

PUBLIC HEALTH

## **Pattern of Polio Found** In Society Islands Study

➤ THE PATTERN POLIO takes when it invades an area is shown in a study of antibody reactions from surveys made during and after the 1951 polio epidemic in Tahiti and other Society islands.

The study by Dr. John F. Kessel, professor of infectious diseases, University of California at Los Angeles Medical School, indicated the epidemic was caused by an invasion of Type One polio virus, which was new to the area. This was the first polio epidemic reported from the region, although sporadic cases were known to have occurred.

Blood specimens from island inhabitants revealed an immunity to the Type Three polio virus was prevalent in the islands at the time of the outbreak. During and after the outbreak, Type One antibodies were more abundant in epidemic areas.

This pattern is probably typical of any polio invasion, but is more clearly demonstrated in a relatively isolated and not heavily populated island community, Dr. Kessel reports in the Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medi-

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956





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