

Do You Know?

Producers of *turkey eggs* for hatching have found that artificial light in the turkey houses during the late evenings and early mornings starting the first of February results in eggs a month earlier than otherwise.

One motion picture theater, at least, has *paintings* on its walls done in fluorescent water colors; their glow does not interfere with the visibility of the motion picture on the screen but does provide aisle lighting.

Tough kraft *paper* into which 2% of melamine resin has been introduced keeps about 40% of its bursting strength when water-soaked instead of the near-zero strength without the chemical.

The only area in the United States where *flax* is grown extensively primarily for its fiber is in the Northwest; the large quantities grown in other states are primarily for the seed and oil.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Diseases from Animals

Man is victim to two more diseases transmitted by animals. Dogs may infect man with food poisoning and elephant's tusks may transmit anthrax germs.

➤ ADD to the list of diseases man may get from animals: 1. food poisoning and intestinal upsets, from dogs; 2. anthrax, from elephant tusks. Reports on both were presented at the meeting of the American Public Health Association in Atlantic City.

An employee of a piano-key industry died of anthrax which was not suspected till after his death, Drs. Roy M. Seideman and Kenneth M. Wheeler, of the Connecticut State Department of Health, reported.

The victim's job involved the sawing of elephant tusks, from which piano keys were to be made. The tusks came from East and West Africa. Anthrax germs were found in washings of tusk scraps.

This is the first case of human anthrax infection traced to elephants or their tusks, so far as the scientists could find from searching scientific literature for reports of others and from inquiry of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Workers and plant management in industries using raw ivory or elephant tusks, they warn, should be alert to the danger of anthrax. Skin sores and infections should get prompt medical attention and sanitary precautions should be observed. These are the only measures for controlling the danger until some method can be developed for sterilizing raw ivory without altering its physical quality.

The ivory may get the anthrax germs because the elephant had the disease, or during transport, either by native handling or by shipment with other animal products carrying the germs.

The danger of man getting food poisoning from his dogs was reported by Dr. Arthur H. Wolff, U. S. Public Health Service veterinarian, and Norman D. Henderson and Miss Grace L. McCallum of the Michigan Department of Health.

Examination of the intestinal wastes of 100 dogs showed that 18 of them were excreting 16 different types of Salmonella, germs which may cause poisoning in man.

Three outbreaks of food poisoning due to Salmonella germs, in which dogs

were incriminated as the source of the infection in humans, have been reported by other scientists. The Michigan group started their investigations as a result of these reports, to learn to what extent dogs may carry these food poisoning germs.

The studies showed that dogs carry these germs much oftener than has been supposed, and that the germs may have some association with distemper or intestinal inflammation in dogs or both. Further studies are under way to determine the exact significance of the findings to the health of both dogs and man.

Dog Vaccination Effective

Clear-cut evidence of the fact that vaccinating dogs against rabies controls this deadly disease was reported by Drs. Robert F. Korn and A. Zeissig of the New York State Health Department.

Rabies in animals in upstate New York increased nearly ten-fold during the period 1944-1947. From a level of approximately 100 cases per year during the previous 10-year period, it rose to 313 cases in 1944, 662 in 1945 and reached a peak of 1,175 in 1946. An unusual feature was the fact that wild foxes got the disease during this animal epidemic. The foxes in turn gave it to cattle. In 1946 there were 308 reported cases of rabies in foxes and 440 in cattle.

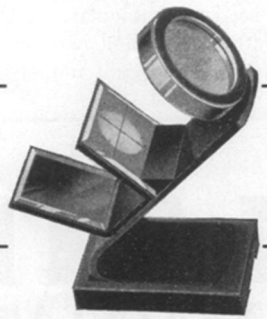
Countywide dog vaccination in 24 counties during the past two years, with revaccination in 12 counties, stopped the epidemic among dogs. While there were 300 rabid dogs in the upstate area during the first nine months of 1946, there were only 40 for the same period of 1947, although there were 218 rabid foxes and 173 rabid cattle during the same period.

In 10 central New York counties, the disease has almost disappeared in the dogs, though cattle and fox rabies continues. All of these 10 counties have vaccinated over 70% of their enumerated dogs. The rabies-attack rate in vaccinated dogs is now only one-eighteenth that in non-vaccinated dogs.

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