MEDICINE

When Putting Drops in Nose Turn Your Head Upside Down

Method of Application Developed for Prevention of Infantile Paralysis Called Useful in General

HERE'S how to put drops in your nose. It's simple, safe and accurate.

All you do is turn your head completely upside down and let the solution trickle until it forms a great lake. The great lake forms in the olfactory area and immerses the membranes.

The upside down method is the favorite technic of four physicians at Stanford University School of Medicine. After a study of various means of putting drops in the nose, they have adopted this method for applying zinc sulfate to the noses of children in an effort to ward off poliomyelitis.

Any solution, however, may be placed in the nose in this fashion. It will be better tolerated if previously warmed to body heat in a water bath, the Stanford men say.

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (April 16) Drs. Lee Shahinian, J. A. Bacher, R. C. McNaught and R. R. Newell of San Francisco present this technic. They favor it over the atomizer and various postural methods of applying chemical agents to the olfactory mucosa.

They place the child or adult on a table and let his head hang over the edge until it is completely inverted. The base line of the skull is horizontal.

Then with an ordinary medicine dropper they introduce the fluid slowly and steadily drop by drop.

One minute after the last drop has entered, they tell the patient to turn over in a prone position, lift his head and sniff outward. This procedure prevents unpleasant effects in the throat resulting from swallowing the solution.

Other methods of applying zinc sulfate are less efficient and more difficult, they hold.

The four physicians have worked out the approximate quantity of fluid necessary to immerse the membranes of children, youth and adults.

These are 0.5 cc. for children under 10 years; 0.4 cc. for those between 10 and 14, and 0.25 cc. for adults.

They stress the quantity of fluid to be introduced into the nose because the distress after treatment with chemical agents may thus be minimized.

In the same issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, there is reported a case of anterior poliomyelitis in a man of 68. This is thought to be the oldest age at which anyone has died of this disease, which occurs most frequently in the young.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1938

MEDICINE

Control of Virus Diseases Predicted For Future

EVENTUAL control of virus-caused diseases, to which group both influenza and infantile paralysis belong, was predicted by Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, director of the Rockefeller Hospital, at a meeting at the New York Academy of Medicine.

"Adequate control measures have already been found for some virus maladies, e. g., smallpox and yellow fever," Dr. Rivers said, "and there is every reason to believe that preventive or curative methods will be found to combat others."

The viruses, most of which are invisible even under the most powerful microscopes, appear to be in the borderland between living and non-living matter. Recent studies of viruses have suggested that these "midgets of the microbial world" may be examples of spontaneous origin of infectious disease, about which scientists have argued for centuries.

"No one has yet established the de novo (spontaneous) origin of a single infectious disease," Dr. Rivers said, but he added that it would be foolish to deny the spontaneous origin of an infectious disease in the past or the possibility of such origin in the future.

Regardless of whether infectious diseases originate spontaneously and regardless of whether this is ever definitely proved or disproved, scientists will be able, Dr. Rivers believes, to find ways of controlling such diseases. He emphasized this by pointing out that the means of preventing smallpox, a virus-caused disease, was discovered centuries before its virus cause was known and even long before the relation of bacteria to disease was appreciated.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Thighbones of Peking Man Give New Information

PEKING MAN now has a couple of legs to stand on. Whereas all previously reported fossils have been skulls, Prof. Franz Weidenreich of Peiping Union Medical College now announces the discovery of two fragmentary thighbones, which were found by his colleague Dr. W. C. Pei. (*Science*, April 8).

The thighbones are slighter in build than those of Neanderthal Man hitherto found in Europe and the Near East. However, Dr. Weidenreich is inclined to regard this as a sex difference, for the known Neanderthal thighbones belonged to males and the new Peking fossils appear to be those of women.

Comparison of the Peking Man thighbones with the thighbone found at Trinil, Java, forty years ago and believed to be that of Java Man, Pithecanthropus erectus, shows that the Peking bone differs from the Java fossil in exactly the same respects in which it differs from modern human thighbones. Prof. Weidenreich therefore concludes that the Java thighbone is not that of Java Man, but is modern—a point already suspected to be the case, on other grounds.

The shape of the new-found bones confirms Prof. Weidenreich's previously expressed opinion, that Peking Man walked upright. Traces of fire on them constitute further evidence for the already-stated belief that Peking Man was a cannibal.

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