

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 people 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 of particles from an explosion are particularly dangerous. These wounds carry the tetanus organisms deep into the body when 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, farming, 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, spasm 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 of 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 even 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

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers... George Howell... This year 1921... on the 28th... the state...

Jack Smith went to Watrous, Pa. Tuesday to begin work on a drilling contract.

Mrs. A. A. Porter left Andover Monday for a few weeks visit with friends in Cleveland, Ohio.

E. D. Baker was in attendance at the Steuben Presbytery at Atlanta N. Y. Monday and Tuesday.

Mrs. W. W. Miller of Wellsboro, Pa., has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. R. B. Burrows this week.

Leon Bloss was summoned from his home in Sayre, Pa., Tuesday by the illness and death of his brother, George Bloss.

Mrs. Leon Johnson and son, Walter of Wellsville were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Gutafson a few days last week.

Mrs. Sylvia Mourhess was in attendance at the WCU Convention held at Wellsville Wednesday and Thursday.

Mrs. Elmer Kemp left Monday night to join her husband, Major Kemp at Savanna, Ill., where he is located at the present with the U. S. Army.

Mrs. Lawrence Hunt of Washington, D. C. and Mrs. Mark Wilson of Hornell were called to Andover this week by the illness and death of their father, George N. Bloss.

J. W. Cannon left Wednesday night for New York City, where he is to attend a concert in the "Town Hall" given by Franklin Cannon and Madam Yaw.

Ray Snyder, Fay Boyd, W. S. Calhoun and Leo Snyder were in Hornell Sunday to attend the military funeral for Lt. Arthur M. Cunningham.

40 YEARS AGO

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers... Miss Margery C. Slater of Hurberts, N. Y., and Carl W. Hann of Andover, were united in marriage Tuesday, April 7th.

Andover Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1 held its regular meeting and election of officers Monday evening, April 6th. Henry Livermore was elected President and A. O. Kemp, Chief.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bullard returned to their home in Friendship Monday after spending some time at the home of Miss Arvilla Bullard.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gath have moved to Andover from Whitesville and are located in the Pease residence on Elm Street.

Wednesday evening neighbors of William McDonough celebrated his 92nd birthday at his home, where a very pleasant evening was enjoyed with refreshments and a birthday cake.

Wallace Clarke of Independence returned to his school work at Alfred after a ten-day vacation.

Edward Crandall of Independence returned to his school work at Lancaster, Pa., Monday.

Miss Doris Dodge of Andover was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Judson Burdick of Elm Valley, the last of the week.

Miss Erna Burdick has returned to her school near Black after spending the Easter vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Burdick of Elm Valley.

Mrs. McCaffery of Wellsville, is spending the week with her brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. William McDonough.

Miss Mary O'Leary returned Sunday to her school duties at Elizabeth, N. J., after passing the



By Miss Rankin

Instead of going back to Albany following their Easter vacation, the state Senate held an afternoon session on Tuesday at the state capitol building in Kingston to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the first state constitution.

The bill has been introduced and passed by the Senate. The bill will be sent to the House.

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While the senators were in Kingston, Rockefeller budget division was releasing the details of state employee layoffs from the budget.

They total 8,200 jobs, plus another 4,000 vacant positions that will go unfilled.

The layoffs are the first in more than 30 years.

The State Civil Service Employee Association is beginning to get back the strike vote ballots mailed out earlier.

It also predicted this comment: "If they go on strike, the problem would be that no one would know it."

It is more likely that the CSEA will take the issue to court.

Come July 1, State Social Services Commissioner George K. Wyman could be on the dock, out of a job.

On that date his term runs out. Wyman has been the goat of large numbers of taxpayers and legislators who think something is wrong with welfare in this state.

Legislators recently introduced a bill that would...

The bill would...

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Falls and Buffalo, guests of Miss Barbara Bassett and Helen Langworthy.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Green of Davis Hill were week-end guests of their daughter, Mrs. Glenn Amesburg and family of Richburg.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Fuller left Wednesday for a trip to Trenton, N. J. and New York City.

Miss Elizabeth Bassett returned to New York City Sunday after spending her Easter vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Bassett.

Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Bostwick and Mr. and Mrs. William McGee passed several days this past week in New York City.

Mrs. Hattie Clark of San Diego, California, arrived Sunday to spend some time with her sister, and husband Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Trowbridge.

Miss and Mrs. Burt Langworthy of Newport, R. I., have been guests of Andover relatives for several days.

Mrs. Evelyn Potter and daughter, Phyllis of Houlton, Me., are guests for a few days of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Vars.

George Gath left Monday for Corning where he will be general superintendent for the J. Torpy & Co., of New York City on a construction job.

Kenneth Vars and friend, Robert Anders of Buffalo passed the week-end with Mr. Vars' parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Vars.

Mrs. Pearl Mower and daughter, Mary passed Saturday and Sunday guests of Mrs. John Moeber, Jr., at Alma.

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