

Infantile Paralysis Treatment is Discussed.

"Within recent weeks much space has logically been given in the newspapers of the disease popularly known as infantile paralysis," said Dr. Theodore B. Appel, Secretary of Health, today.

"The unusual number of cases which have developed throughout the Commonwealth since the latter part of July calls for a definite warning as to after-treatment at this time.

"It is difficult for the average person to appreciate the necessity of patience and care in the treatment of the type of paralysis caused by this disease. Indeed, it is hard to understand that infantile paralysis itself is a general infection and that the paralysis, which is an incident, occurs only in a small proportion of cases. However, when paralysis does occur it is caused by small hemorrhages in the spinal cord with a surrounding zone of congestion; this causes pressure on the nerve cells and destroys their activity, at least for a time. It should therefore not be hard to realize that during this acute period absolute rest is the best and only treatment. Nature cannot properly do its work of absorption without it. And until absorption occurs mechanical means should never be employed in an attempt to hasten the usefulness of the affected muscles.

"The condition in the delicate spinal cord is quite similar to that which would be present in case there were minute shot lodged therein. Certain of the cells in the cord are permanently destroyed, the majority of the cells in the zone immediately around the hemorrhage will recover from the damage as the inflammation subsides. But only if left alone. When these facts are appreciated it is clear that more harm than good will be accomplished by early manipulations.

"The acute stage of the paralysis as a rule lasts from six weeks to two months. During this time complete rest is required. The paralyzed parts must be kept absolutely quiet. In severe cases the affected parts may even have to be in order to prevent deformity.

"During the following two years much may be expected from careful and gentle massage, coupled with the well known restorative measure of nature. But do not try to hurry nature.

"Therefore, during the convalescent period, give your afflicted child a fair chance to recover. Don't rob it of this opportunity in an attempt to hurry a cure artificially. In this instance, if an attempt is made to defeat time, time will defeat you. Be wise and patient.

Locust Fighting.

The fight with the locust, commonly called grasshopper, is described as a battle that man never wins, but never gives up, by a writer in The Scientific American (New York). As to the conditions of this warfare, methods of operation, and the signal aid given by an insect ally, we are told:

"Man happens to live in the age of insects. No other branch of the tree of life includes so many species, for if we take the word insects in its commonest sense there are at least three hundred thousand species of them. When man invented agriculture the locust, or grasshopper, became one of his greatest enemies. Like advancing armies these little creatures migrate in swarms that sometimes literally cloud the face of the sun. In their path they leave nought of vegetable life but desolation. Crops, grass, the foliage of trees and all that grows from the soil are eaten and disappear in a day as if the earth had been blasted by a giant torch.

"In the Argentine Republic locusts, or grasshoppers, are so persistent a pest that the Government includes a special department, the Agricultural Protective Department, for coping with their migrations. This department is always organized, for the locust is always existent in the Argentine. The most practicable method of giving battle to the locusts consist of driving them into sunken traps, where they are burned. In this manner no less than 35,000 tons of locusts were destroyed in a single season.

"Recently a natural enemy of the locust was found, a true insect which pursues them on the wing, depositing her eggs within the bodies of the swarming migrants. These eggs hatch into maggots which kill their hosts. When this happens the armies of locusts dwindle into scattered, straggling groups.

"Unfortunately, however, the attacking fly must dwindle with the locusts, for they will lay their eggs in no other place than the bodies of live locusts. Thus the fly is never able to wholly exterminate the locust pests. Perhaps, suggests Mr. Leonard Maters, writing in The Illustrated London News, the flies and the locusts will some day disappear together, the last fly killing the last locust and thus depriving its own offspring of its own food."—Literary Digest.

The Story of a Potato.

Luther Burbank, after trying to be a machinist, determined to follow his inclination and work with plants. He became a market gardener. Here the pay was very small. He was told that the potato was degenerating and that soon we would have a potato famine.

One day Burbank found on the green top of a potato plant a seed ball. He watched it carefully and one morning found it on the ground. This was the origin of what came to be called Burbank potato. This discovery has been worth several millions of dollars to the nation. Burbank sold his potato to a local grocer and received one hundred and fifty dollars for it.—Ex.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

"This be my wish: let all my lines Across the pages run like vines; The words, their shining blossoms be; The book, a field of melody."

—Favors for Hallowe'en may be purchased at the shops or made at home. Among the former are big chestnuts as natural as the real thing, but whose contents turn out to be little paper caps, a different one for each guest. There are also witch brooms, tiny gold-plated wish-bones (5 cents each), rabbit-foot charms, horse-shoes and four-leaf clovers. Place and tally cards with little orange pumpkins in the corners or a black witch cat come as low as 60 cents a dozen. There are also paper napkins with appropriate Hallowe'en devices.

No grown-up is too staid and "settled" to unbend at a hearty frolic some time or other. And Hallowe'en, with its ample chance for fun, is just the time when older folks as well as younger can relax from more serious work with an evening of complete jollity.

And Hallowe'en furnishes the hostess with such unstinted opportunity to be clever and original. Autumn, too, with her russet and gold, and the different novelty manufacturers, will come to her aid with color schemes of brown and yellow and black—all the truly "elfin" colors. Much of the work of making favors and hand-painted decorations is removed by the opportunity to buy attractive decorated sets and tissue paper with goblin, witch and black cat patterns. One of the prettiest is a set of paper plates, cloth and napkins, with a black kitten in a kind of raised material which makes it look most natural. A table could be carried out as follows:

Centerpiece—Witch doll with broom and large black stuffed cat.

Favors—Papier-mache cats and tiny brooms.

Large gilt moon hanging over table, yellow candles, yellow-and-white cloth and napkins.

Menu—Hot oyster loaf, deviled potatoes, gold cake cut in squares and goblin face made in yellow icing, pumpkin tarts, coffee, hazel and black walnuts.

Another scheme in decoration is the "ghost" one, which may best be carried out in white, pale green and blue. Paper icicles and also the small glass ones used on Christmas trees can be used, laid above a background of sheets of white tissue paper. The guests may be dressed in appropriate dominoes, or the old-time "sheet and pillowcase" plan followed. All lights should be dimmed by small false faces cut from pale green tissue paper and pasted over the bulbs.

Centerpiece—Small toy "skeleton" sitting on cube of ice on plateau mirror sprinkled with snowflakes (mica).

Favors—Small skulls, owls and crossbones pins.

Above the table—Large owl with illuminated eyes suspended on branch under shaded dome of paper of glass, hung with paper branches.

Tablecloth and napkins white, tied with pale green ribbons.

Menu—Chicken salad, white mayonnaise, olives, celery, blanched almonds, white bread, cheese and nut sandwiches, angel cake, silver cake cut in diamond-shaped pieces, vanilla cream or marshmallow whip in individual square boxes.

Still another scheme is the brown-and-russet one, which lends itself so well to the autumn leaves and fall fruit. For this work out a plan of using leaves along the walls, first hanging on the tissue paper with the same design of separate leaves, which can be easily purchased.

Centerpiece—Half a small pumpkin, edges scalloped, filled with rosy polished apples, grapes, pears and surrounded with a "mat" of large perfect grape leaves.

Favors—Small woven basket of nuts and persimmons, if available.

Cloth—Tissue in red-and-white leaf design, with some choice large maple leaves pinned irregularly on the edges.

Menu—Fruit salad, apple, nut, raisin and pineapple, maple-sugar buns, cider, punch, gingerbread cakes (with elf face traced in chocolate icing), nuts, popcorn and molasses taffy squares.

On the ghost table a small lump of solid alcohol may be kept burning, either in the center of the table or elsewhere in the room. Salt must be scattered on the open flame, which will give a most ghostly green light.

In the making of cakes, a pastry tube will be found a help in tracing the many "bogey" faces that make the cakes more appropriate. A "brownie" book will give many faces easy to copy. Then chocolate, maple or white frosting can be squeezed on the cakes after they are cut in fancy shapes, or baked in rounds or muffin pans. Many mixtures may be poured in muffin pans and then used, inverted, with the "face" made on the bottom end.

CELEBY CREAM.

Boil the celery until very soft and squeeze it through a sieve until you have a pint of celery. Add to this a quarter of a pint of thick white sauce and a tablespoonful of grated cheese, and let the whole cool. Then add a quarter of a pint of liquid aspic jelly and stir in slowly a pint of whipped cream. Season with cayenne and celery salt. Pour it into moulds and put them in a cool place or by the ice, where they should remain for several hours.

—Be sure your hot dog is actually hot, warns a medical advisor. He says that hot dogs made of many species of raw pork which may contain the cysts of worms known as tapeworm and trichinae. If these cysts are taken into the blood they may breed in the intestines and cause serious trouble. The only safe pork is well cooked as the cooking destroys the embryo of worms. Slice your doggie through the middle and then cook them thoroughly on both sides.

FARM NOTES.

—Ducks to be marketed should be fattened for two weeks before killing on a ration made of three parts by weight of corn meal, two parts of low grade flour or middlings, one part of bran, one-half of beef scraps, together with 3 per cent. grit and 10 per cent. green feed. The mash should be fed three daily.

—Farmers of Pennsylvania who sell home made cider vinegar should have no difficulty in meeting the requirements of the pure vinegar law.

It is simply necessary that this vinegar be made in ordinary manner from apple juice and that it contain no added water, preservatives or substances injurious to health. If care is taken in its preparation and it meets the standard of four per cent. acetic acid, it can be legitimately sold.

Farmers are required by law to label their product with the name and address of the maker, clearly printed on the container so that the product can be distinguished from distilled and other types of vinegars.

—More swine have been vaccinated against hog cholera in Pennsylvania so far this year than during any previous similar period. Up to September 1, a total of 44,400 animals had been vaccinated as compared to 30,170 for the first eight months of 1926.

The hog cholera situation in Pennsylvania is much better now than it was a year ago at this time. However, because of the severe outbreak late last fall, Bureau specialists are urging farmers to provide warm, dry quarters for their swine this fall and winter, so that the cold rains and severe cold weather will not reduce the vitality of the animals and make them more susceptible to cholera.

—Records show that 100 chicks will eat 120 pounds of whole milk in three weeks or 116 pounds of skim milk or 93 pounds of buttermilk during that time. Sour milk or buttermilk may be used in place of water in the first feed the chicks get. But when milk feeding is started it is necessary to keep it up. Any change from sour milk to sweet or sweet milk to sour is apt to result in trouble. Either is all right and once started should be continued. A good many poultrymen have a decided preference for sour milk.

One reason is that the acid it has acts as a sort of disinfectant in the chicks' intestines. Sour milk has been found to be more easily digested by chicks. And a third reason is that it is almost impossible to keep the milk sweet after warm weather begins. Water is kept in front of the chicks all the time even though they are fed milk.

—One can very readily detect mites in the house by noting either the grayish or red mites or the so-called dust that can be noted. Nests that are railed together or roosts that are not treated will show this grayish dust. In most cases mites will indicate themselves whenever a person gets into the house. Mites are one reason why farm flocks refuse to roost in the house during the summer but prefer some adjacent building or the trees.

As a treatment it is necessary to select the material that will penetrate and not rapidly evaporate. The great objection to kerosene lies in the fact that it will kill some of the mites on the surface but evaporates too rapidly. The eggs are down in all the little cracks and the mites, during the early stage of growth, live on filth, decayed wood and dirt. Unless the treatment can prevent the eggs from hatching, success cannot be expected.

—Cleaning up all corn stubble, stalks and cobs in the fields last spring before the 1927 corn crop was planted has proven a great aid in combating the European corn borer, according to officials of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture who have just returned from an inspection trip through the heavily infested sections of Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada. Accounts of degrees of infestation in Michigan, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania indicates that the increase in degree of infestation so far this year over 1926 is much less than the increase in 1926 over 1925.

The corn borer, however, is continuing its spread and reports from scouts up to September 10 indicate the corn borer is present in 386 townships in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Indiana, outside the quarantine area of the past year. This figure includes 48 townships in Pennsylvania located in the following counties: Monroe, Wayne, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wvoming, Columbia, Northumberland, Union, Huntingdon, Bedford, Somerset, Greene and Fayette. All or parts of these counties will be included when the new quarantine is placed.

—What is believed to be a new application of electricity to agriculture has been undertaken on a large farm near Leroy, N. Y., and is being watched with great interest by electrical engineers and farmers, according to the Pennsylvania Public Service Information Committee.

For three weeks in June a field of fifteen acres was worked with an electric gang-plow, which impregnates the soil with a current of 103,000 volts. This process, it is said, not only destroys weeds, bacteria, and grubs, but restores the fertility of the soil without the use of fertilizers.

Corn planted in the electrically treated soil was up in five days, as compared to sixteen days required in similar, but untreated, land, according to the reports. Beans and potatoes have also shown extraordinary speed in sprouting in the "electric" land.

Another application of electricity is reported by the Swedish Agricultural Department, which is successfully forcing the growth of farm products and flowers by electrically heating the soil. The department by this method produced spring vegetables at a time when all other soil was still frozen, according to the reports, and had lettuce ready for the table in March.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

Tired of Liver Diet? Apricots Just as Good.

Rochester, N. Y.—Anemics who have had to eat liver until they revolted at the word itself may obtain a little variety with apricots, peaches and prunes. Recent experiments at the University of Rochester medical school by Drs. G. H. Whipple and F. S. Robscheit-Robbins indicate that, although liver and kidney are by far the most potent food materials for the regeneration of the red blood corpuscles, certain other animal organs and several fruits are also effective, and hence can be used to vary the diet in anemia.

A long-debated question in medicine is whether iron must be in organic combination before it can be utilized by the body in regenerating the iron-containing hemoglobin, or whether a simple inorganic salt of iron, such as ferrous carbonate, will suffice. Apparently the form of iron and the quantity in which it occurs are not the deciding factors.

Beef kidney contains three times as much iron as does beef liver, but the latter is far more effective in blood regeneration. Raspberries contain more iron than do apricots and peaches, but are inert in blood regeneration. There is certain evidence that some unknown substance is supplied by the effective foods, and that it enables the body to utilize the iron.

Eider Ducks Brought Close to Extinction.

For a long time Iceland prospered in her trade in the down of the eider ducks, which was prized all over the world for making pillows and quilts. As always in such cases, however, the pot-hunters overworked the industry and the result is that now there is no great amount of money in it. Very severe laws protect these birds, and the taking of the down from the nests is carefully regulated.

Sea birds of various kinds make their nests in the cliffs and the hunting of these birds is a regular but per-

ilious activity. They are caught with nets on the end of long poles, and also by trays made with horsehair snares and having a live bird as a decoy tied to them. In some cases men are let down with ropes from cliffs hundreds of feet so as to gather eggs in otherwise inaccessible places.

These wild birds, such as puffins, auks, guillemots and terns, collect in such vast multitudes at some of these rookeries that they will sit perched so close together, as to form a solid mass. This helps them to keep warm. The noise made by their strident cries is overpowering, and when they are scared up and all take wing the rush of air is like a tempest.—Pathfinder Magazine.

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