A SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHY
WITH ANNOTATIONS

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A cautious and conservative statement of the effect of colloidal lead, administered intravenously, upon patients suffering from inoperable cancer. Throughout the paper the authors stress the difficulties of treatment, the possible dangers, the contraindications to lead therapy, and the cases which did not respond to treatment. Professor Bell's work has received so much criticism, as well as praise, that sanitarians will be interested in the discussion of this paper which is recorded in a subsequent number of the Lancet (1:13).

A bacteriologic study of fresh and smoked meats indicating a predominance of the colon group with putrefactive organisms second: Pathogenic organisms were rarely found. The appearance of fresh meat is not an index of its bacterial content.

An address describing the school hygiene program of the Boston public schools.

An account of the benefits arising from a county-wide tuberculosis case-finding campaign and the results of supervised home treatment in Cattaraugus County (N. Y.).

FERRY, N. S. and FISHER, L. W. Measles Toxin: Its Preparation and Application as a Skin Test, as an Immunizing Agent, and for the Production of an Antitoxin. Jour. A. M. A., 86:13 (Mar. 27), 1926.
The authors cultivated from a measles patient a green-producing streptococcus which produced a soluble toxin specific for measles. This toxin administered intradermally gave positive skin reactions in susceptible cases. Mixed with convalescent serum the toxin will not produce this reaction. Animals immunized with the toxin produced a serum with the same properties as measles convalescent serum. Susceptible persons are made negative to the test by injections of convalescent serum and one was made negative by treatment with immune animal serum.

A statistical study, read before the Medical Association of Copenhagen. The author concludes from insufficient statistical evidence that cancer is caused by irritations of the intestinal tract (from condiments, alcohol, etc.), overnourishment, and food too rich in animal protein. His statistics indicate a decrease in cancer rates following the time of rationing (1917-1919) when "the stock of pigs was reduced to one-fifth, while the normal nutrients of the pig, barley and potatoes, were reserved for man."

A discussion of the significance and technic of heliotherapy which stresses the superiority of sunlight over artificial actinotherapy.

A paper concerning the use of various types of lamps and their therapeutic effects; cautioning against too great optimism in the use of artificial light and urging its use only by specially trained persons.

The second paper describes the North Side sewage disposal plant. The first outlined the major projects of the Chicago Sanitary District.

A modification of the Kahn test for syphilis to permit the observation of the precipitation reaction through the microscope.

LANE-CLAYPON, JANET E. A Further Report on Cancer of the Breast, with Special Reference to Its Associated Antecedent Conditions. Reports on Public Health and Medical Subjects (British Ministry of Health), No. 32, 1926.
A detailed study of the histories of 1,000 women, comprising two groups—cancerous and controls—indicating significant differences in sexual activities, antecedent breast troubles, etc.

In an earlier paper Larson and Nelson found that tetanus and diphtheria toxin were detoxified in a solution of castor oil soap. The authors found that mixtures of diphtheria toxin and sodium ricinoleate are superior to toxin-antitoxin mixtures and that they eliminate the danger of anaphylaxis. They recommend the sodium ricinoleate method as safe and effective in immunizing against diphtheria.

The authors used the sodium ricinoleate to detoxify scarlet fever streptococcus toxins and found they gave rapid immunity without objectionable reactions. Using this mixture enough toxin can be given in a single injection to produce negative skin tests.
As 77 per cent become negative within eight days after treatment, active immunization by means of this mixture may be used in suppressing epidemics.

Describes an ingenious method for making circles of paraffin of a definite size, particularly valuable for making microscopic reading of Kahn test reactions described by Kline and Young.


The author's studies convince him that scarlet fever cases are not infectious at the onset, but that the disease is spread by nasal and throat carriers—approximately 10 per cent of convalescents becoming nasal carriers. Positive identification of scarlet fever is essential to control.

MUSGRAVE, W. E. Social Service Sifts Needy from Pretended Indigent. Nation's Health, 8:3 (Mar.), 1926.

The method by which the financial status of applicants for treatment at the Children's Hospital at San Francisco is determined consists of a form letter sent to the family physician asking his opinion on the ability of the applicant to pay. If he replies, the family physician's decision is final, a fact appreciated by the medical profession as evidenced by an exhibit of testimonials. This idea may be applicable to official as well as non-official clinics.


A statistical study of cancer incidence by age groups, showing that under 40 years of age the cancer curve is beginning to flatten, but above the age the incidence continues to rise. The relationship of density of population and hospital facilities to cancer incidence is studied. It was found that, on the average, patients come to physicians eight months after first noting symptoms but that this interval is becoming less, and that more public education as to early diagnosis and treatment is needed.


The paper reviews the work of Loeffler, Moser, Gabrichenko, and Savchenko, leading to the work of Dochez and the Dicks. The preparation of toxin and antitoxin is discussed together with the therapeutic results of treatment with scarlet fever serum and the prophylactic use of toxin.


It was found that although after freezing the decrease in number of typhoid organisms is rapid, a small percentage are able to withstand adverse condition for long periods—some surviving 2 1/3 years.


A descriptive story of school medical inspection in Frankfurt, Vienna, and London, with notes on the several programs for discovering and treating epilepsy.


Three lectures upon experimental epidemics among mice. The first is concerned with the effect of adding susceptible to infected animals in various ways and at different rates. The second is a consideration of phenomena observed such as the relation of size of dose to outcome of infection, increase in resistance to continued exposure, etc. The third answers the question: can experimental conditions be altered to cause the epidemic to fail to develop? Hard reading for those not familiar with related studies of Amoss, Webster, and others, but well worth the effort to follow the involved reasoning.


A compilation of important committee reports on problems of sanitary engineering.


A green-producing diplococcus isolated from measles, when injected into a goat, produced a serum protecting rabbits from infective material from measles. The goat serum protected humans as effectively as convalescent serum when administered on the first or second day following exposure. Intracutaneous tests showed the serum to be bactericidal for measles diplococci.

WHITE, W. C. Natural and Artificial Cure of Tuberculosis. Technical Series (N.T.A.), No. 1, 1925.

Recounting the research work begun at a number of institutions with the assistance of the National Tuberculosis Association.


A paper concerned largely with the child hygiene program of the Boston City Health Department.

WOON, E. E. Housing Conditions Affect the Dwellers' Health. Nation's Health, 8:3 (Mar.), 1926.

An account of housing activities in European cities marred by untenable conclusions from comparisons of infant deaths with number of rooms occupied by families.


A summary of the arguments for the parasitic origin of cancer.


A review of diagnostic, prophylactic, and therapeutic measures available for scarlet fever.