

MEDICINE

Polio Chance No Greater For Child at Summer Camp

► THE CHANCES of a child at a summer camp getting infantile paralysis seem to be no greater than the chances of a child at home getting the disease. Parents therefore should not change their plans about sending children to camp this summer because of fear of polio outbreaks.

This advice comes from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. It is based on studies in polio epidemic areas beginning in 1949, when we had the greater number of reported cases in U.S. history.

Even in a year of high polio incidence, the National Foundation recommends camps may be opened as usual in any area where there is no actual outbreak. However, children should not be admitted from an area where an outbreak exists. Parents should feel free to send their children to camps if there is no polio in their own communities or in the vicinity of the particular camps.

If one or more cases occurs in a boarding or day camp, the following precautions are recommended:

1. All children should be kept at the camp for 14 days after last contact with the patient or until the usual closing date of the camp.

2. General activity should be modified and closely supervised to prevent excessive exercise and undue mixing in group activities.

3. Children should be given a careful medical checkup daily.

4. All children with fever and suspicious symptoms should be isolated.

5. Bodily discharges should be burned with gasoline.

6. Admission of new children to camps in which poliomyelitis has been diagnosed should be discontinued.

7. The county chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis should be notified so that it may assist in any way needed.

The decision as to closing a camp rests with the county or city Health Officer in charge. However, there is no evidence of increased hazard in keeping a camp open since exposures already have taken place by the time a case appears. When the first case has been diagnosed, many campers already have the virus in their systems. Only time will reveal those who may be susceptible to the clinical form of the disease. The usual incubation period is from 7 to 14 days. Normal camp routine should not be unduly disturbed.

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Ostriches have been known to run as fast as 50 miles an hour.

METEOROLOGY

This Summer Cool in N.E., Warm, Dry in Central U.S.

► WEATHER FOR this summer has been predicted by one of the nation's expert long range forecasters, Dr. H. C. Willett, professor of meteorology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Willett is one of the few recognized meteorologists who would venture such a forecast.




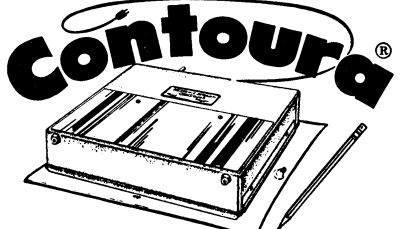
The Northeast will tend to be cool and showery through the summer months, while the central states will be somewhat warm and dry, Dr. Willett predicts. West coast summer weather is usually pretty settled and Dr. Willett expects that to be the case this year too. The Southeast can expect a fairly normal summer.

The U. S. Weather Bureau's Extended Forecast Section under Jerome Namias, a former student of Dr. Willett's, refuses to predict the weather for periods longer than a month ahead, although Mr. Namias says he is working on methods of making seasonal forecasts.

Dr. Willett cautions that the summer is a much harder season to predict than the winter. The weather in the warm months is more erratic and more localized than during the winter, he says. Consequently, local variations can be expected.

Science News Letter, June 7, 1952

4 SHORT-CUTS FOR SCIENTISTS

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