

than three weeks old. This helps in detecting the epidemic form of the disease early.

2. All infant deaths are investigated, to check accuracy of the diagnosis on the death certificate.

3. The city's sanitary code has been amended to require maternity hospitals

to take added precautions, safeguarding babies from infection.

Other safeguards include requirements as to preparation of babies' formulas, laundering of their linen, regulation of visiting hours and limiting one nurse to the care of not more than eight babies in the hospital nursery.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1938

developed after the vitamin B₁ concentrate was given (by mouth), in one case for 6 months and another for 8 months."

Quick Relief

Comparison of the new injection treatment with other methods used in the past, shows a marked decrease in the time needed for relief, the physicians point out.

One patient in the test had previously had an attack of acute neuritis which persisted for 24 days when treated by former methods. In a new and severe attack, the injections stopped pain after three days and tenderness after four days.

The government physicians, while reporting on the spectacular results, stress the importance of future work. Only in a large group of cases, well controlled, they state, can the true value of this treatment be definitely determined.

Serious lack of vitamin B₁ in the human diet has been found to be the cause of dread beri-beri disease, so prevalent in the Far East. But even in America an insufficiency of vitamin B₁ in the diet is believed responsible for many cases of neuritis with its painful symptoms. Injections of vitamin B₁ sometimes bring relief for this lesser disorder, also.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1938

Iron ore production in the United States increased 48 per cent in 1937 over 1936; copper increased 38 per cent; tungsten 34; aluminum 30.

MEDICINE

Vitamin B₁ Injections Bring Relief From Acute Neuritis

Excruciating Pain Accompanying Leprosy Given Quick Relief; Administration By Mouth Unsuccessful

RELIEF from the excruciating pain of neuritis, which accompanies some cases of leprosy, has been achieved through studies made by scientists of the U. S. Public Health Service at its Honolulu station.

Injections into the muscles of solutions of vitamin B₁ produce amazing relief from the crippling pain, indicate Drs. L. F. Badger and D. W. Patrick of the Leprosy Investigations Division (*Public Health Reports*). Even in the cautious medical language of the announcement the results are called "spectacular."

Lepers with acute neuritis were sometimes in such pain that it was almost impossible for the physicians to make an adequate examination of the swollen nerves because the patients could not permit their bodies to be touched. Such victims were given relief within 24 hours in some cases. And in all but one patient, relief came within three or four days.

Test Groups

In the tests at the leper colony in Hawaii the physicians used 59 patients split into four groups. One group received vitamin B₁ by drinking pineapple juice containing brewer's yeast, which has a relatively high content of the vitamin.

Another group took their vitamin B₁ in concentrated form by mouth. A third received the concentrate by intra-muscular injection. The fourth group served as a control and did not receive special doses of the vitamin.

While the number of patients receiving the injections were small (only 10)

the results were amazing. The scientists plan to continue their study on a much larger group of cases. Discussing their results they say:

"The results obtained in the few cases of acute leprosy neuritis reported here strongly suggest that material benefit is derived from intramuscular injections of vitamin B₁. Our experience also suggests that similar results are not obtained by oral administration of that vitamin. No improvement was noted following administration, for over a 6-month period, either of large doses of brewer's yeast or of vitamin B₁ concentrate. On the contrary, acute neuritis



FORCE-FEEDING

Cannoneers serving an old-fashioned muzzle-loader used about the same technique that is necessary in feeding the Maharanee of Whangkoo, 22½-foot python in the St. Louis Zoological Park. A stiffish piece of two-inch rubber hose, five feet long, is "loaded" with ground rabbit meat, and one end is pushed into the Maharanee's throat. Then a keeper rams the charge home, while about ten other attendants sit on the big snake to hold her still. Twenty-one pounds constitutes a full meal—but she gets it only once a month.