

Chester 4-Hers Meet Legislators



Sharing ideas on local government issues during a special legislative breakfast at State 4-H Capital Days in Harrisburg, April 7-8, are, 4-Hers from Chester Co. from left: Representative Earl H. Smith, Jenny Robinson, Representative Patricia

Crawford, Edgar Latshaw, Janet Nothstine and Representative Peter R. Vroon. The two-day event was designed to give 4-H members a working knowledge of the functions of state government which is part of the youth citizenship program.

Lancaster Beekeepers Meet

Dr. Stephen D. Lockey Sr. recently addressed the Lancaster County Beekeepers on allergies, especially those due to bee and other hymenopter venom. He compared the early ecology of our nation with the present environment, the nature, causes, symptoms, and remedies of allergies. About a generation ago allergies as a medical specialty was not very promising to a prospective medical student because the environment was less heavily polluted and food was less highly processed. The etiology or cause of an allergy often requires highly skilled technologists to diagnose a case before successful treatment can begin and that sometimes entails much time and patience of the patient and the physician.

An allergy results when the body over-reacts to some foreign substance such as hymenopter venom. Mild symptoms include localized pain, itchiness, redness and swelling similar to a mosquito bite. They may develop into more severe symptoms as erythems; a severe redness of the skin associated with some local inflammation, gastrointestinal disorders as nausea, vomiting, or evacuation, dispnea; difficulty in breathing, tachycardia; excessively light and rapid heart beat, sweating especially of palms and soles and development of fever. Such systemic anaphylaxis ends in severe shock or death if not treated by a physician.

Dr. Lockey described interesting techniques he and others developed for collecting hymenoptera venom for hyposensitization. One of his patients in the audience, James Brenner, still keeps bees after suffering a systemic anaphylaxis because Dr. Lockey was able to desensitize him. Delayed reactions were also considered.

Simple home remedies were discussed in the question period. Mud on a sting could be dangerous

especially today with pollution so common. The bodies of stinging and biting insects sometimes carry blood poison or lock jaw germs. Lard or butter applied to stings are useful only for their psychological effects. Sucking out the venom and applying ammonia have some value.

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