is recommended, although this method is likely to be less positive than the spraying properly done.

Reports Requested

Physicians are being asked to send in detailed reports to Dr. Wherry giving their experiences in handling the treatment. The treatments must be given by physicians.

The zinc sulphate protective treatment was worked out by Dr. E. W. Schultz of Stanford University after Drs. Charles Armstrong and W. T. Harrison of the U. S. Public Health Service had discovered and announced that the infantile paralysis virus, enterin the spinal cord and brain by way of the nerves of smell, could be blocked by chemical spraying. Dr. Schultz independently and simultaneously made the same discovery. First alum or tannic acid, then picric acid, and then zinc sulphate were used as the protecting chemical.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1937

An arm of the sea once cut North America in half from the Gulf of Mexico up to the Arctic Ocean.

Government scientists have tried out 13 crosses of standard breeds of chickens, and have found two hybrids that look valuable.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Infantile Paralysis Wave Has Reached Its Peak

EIGHT hundred and seventy-nine new cases of infantile paralysis were reported to the United States Public Health Service during the week ending Saturday, Sept. 18. The total constituted a small increase over figures for the previous week, when 817 poliomyelitis sufferers were reported.

The peak of this year's wave of the dread disease has probably been reached, the Public Health Service officials believe. Otherwise the health of the American nation is in good shape.

Illinois, where the number of new cases dropped from 130 to 81 during one week, relinquished first place in the list of states visited by infantile paralysis to New York, where 91 new cases were again reported. Minnesota with 52, Ohio with 59, Michigan with 57, Wisconsin with 45, Connecticut with 41, California with 46 and Pennsylvania with 40 cases were the states from which the most serious trouble was reported.

Behavior of the epidemic each fall during the last nine years led the Public Health Service to believe that this year's outbreak has already reached its most menacing proportions and is due to recede. Infantile usually drops sharply with the approach of brisk weather. No predictions with regard to individual states, because of the lack of adequate past figures, were made.

Texas with 33 new cases against 21 the week before was one state to report a marked increase. Up to September 18, 6,319 cases had been reported this year as compared with 2,261 during the same period last year. But the figures are still far below the proportions of the 1931 epidemic.

Cholera Spread Watched

Public health officials are not worried about the possibility of a spread of cholera from war-torn China to the United States, but are nevertheless keeping a weather eye peeled in the direction of Hong Kong, Dr. Robert Oleson stated. The short incubation period, five days, makes it impossible for anyone, even though coming by transpacific airplane, to enter the United States before showing symptoms of the disease if contracted in the Orient.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1937

A famous Arizona copper mine has installed air conditioning, and for the first time in its history, it did not lay off its workers in mid-summer.