

PUBLIC HEALTH

Polio Cases Up

New high is reached in infantile paralysis epidemic with no sign of when it may be over. Dengue and influenza in island territories.

► **INFANTILE PARALYSIS** cases reached a new high total of 1,016 throughout the nation for the week ending Sept. 18, latest on which figures are available. Even that figure, over 100 more cases than were reported the previous week, may be increased slightly when delayed reports from Arkansas and Vermont are received at the U. S. Public Health Service.

The total of 906 for the week of Sept. 11 represented a decrease of some 50 cases and gave hope that the peak of the epidemic had been reached, but that hope proved false.

The largest number of cases during the week ending Sept. 18 was reported from Illinois, where cases jumped from 189 to 208. California also had a sharp increase during the week from 111 to 150. Other states reporting increases were: Washington, Texas, Kansas, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

About all health authorities can say now about when the epidemic may be over is that in three of the last nine years, the peak of infantile paralysis cases came the last week in August. In one year, 1934, it came as early as June 23, and in one year as late as Oct. 3. In the other four years, the peak came between Sept. 12 and Sept. 18.

The year of the Sept. 18 peak, there had been 5,512 cases during the first 36 weeks of the year, with a total for the entire year of 9,451. The total for this year so far is between those two figures, 7,808, which does not give much encouragement for an early end of the epidemic.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

Island Epidemics

► **MEANWHILE** concern is felt over two epidemics brewing in island territories to the east and west. Dengue cases are still numerous in Honolulu, where 215 cases have been reported since the end of July. Latest reports give 36 cases for the week ending Sept. 4, and another 15 during the period Sept. 6-9.

Signs of an influenza epidemic appear in reports from Puerto Rico. Cases

jumped from 83 the week ending July 16 to 975 the week of July 23, and to 2,141 the week ending Aug. 6. No later reports have been received but public health authorities recall that when influenza was epidemic in continental United States three years ago, there had been outbreaks earlier in the year in both Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Hawaii reported an increase in cases in midsummer of this year, but the outbreak there seems to have died out.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

MILITARY SCIENCE

Three-in-One Torpedo Invented to Blast Axis

► **A THREE-IN-ONE** torpedo that can blast an enemy ship in several places at the same time is among the 502 patents granted this week by the U. S. Patent Office.

A central torpedo carrying two smaller auxiliary torpedoes attached to it is launched from conventional equipment now in use on ships and airplanes. As the mother torpedo nears the target, a time-controlled mechanism releases the brood of youngsters which speed off to strike on either side of the main explosion. George Wise of Brooklyn, N. Y., who has received patent No. 2,329,736 on the weapon, gives the government permission to use his invention without payment of royalty.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

MEDICINE

Healthy Eyes, Ears, Teeth Necessary for Young Child

► **JUNIOR** and Sister need healthy eyes, ears and teeth for school, as well as vaccination and other protection against some of the diseases their school mates may have.

Poor hearing is another condition that often makes children seem backward and dull. In some schools hearing tests are given to all the children. You can make sure that your child will not get off to a bad start through poor hearing by having his own doctor make the

test. If there is any defect, the doctor will advise about putting him in a special class and having him learn lip-reading to make up for the defect. The steps to be taken will depend on the extent of hearing defect or loss.

When Junior and Sister are ready to start school, they probably have acquired their six-year molars. These are the first and most important of the permanent teeth and should be carefully watched and any cavities filled promptly, so that these important grinders will last throughout Junior's or Sister's life. A visit to the dentist before starting school is therefore in order, unless the children are already making regular visits for a check on the health of their teeth. They will begin to lose their baby teeth soon after starting school, but these should not be lost prematurely through decay because they are needed to keep the mouth in the right shape for the permanent teeth.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

NUTRITION

Nut Butter Makers Seek Better Skinning Methods

► **IF YOU** can skin the kernels of black walnuts, hickories and pecans quickly and completely, experts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture here want to know how you do it. Ground fine these nuts make butters that help piece out our dairy supply in wartime, but little spots of the skin in the nut butter detract from the esthetic attractiveness, although not the taste.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

LEARN SPANISH
THE LANGUAGE OF
TOMORROW'S BUSINESS
BY
**PLAYING
CARDS**



It's easy to learn to speak, read and write Spanish this popular new way... and it takes only 1/2 of the time usually required to master a foreign language. Play Solitaire or play the Course with a member of your family or while you entertain friends. Prepares for the thousands of post-war opportunities that will be available to Spanish-speaking men and women when trade with our Latin-American neighbors is at its peak. Remember... 2, 3 or 4 persons can learn at no extra cost. 4 decks of cards and Cloth-Bound Text Book, only \$2 postpaid.

Money back if you fail to learn.

French course... identical material... also \$2.

Emmaus, Pa.
RODALE PRESS Dept. SN-42

