

MEDICINE

Home Care in Polio

During present infantile paralysis season, doctor suggests that many patients be treated at home where they "might be better cared for."

► **MANY PATIENTS** during the present outbreak of poliomyelitis will be taken care of at home instead of being rushed to a hospital, if doctors and parents follow the views of Dr. Philip M. Stimson of the pediatrics department of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, New York.

His views, originally reported to an area meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, are given in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (June 28) to reach physicians all over the country at this time.

Most patients with suspected polio, with nonparalytic forms, and many with mild forms of the disease "might better be cared for at home," he believes.

"First and foremost" among the advantages of home care of the polio patient, he points out, is the important fact that the patient is saved the fatigue, excitement and nervous tension of the trip to the hospital and the "excessive handling" that usually goes on during the first days in a hospital.

Dr. Stimson stresses this because polio authorities agree that fatigue and exhaustion at the onset seem to aggravate the ravages of the disease.

Other advantages he gives are: Most parents prefer to have their sick child at home. There is much less emotional disturbance in the family and the child. Financial costs

are less. Hospital beds and nurses are freed for more serious cases of polio and other diseases. The family doctor, who has the confidence of the patient and the family, can remain in touch with his patient.

The rest of the family and neighbors are not endangered because by the time polio is suspected, they have already been exposed and infected so there is little or no danger from further exposure. The patient should be kept in his own bed in his own room, of course.

A firm mattress, a footboard for keeping the weight of bed-clothes off his legs, a quiet environment, moist heat and aspirin to relieve backaches and general tenderness can be given the patient at home as well as in the hospital.

Health departments should be ready to help the family doctor with diagnostic aid, visiting nursing and physical therapy.

If the home cannot provide adequate facilities for the care of the patient, if there is no one to give him proper treatment and nursing, or if the family is emotionally unstable, the patient with even a mild form of the disease had better be taken to the hospital.

Other definite indications for hospitalization given by Dr. Stimson are: increasing elevation of temperature; the fact that the patient "looks sick" and is getting sicker; urinary difficulties; some weakness in a

large triangular muscle covering the peak of the shoulder which may be followed by breathing difficulty; nasal regurgitation and voice change if persistent; and particularly any difficulty in swallowing.

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METEOROLOGY

Hot and Dry July In Central Plains

► **THE GREAT** cattle- and grain-producing heart of the nation will be hot and dry until the end of July. This is the prediction of the Weather Bureau's Extended Forecast Section.

Temperatures will "average a few degrees above seasonal normal over most of the nation," according to the long range forecasters. In the Pacific Coast states, the Southeast and from the upper Great Lakes eastward through New England, near normal temperatures can be expected.

Hottest, as compared with normal July weather, will be in the central plains states. Except for the central plains, the country will have about the usual amounts of rain.

This weather will be the result of a continuation of the backward weather experienced last month. The general weather patterns are continuing to move from east to west instead of from west to east.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Good Labor Mediator Has Neutral Attitude

► **A GOOD** labor-management mediator has a neutral attitude, favoring neither labor nor management.

Dr. Irving R. Weschler of the Institute of Industrial Relations at the University of California at Los Angeles has studied the personality patterns of 146 labor mediators. Participating in his study were members of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and persons in the New York and California state services.

Each was asked to rate all the others participating in the study on the basis of his impression of their work, both by personal knowledge and reputation.

These ratings of "good," "poor," and "other," served to determine if other tests subsequently given the mediators were successful in differentiating them on the basis of intelligence and impartiality and other factors. A personality test failed to yield significant data. In addition, biographies of the individuals were studied to find, if possible, variables that might account for a "good" or "poor" rating.

A new indirect method of attitude measurement, called the error-choice technique, resulted in a high percentage of "good" mediators falling within the so-called neutral zone. On the other hand, all mediators rated "poor" by their colleagues were found to be either pro-labor or pro-management in the attitude test.

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ONE YEAR'S OFFSPRING—A New Zealand White doe and her fryer production for 12 months. More than 40 million pounds of rabbit meat are consumed annually in the U. S. (See p. 28.)