

LYNDE'S EVERYDAY PHYSICS reduces class failures because it makes the subject intelligible and interesting to all—even those students with least aptitude to the subject.

The illustration examples and applications are taken chiefly from the home and the agencies that serve the home. Each type of household appliance is discussed in a complete chapter, and each chapter on a particular type of appliance precedes a chapter on the principles applied.

Solved problems are used freely to help the student clarify his knowledge and make it precise, and an abundance of unsolved problems encourage him to depend on himself for constructive progress.

The common system of weights and measures is used in addition to the metric system. Discussion of the difficult part of mechanics is postponed to the end of the book when the student has gained the power of dealing with it.

EVERYDAY PHYSICS

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\$1.80

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
New York Dallas
Boston Atlanta
Chicago San Francisco

PUBLIC HEALTH

Glands, Vitamins, Microbes Conspire for Child Health

GLANDS, vitamins and bacteria, and their role in the life of a healthy child were discussed at the medical section of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, during its final session at Washington, D. C.

Three months after the other experts of the Conference had made their reports, the doctors, nurses, psychologists and psychiatrists reported to President Herbert Hoover just how healthy American children are now, and how they can be made even healthier and happier in the future.

Before the child reaches the stage of codliver oil and sunbaths, of diphtheria toxin-antitoxin, or of possible thyroid gland disturbance, the glands, vitamins and bacteria have begun playing their part in making him healthy and strong or weak and susceptible to disease, the experts reported.

The female sex hormones and the pituitary gland have been the subject of much recent investigation. The facts on these vital subjects have accumulated so rapidly that medical opinion has not been able to evaluate them thoroughly and decide just what they mean.

"Additional experimentation and critical analysis of work already completed are urgently needed to clarify the general situation," reported the committee which considered this phase of the situation. Chairman of the committee was Dr. Leslie B. Arey, professor of anatomy at Northwestern University Medical School.

Microbes are not all harmful, the committee pointed out. Some of the non-harmful group are those found normally in the intestines. These establish themselves shortly after birth and by fermenting sugars, produce lactic acid which the committee called nature's preservative. This acid restrains the growth of disease-producing bacteria and adds much to the defense of the infant's vulnerable digestive tract. Along with this protection against intestinal infection goes resistance to respiratory infections, such as cold, bronchitis and pneumonia.

Vitamins begin playing their role of protection before the child is born. The vitamin content of the mother's diet has its effect both on mother and on child.

Vitamins A, C, D and E are the ones particularly mentioned by the committee because of their importance to the mother's health and the child's development and future well-being.

Being a father or a mother should be the most important job in the world. And it will be if the experts in psychology and psychiatry get their way.

"The parent is far from being overlooked in the plan," stated Dr. Bronson Crothers, assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard University Medical School. "He is not to be allowed to shift his responsibilities to the shoulders of the psychiatrist or even of the family doctor."

"If our committee's plan materializes, bringing up the child will consist of much more than feeding him, sending him to school, and calling in the doctor to set a broken bone or remove the tonsils; it will be, as it should be, the most important profession in the world."

Science News Letter, March 7, 1931

PHYSICS

Standards Established For Sunburn

SUNBURNS produced by artificial sun-light mixtures have now been measured by comparing the tint produced with different strengths of dye solution.

The object of this work reported to the American Physical Society by Dr. E. Q. Adams of the General Electric Company was not to establish a becoming shade for debutantes but for the protection of those who are taking ultraviolet treatments as a health measure.

The burn does not reach its maximum redness at the end of the exposure to the mercury arc light, said Dr. Adams, but continues to increase to a maximum after the rays are cut off. The behavior is very similar to the production of the black image during the development of a photographic plate.

Dr. Adams has investigated the burns produced when ultraviolet lights of different wave lengths are applied together.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1931