

Do You Know?

Statistics show that the *lung cancer* death rate among the male population of New York state has increased by 570% in the last 22 years.

Developments in medicine and public health, together with a higher standard of living, have cut *communicable disease* death rate in the U. S. by 90% since 1900.

Entomologists were able to stop an invasion of the oriental *fruit moth* in New York's peach orchards by introducing parasites.

The strange sex life and heredity of the *paramecium* may give a clue to the way a single fertilized egg cell gives rise to the myriad of cell types making up higher plants and animals.

Army scientists attached glass-protected clusters of *solar batteries* to the skin of an Aerobee-Hi rocket to prove that the sun can supply enough electrical power to operate the instruments in an earth satellite.

MEDICINE

Morning Sickness Means Less Chance of Abortion

► NAUSEA and vomiting have long been the scourge of pregnancy, but a study shows women who do not suffer from them are in greater danger of losing their unborn children through abortion than those who do.

This is reported by Dr. Jack H. Medalie, Jerusalem, Israel, in the British medical journal, *The Lancet* (July 20).

The study confirms earlier impressions that the more a pregnant woman vomited the less chance she had of aborting and vice versa.

This "clinical" impression had become so strong that Dr. Medalie was put on his guard by any pregnant woman who said she "felt perfect."

Records were kept of 100 women during their pregnancies and the amount, severity and duration of the nausea and vomiting were recorded. The data showed those who aborted during the first three months had significantly less sickness or had none at all.

Nausea and vomiting are estimated to affect over half of all pregnant women, but there are still only theories to explain the cause of the distress.

Some believe it is due to neurosis and is actually an expression of the unconscious rejection of the pregnancy. Others blame it on a toxin produced by the unborn child, carbohydrate deficiency, or endocrine imbalances. Allergy and sociocultural factors have also been blamed.

The present study shows there must be common factors that cause both abortions and nausea and vomiting.

"This may give a lead to other workers searching for the cause of these conditions," Dr. Medalie concludes.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

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