

vive without the benefit of the respirator than to save the life of one terribly paralyzed," he declares.

You can have your child or yourself vaccinated against smallpox, inoculated against diphtheria, whooping cough, lockjaw, typhoid fever and even yellow fever, if you should need to live in yellow fever infested regions. You cannot, unfortunately, provide yourself or your children with the same sort of protection against infantile paralysis. Protective vaccinations have been tried but they not only failed to protect but in some cases, authorities believe, actually caused the disease.

Keep Away From Crowds

About the only thing you can do which might help you to avoid this ailment is to cut down on visiting and attendance at public gatherings and to keep children away from crowds generally if there is an epidemic of infantile paralysis. The disease can be spread not only by sick people but by healthy persons who have recovered from it or perhaps never had it in any recognizable form but are still carrying and discharging the germs. This is what makes it so hard to stop an epidemic. Isolation of all patients is important but does not completely stop the spread.

Recent discoveries show that getting tired out and staying too long in the water when swimming, perhaps because of the chilling as well as the exertion in the last case, may help to bring on an attack. These conditions made monkeys more susceptible to the germ, or virus, of the disease. Many authorities therefore caution parents to be especially careful not to let children get over-tired and to cut down on the amount of swimming they do. Grown-ups should follow the same advice themselves. Infantile paralysis is not limited to children, in spite of its name, and grown-ups anxious to make the most of every minute of a short holiday or vacation are quite likely to get over-tired and to stay too long in the water when they go to the beach or pool.

Remember that even if the disease cannot yet be prevented altogether, its crippling and deforming effects can in large measure be prevented by prompt, adequate treatment.

Science News Letter, August 23, 1941

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has two *dummy* vases of solid wood painted to resemble real vases of hard stone, which were found in the tomb of an Egyptian priest.

MEDICINE

Army Has Special Course In Tropical Medicine

IN preparation for whatever action the United States may take in the current Latin American and Far Eastern disturbances, the War Department announces that a special course of instruction in tropical diseases has been organized at the Army Medical School, in Washington, D. C.

Doctors taking the course will learn how to fight the cholera and leprosy that are widespread in such countries as China; bejel, a non-venereal form of syphilis occurring among the Arabs of the middle Euphrates Valley; pinta, the spotted sickness of Mexico and other tropical countries; Oroya fever, an infectious disease found in Peru; and "Q" fever, a new disease found first in Australia.

In addition to tropical diseases that are rare and in some cases unknown in the United States, malaria will receive paramount consideration, but no disease is too obscure or too remote to be of great importance to the Army Medical Corps.

Vaccination against yellow fever has already been started among troops serving or likely to serve in regions such as Latin America and Africa where it is prevalent.

Science News Letter, August 23, 1941

PUBLIC HEALTH

Big Jump in Sleeping Sickness Reported From the Dakotas

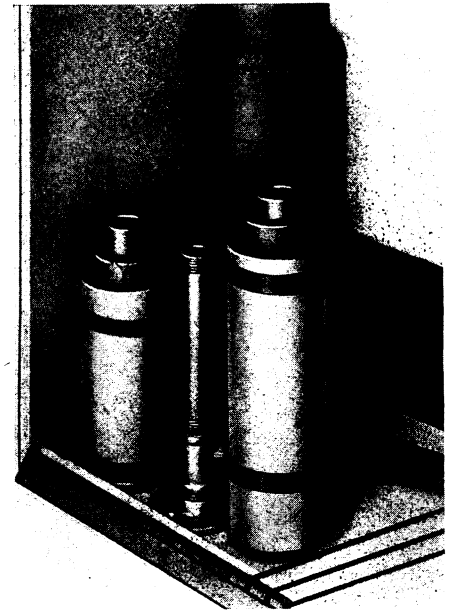
A BIG jump in the sleeping sickness (encephalitis) cases in North Dakota has been reported to the U. S. Public Health Service.

The number of people stricken with this disease in the week ending August 9 was 178—more than three times the number of cases reported during the previous week.

In South Dakota, the number has also more than tripled. Cases reported jumped from 19 during the week of August 2 up to 61 for last week.

A slow report by mail brought news to Washington that Texas had 10 cases of sleeping sickness during the week ending August 2. Nothing has yet come in on the following week's toll.

Dr. James P. Leake, who was sent to North Dakota by the Public Health



STREAMLINED PIPES

Even air conditioning equipment is given modern artistic lines these days. This is a model cut-away section of Carrier conduit system, showing insulated pipes for hot and cold water and small drain pipe and, in the rear, air supply conduit with front take-off. Air conditioning installations, in both old and new buildings, are simplified with this new system. The conditioned air is distributed with high velocity through conduits about the size of an ordinary steam pipe and a ninth the size of former ducts.

Service to help in battling the disease, reports that circumstantial evidence indicates the outbreak is of the Western equine type, or horse sleeping sickness.

First official word concerning the number of deaths in this outbreak came from Dr. Leake in North Dakota. He reports 41 deaths there out of 285 cases. This is a lower mortality than is usual for this disease.

Infantile paralysis is still on the increase, but, except in the South, the situation is not any more alarming than it has been in recent weeks, reports to the U. S. Public Health Service indicate.

Southern states, which have been having large numbers of cases in previous weeks, are still having them. Alabama, hardest hit by the disease, reports a jump from 49 cases, for the week ending

August 2, up to 80 for August 9. In Georgia, the number of new cases remains the same, 71. Four other southern states report increases: Tennessee, from 13 to 31; Kentucky, from 7 to 13; North Carolina, from 0 to 10; and South Carolina from 5 to 16. In Florida, the number went down from 27 to 13.

Minnesota is suffering the double trouble of a sleeping sickness (encephalitis) outbreak and infantile paralysis. The infantile paralysis cases jumped in the week ending August 9 from 3 cases to 12.

Many more victims were claimed in Minnesota by sleeping sickness, which has crossed the river from neighboring North Dakota. These cases nearly doubled in number in the week ending August 9. The jump was from 35 to 65.

Dr. Charles Armstrong, disease fighter of the U. S. Public Health Service, has been rushed to Minneapolis where he will advise the Minnesota state health authorities in connection with laboratory tests and identification of the disease in that state.

Colorado also reports an increase in sleeping sickness from 3 cases to 9.

In states in the east central part of the country, infantile paralysis cases are increasing, but the situation there is nothing like as bad as it is in the South. New York reports an increase from 12 to 30 cases; New Jersey, from 5 to 13; Pennsylvania from 15 to 17; Ohio, 16 to 27; Indiana, 5 to 12, and Michigan, 8 to 10.

In New England, where slight increases during the week ending August 2 led health officials to fear the outbreak might be spreading, reports were reassuring. A total of only 7 cases were reported for this whole region for the week of August 9, as compared with 16 for the previous week.

Science News Letter, August 23, 1941

PSYCHOLOGY

Let Children Read Comics; Science Gives Its Approval

Wild Adventures of "Strip" Heroes Called Folklore Of Modern Times, Using New Fantastic Magic

LET the children read the "funnies." Comics provide the folklore of this modern age.

Science finds that children need the lurid, blood-and-thunder adventures of Superman, Buck Rogers, the Bat Man, Flash Gordon, Popeye or the Red Comet, and their magic triumphs over space, time and gravity.

To two psychiatrists, specialists in the mental troubles of children, Dr. Lauretta Bender and Dr. Reginald S. Lourie, of Bellevue Hospital, New York University Medical School and the New York State Psychiatric Institute, popular comic strips are fairy tales dressed up in modern fashion.

In old fairy tales, the hero carried a wand with which he could achieve the impossible.

Magic in the comics of today is expressed in terms of fantastic elaborations of science with all-powerful rays, cosmic waves, flames, mechanized forms of transportation such as interplanetary traffic systems and so-called solar forces by which gravity is overcome.

But the old magic powers of capes and caps are retained in the most modern of the adventure comics, it is pointed out.

"The greater magic needed in modern folklore is due," say these psychiatrists in the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, "to the greater dangers which assail society and the individual and which are often obscure due to scientific

perfections, mechanized life, and group organizations."

Normal, well-balanced children are not upset by even the more horrible scenes in the comics as long as the reason for the threat of torture is clear and the issues are well stated.

When a child is puzzled by any lack of clarity, Drs. Bender and Lourie urge that an adult talk over the difficulty with him. This can be done, they reassure you, whether or not the adult has read the comic.

At Bellevue Hospital, they are now experimenting with a special class where the teacher clears up extremely common misinterpretations not only of comics but also of movies and radio stories.

Even the obviously emotionally unstable child should not be deprived of the possible benefits he will gain from reading the comics, these psychiatrists advise. Such children will find in the adventures of their favorite heroes the working out of their own problems and the answers to their own puzzling questions of right and wrong in this troubled world.

They tell the story of Tess, a little girl of great personal charm, who nevertheless was sent to Bellevue because of her antagonism to authority and because she had threatened suicide. Little Tess was troubled because her father had killed someone and later had killed himself after a quarrel with Tess's mother. Tess felt closely connected with her father and believed that she must follow in his footsteps.

In the hospital, Tessie was an omnivorous reader of comics and imagined her-

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● Earth Trembles

Information collected by Science Service from seismological observatories resulted in the location by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Jesuit Seismological Association of the following preliminary epicenter:

Friday, Aug. 15, 1:09.3 a.m., EST

About 600 miles northwest of Dakar, 200 miles north of the Cape Verde islands. Near latitude 20 degrees north, longitude 24 degrees west. Strong shock, in a region not usually regarded as seismic.

For stations cooperating with Science Service, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Jesuit Seismological Association in reporting earthquakes recorded on their seismographs, see *SNL*, July 19.