

Do You Know?

Some 19,500 persons were killed in America during 1947 in *farm accidents*.

Lions in nature are gang fighters; tigers usually fight alone because this animal usually hunts by himself.

Puerto Rico has a *population* of 618 persons per square mile, compared to 47 in the United States.

More vivid color printing is promised by the use of *zirconium*; this little-known metal is the main ingredient of zircon, a semi-precious gem.

Suntan preparations and sunburn preventives, unlike most cosmetic products are prepared for use by both sexes; perfumes acceptable to both must therefore be used.

The *tropical papaya*, which produces an edible fruit resembling a cantaloup, looks somewhat like a palm tree but it is not related to the palm.

The *stripes* that make the zebra and the tiger so conspicuous in the zoo make them hard to see in their natural habitats; they are one of nature's best examples of camouflage.



There's Less "Spot Chasing"
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Psychiatrists, the Public Health Service believes, will one day be accepted by the public as readily as surgeons or dentists. They are very truly human beings. Sometimes they need to visit other psychiatrists.

MEDICINE

Warn Ex-Syphilitic Vets

➤ A WARNING is being issued to veterans who were treated in service for syphilis with penicillin that they need periodic check-ups because there is a possibility that between 20% and 30% of these cases were failures, officials of the Veterans Administration stated.

The old Army treatment for the disease with arsenic and bismuth was time-tested and results were therefore predictable. The disadvantage in this 26-week treatment was that one out of every 30,000 was killed while penicillin has proved superior without killing any patients. However, penicillin treatment is still in an early stage. It will require about 20 years study and follow-up to determine the effect on the patient.

Meanwhile, Uncle Sam is worried about the boys who received treatment and thought themselves cured because in many cases the patient received either inadequate treatment, because of discharge did not get the necessary blood and spinal fluid tests required for a year after treatment or was

There is a story about a Washington, D. C., psychiatrist who walked into an elevator shaft in an apartment building where he had lived 30 years. He had always thought it was a closet!

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discharged before he got an examination of his spinal fluid.

Syphilis, if not treated, or inadequately treated, may attack the heart and nervous system and therefore in many cases leads to insanity. Officials estimate that each case of insanity in a veteran costs the taxpayer \$40,000 from the time the patient is admitted to a hospital until his discharge.

They estimate that approximately 400,000 veterans were treated while in service in the armed forces. About 52,000 veterans were treated in 1946 following their discharge but there is no way of telling what proportion were infected after they got out and which of them were relapse cases. No one has followed army cases long enough although an attempt will be made to do this in the future.

The officials of the Veterans Administration cautioned that without preventive action now, syphilis in veterans will cost the taxpayer around one billion dollars in the course of the next 25 years.

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MEDICINE

Mix Vaccine-Toxoid Shots

➤ CHILDREN will get better protection against diphtheria and whooping cough when the materials used for the anti-diphtheria and anti-whooping cough shots are combined in one mixture instead of being given separately.

Studies showing this are reported by Dr. Joseph A. Bell of the U. S. Public Health Service in a report to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (July 17). The studies were made in Norfolk, Va., and neighboring territory, beginning in 1941.

Children from the ages of two to 23 months were selected for the test and divided at random into two groups. One group was given an alum-treated mixture of whooping cough vaccine and diphtheria toxoid. They got two shots of this, four weeks apart.

The other group got whooping cough vaccine and diphtheria toxoid in separate injections.

Of 407 children who got two doses of the mixed product, 48 got whooping cough. Among the 385 who got two doses of the vaccine alone, 158 cases of whooping cough occurred.

A year after receiving the first injection, 992 children in the diphtheria study were given Schick tests, the standard method of

determining immunity to diphtheria. A positive reaction to this test shows susceptibility to diphtheria. There were only one-third as many positive reactions in children who got the mixed product as in those who received unmixed toxoid.

The mixed vaccine-toxoid shots are effective in babies as young as two to five months old and side reactions, Dr. Bell reports, are "few and negligible." But at least one of the doses, he advises, should be given after a child is six months old for best protection.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Smallpox Disappearing in Nation, Figures Show

➤ SMALLPOX has almost disappeared in the United States. The number of reported cases dropped 50% from 1946 to 1947 and 98% in the last decade, a survey by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company shows.

During the first 20 weeks of this year only 45 cases of this dangerous disease have been reported. This is about one-third the corresponding figure of a year ago.

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