

munity is never certain

Literally hundreds of remedies for ivy poisoning have been proposed. A few work. Most recommended is a five per cent. solution of ferric chloride, or ferrous sulphate, in water and alcohol; to be washed on and allowed to dry without wiping before one goes into a poison-ivy-infested place. If the poisoning actually develops, it can be oxidized off with the same solution, or with one of potassium permanganate.

Better, though, avoid the plants altogether if possible. Poison ivy is easily recognized. It is either a tree-climbing vine or an erect, sparsely branched shrub, with three-parted, usually notched leaves. The same description holds for its western kinsweed, poison oak. The flowers are in irregular clusters, tiny greenish-white. The fruits, ripening in late autumn, are thin-fleshed white berries.

Poison sumac grows only in acid-water bogs, along with tamarack, pitcher-plants and sundews. It looks like ordinary sumac, which however never grows in such wet places, except that its bark is light gray rather than brownish. It can best be distinguished by its fruits, which persist into the following year. They are drooping loose clusters of white berries, instead of the erect, dense, red-brown fruit-masses of the ordinary sumac.

*Science News Letter, June 16, 1934*

Physicians who studied 20,000 cancer cases in Memorial Hospital, New York, report their opinion that inheritance is not an important factor in the genesis of cancers among children, with the exception of glioma of the eye.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

## Chicago Fair Visitors Need Not Fear Dysentery

**A**MEBIC dysentery is no more of a danger in Chicago now than in any other city in the country, agreed health officials at the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America.

Discussion of the outbreak of last summer and fall brought out the following points:

Plumbing is the first line of defense against amebic dysentery.

The Chicago outbreak of amebic dysentery was the first due to infected water that has ever occurred in a civilian population anywhere at any time; the disease has always heretofore been traced to infected food handlers.

Sanitary inspection of plumbing when a building is erected is not enough to protect the public health. Such inspections should also be made at later dates to detect defects that may result from changes in the plumbing system after the building has been in use.

When Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, Chicago's health commissioner, described at the Conference the fight made by the city against the amebic dysentery outbreak, he reported that 660 of the public buildings and hotels in the city had been rigidly inspected and all defects in plumbing corrected.

The plumbing in the Chicago hotel which was found responsible for the outbreak is probably no different from plumbing installed in any building 20

to 30 years ago. Because of this and the fact that five out of every hundred persons in the general population are carriers of amebic dysentery, the disease may break out anywhere at any time.

The disease did not spread throughout the country from the Chicago epidemic, no material outbreaks elsewhere having been traced to Chicago except those cases known to have been contracted in Chicago.

Amebic dysentery is probably a factor in the present increase of cases of so-called appendicitis. Many amebic dysentery cases are known to have been wrongly diagnosed as appendicitis and the mistaken diagnosis probably has not been detected in many more cases.

The dramatic way in which Chicago's health commissioner announced the outbreak to the world through the press and over the radio was termed "one of the most judicious and courageous things any health officer ever did."

*Science News Letter, June 16, 1934*

## AGRICULTURE

## Corn Crop Not Yet In Serious Danger

**D**ROUGHT, though confronting the nation with the prospect of the worst wheat crop failure in history, has not yet become seriously menacing to the corn crop. So the U. S. Weather Bureau has stated, as the result of a week's survey of weather and crop conditions.

"In Iowa," the meteorologists state, "the early crop is growing fairly well and being cultivated, but fields are dusty; chinch bugs are destructive in the south. Satisfactory growth is reported from eastern Kansas, throughout the South, and in the Middle Atlantic States."

The optimistic tone of the report, however, is qualified by the statement that over considerable areas a large percentage of the later-planted seed corn is still lying in the dust, ungerminated. In Iowa this includes approximately one-third of the acreage, while in the eastern Ohio valley all late-planted corn is dormant.

*Science News Letter, June 16, 1934*

### SUBSCRIPTION ORDER COUPON

Science News Letter,  
21st and Constitution Avenue,  
Washington, D. C.

Please  start  renew my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as checked below:

2 years, \$7  1 year, \$5

and send me a bill.

Name.....

Street Address.....

City and State.....

19123