

A SHOT OF PREVENTION — IS WORTH A LOT OF CURE!

An Editorial

In Spring, when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love, his mother's thoughts are of a rich, green lawn and a colorful flower garden, and his father is probably anticipating blistered hands and a sore back. The green thumb season is upon us.

Father's grumbling aside, gardening is good exercise and a relaxing hobby. But gardening can also expose a person to an extremely painful illness or even death, from tetanus.

Tetanus, more commonly known as lockjaw, is due to a deadly poison produced by a micro-organism that is found almost everywhere. Many persons carry the germ in their intestines and so do many cattle, horses and other domestic animals. Soil can be a source of tetanus infection, especially if it has been treated with animal fertilizer.

Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham, State Health Commissioner, says: "Many people think that tetanus results only from a cut by a rusty nail or similar object. This is a dangerous fallacy because tetanus can result from a very slight wound or scratch. The tetanus germ needs only a very slight break in the skin to enter the body."

Deaths from tetanus have resulted from such things as a peck from a chicken, an insect bite, a scratch from a rose bush thorn or a small crack in the skin. Some disease-causing wounds have been so slight that the patient was unable to recall any injury and no trace of the wound remained when the patient was examined.

Puncture wounds like those caused by a nail or a splinter, a gunshot wound or particles from an explosion are particularly dangerous. These wounds carry the tetanus organisms deep into the body where dead or dying tissue and the absence of oxygen provide an ideal environment for growth of the disease. Crushing injuries and burns are also favorable for development of tetanus.

Gardeners are only one group whose activities make tetanus a special hazard. Other common occupations which result in a high risk of tetanus, designated by the State Health Department as "high-risk" groups, are policemen, firemen, carpenters, military personnel, fishermen, hunters, industry workers, farmers, housewives and children.

In acute infections of tetanus, the period necessary for the germs to grow and cause symptoms varies from five to ten days. Initial symptoms may include pain or tingling around the wound and restlessness, irritability, stiff neck, fever, considerable sweating, a tightness of the jaw and mild stiffness in the arms and legs.

When the disease is further advanced, spasms of the facial muscles and jaw muscles occur. The muscle spasms progress to include the extremities, back and abdomen. The spasms are extremely painful and easily precipitated by noise, movement or touching the victim. In later stages, the spasms cause difficulty in breathing and swallowing. Death is most commonly caused by pulmonary complications.

But no one need die from tetanus. The disease is completely preventable with proper immunization. Three injections of tetanus toxoid are needed, the first two, a month apart and the third, six months to one year later. A booster shot every ten years thereafter maintains adequate protection. When an injury occurs which might result in tetanus, a booster should be given.

Tetanus toxoid is relatively painless and free of reaction. The tetanus antitoxin often administered following an injury sometimes causes a painful reaction not associated with the tetanus toxoid immunization.

Dr. Ingraham states: "Adequate immunization with tetanus toxoid is the most satisfactory solution to the dangers of tetanus." "Routine, universal immunization is the most desirable goal, but special emphasis should be placed on immunizing those in 'high-risk' occupations and pre-school children."



50 YEARS AGO

May 18, 1917

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mrs. S. A. Chadwick, 79, died Monday, May 17th at her home on North Main Street. Funeral services were held Wednesday with Rev. Arthur Stuart Wahl officiating.

Miss Freida S. Palmer of Hartsville and J. Victor Stearns of Andover were united in marriage Thursday, May 17th by Rev. A. Stuart Wahl.

Chas. Earley has moved from Scio to Andover.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dodge are the parents of a daughter, born Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Snyder are the parents of a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born Monday, May 14.

Andover Hook & Ladder Company's new chemical cart has been seen about our streets this week. It is a natty, trim-looking outfit and the boys are justified in feeling proud of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brillion are the parents of a daughter, born Tuesday, May 15th.

Edward Crandall of Independence is spending a few days guest of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Green of Alfred Station.

Mrs. E. P. Saunders, Mrs. F. Whitford and Miss Williams of Alfred spent part of last week with Mrs. Susan Saunders of Independence.

Mrs. Robinson and children returned to their home in Wellsville Sunday after a two weeks visit at the home of E. M. Livermore of South Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hann went to Utica the last of the week to attend the Rebekah State Assembly.

Mrs. J. E. Harrington of Tulsa, Okla., is the guest of her sister Mrs. Ed S. Moran.

Mr. and Mrs. Newell Baker are visiting their daughter in Hornell this week. Jesse Baker motoring down with them Wednesday.

Phillip Barrett of Fultonville visited his parents Mr. and Mrs. Pat Barrett from Tuesday until Thursday.

Edgar Baker and Oliver Baker motored to Bevidere Sunday to visit their brothers, Seth and Will Baker.

Miss Myra Mather and Alwetta Scranton left Thursday for Wellsboro, Pa., where they plan to pass the summer with relatives.

Red Salmon is selling for 15c a can and Pink Salmon, 12c a can.

40 YEARS AGO

May 20, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers Effective Monday, May 23rd the Auditorium Theatre now owned and controlled by John Karcanes, will be taken over and operated by Messrs Shurter and Tooker, who at present time are located in Wayland.

Word was received by telephone Thursday that Melvin Green of Burdette was instantly killed that morning. Supervisor and Mrs. J. L. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Howland and Mrs. Elvora Mathews left immediately for Burdette.

About thirty relatives of H. M. Clarke, gathered at his home in Independence Sunday in honor of his 80th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Wallace spent a couple of days last week with their daughter, Mrs. Flay Pease.

Gerald Green and family were week-end guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Green. J. D. Cheesman and Miss Thelma Alvord visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Searles at Seneca Falls, Thursday and Friday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burdick went to Corning Thursday for a few days visit and to enable Mr. Burdick to attend the meetings of Corning Consistory.

Miss Martha Langworthy who has been passing some months with Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Lanphar of Railroad Valley, has gone to Newport, R. I., where she has a position for the summer.

Mrs. J. E. Monaghan is a guest at the home of her mother, Mrs.



YOUR HEALTH TODAY

BY ARTHUR A. FISCHL, M.D., F.A.C.P.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR / GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE

Should Tonsils Be Removed?

Tonsillectomy was a fairly common and routine procedure 25 years ago. As soon as most children reached the age of three or four, they were operated on for the removal of their tonsils and adenoids. However, the pendulum is now swinging in the opposite direction.

No longer do we regard every three-to-five-year-old as a potential candidate for removal of tonsil and adenoid tissue. Today, in more enlightened surgical circles, there must be certain medical indications before the operative procedure is undertaken.

I still believe too many children are subject to the tonsil operation. There are some pediatricians who see no benefit from this form of surgery. Against this opinion are the so-called middle-of-the-roads who feel that tonsil removal is indicated in some children.

In a recent pediatric seminar at the Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., James J. McFarland, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology, said he believed, "We are guilty of doing too many." However, he also said, "I do not agree with the statement that there is absolutely no indication for any T & A."

These quotations give a good impression of authoritative medical opinion regarding the necessity for tonsil surgery.

There is general agreement that routine surgery for children is unnecessary and should be criticized. Such procedures involve surgical risk and emotional shock and there is really no well documented evidence that routine tonsillectomy is of value.

However, there is general agreement that certain conditions do warrant such surgery in children. Medical authorities would censure T & A for repeated attacks of peritonsillar abscess or nasal obstruction due to markedly hypertrophied adenoid or tonsil tissue.

Some may question removal after repeated attacks of tonsillitis. Others may say that tonsillar hypertrophy is so common in children and so likely to disappear in adulthood, that childhood hypertrophy is no indication for surgery.

Recently nose and throat specialists have been removing only dangerously hypertrophied adenoidal tissue. The adenoid lymphatic tissue is located in the rear of the nasal pharynx. Sometimes severe adenoidal involvement causes hearing defects as well as allergic disturbances. Removal of adenoids also may be helpful in alleviating these conditions. Many authorities believe that hearing defects, middle ear infections and nasal obstruction should be treated by removal of the adenoids alone and not the tonsils.

In summary, and as advice to parents of three-to-five-year-olds, the best medical opinion is against routine tonsil and adenoid operations. Simple enlargement of the tonsils in a three-to-five-year-old is not necessarily an indication for tonsillectomy. Should a child have adenoid hypertrophy affecting his hearing or if the child has ear infections, then merely removing the adenoids might be advisable.

The decision to remove tonsils requires keen medical judgment. The pediatrician is the specialist who should make the decision.

W. H. Diffin this week

Miss Sylvia Hardy returned last week from New York City where she was in attendance at the graduation of nurses at Lenox Hill Hospital in which Miss Sylvia Reis was one of the 45 members of the 1927 class.

Misses Leola Baker and Viv Blackburn of Andover High School faculty, passed the week-end at their home in Rochester. Miss Ina Williams accompanied them.

Specials this week at the Red & White Store are: Calla Hams, 10 19c; Silver Top Bread, loaf 8c; Codfish, box, 30c; Onion Sets, 2 lbs. 25c.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Burdick of South Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Burdick, Clifford Burdick and family and LaVern Kenyon and family, spent Sunday at the home of A. C. Baker.

30 YEARS AGO

May 14, 1937

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher Benjamin W. Conley, 7, died at his home Sunday, May 9th. His wife survives. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Fire destroyed the home on the Mrs. Ora Brown farm on Trapping Brook Road last Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burns and family have moved from the house owned by Mrs. E. J. Atwood on Church Street to the Lynch house corner of Main and Dyke Streets.

School meeting was held in District No. 6, May 4th. Floyd Slocum was re-elected Trustee; Mrs. Alice Horan, Collector; Mrs. Floyd Slocum, Clerk; and Miss Genevieve Clark will be teacher for the coming year.

The Annual Telephone Meeting of the Andover - West Greenwood Telephone Line 23 was held Thursday evening at the home of Carl Childs. The following officers were elected: Clarence Wittie, President; Clarence Slaght, Vice-President; Annette Taylor, Treasurer and Fred Cronk, Trustee.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Trowbridge and daughters, Marion and Marjory of Fulton passed the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Trowbridge.

Miss Edna Barrett and Gilbert Barrett of Buffalo passed the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Barrett on Cornish Hill.

Mrs. William Kilber of Rochester

spent the first of the week with her brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Updyke at West Union.

William McAndrew of Oil City, visited his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth McAndrew on Mother's Day.

Mrs. Walter Harris of Buffalo spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. John Burns and other relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parker passed the week-end in Rochester guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Hunt.

Mr. and Mrs. John Greenan of Sheffield, Pa., spent Thursday and Friday at the home of his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Greenan.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Cornell of Jasper were Monday guests at the home of her brother, Charles Fisher and sisters, Misses Grace and Agnes Fisher.

Boy Scout Camp Goes "International"

Boy Scout Camp Wolf Creek will take on an international flavor this summer in observance of the XII World Jamboree to be held in the United States in August.

The local summer camp is the training center for Boy Scout troops in the Seneca Council, Boy Scouts of America, and will be attended by Scouts, Scout leaders and leaders from thirty-six troops, according to Bill Butler, camp director.

The regular program areas at Camp Wolf Creek will feature events like those set up for the 14,000 Scouts attending the XII World Jamboree from nearly 80 countries.

Among these activities are the Scoutercraft adventure trail, conservation area, flag ceremonies, wide games, and campfire programs.

The camp will open on July 2nd and close on August 12th.

In addition to the summer camp program, nearly every Scout unit in the Seneca Council plans a "friendship campfire" or meeting to observe the 60th anniversary of world Scouting.

Four Scouts will represent the Seneca Council at the World Jamboree at Farragut-State Park, Idaho. Their reports from the Jamboree will be sent to all Scout units as part of the World Jamboree observance.

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