

## Decrease In Crippling Only Progress Made By Science In War On Infantile Paralysis

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first of three articles by AP Science Editor Howard W. Blakeslee, explaining what is known about infantile paralysis, how you can take precautions against catching the disease, and what to do if it strikes your family.

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE  
Associated Press Science Editor  
NEW YORK, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Children have had polio—infantile paralysis—since ancient times. Today a higher proportion recover without crippling. This is the only gain, and all in the present century. The gain comes from better nursing, and not anything else. Almost everyone has had polio, but only a few ever become sick. How the disease works in most of us who don't get ill is entirely unknown.

But what happens in the sick is well known. It is in your spinal cord. This cord is the cable carrying nerves from the brain to branch out, like switchboard wires, to all parts of your body. One set of nerves in this cord governs muscles. Polio chooses, for some mysterious reason, to attack these particular nerves and no others. These nerves are made of horn-shaped cells. Polio damages or destroys horn cells. Among all nerves, these horn cells are unable to regenerate themselves. Once gone, they break the muscle-nerve cable for life.

Without these nerves in the spine, muscles shrink. No other part of your body is damaged. Polio can strike at any point along the spinal cable. If it hits high up, it paralyzes arms and hands. If in the mid-spine, polio hits the muscles of breathing. If low down, it paralyzes leg muscles.

**Most Lethal Point**  
There is an additional point of attack, in the "bulb," a rounded thing, half the size of a thumb, at the top of your spine. This

location of polio brings most of the deaths.

The cause of polio is a virus, a very tiny particle made of protein. How this particle does its destruction is unknown. Two kinds of polio virus are known. More are suspected. You can have polio more than once, one attack for each kind of virus.

In epidemics, those who recover without any bad effects, range from 40 to 70 per cent. Sometimes there will be 70 per cent complete recoveries without any medical care whatever. Sometimes the death rates and crippling are high, despite care.

This contradiction is due to the virus being different from year to year, sometimes virulent and sometimes mild.

In epidemics, hardly more than one child in 300 gets visible polio. The highest susceptibility is from ages four to nine. But polio can hit adults, and recently in the United States the adult victims have been increasing.

**Good Nursing Only Aid**  
Nursing care, to help the body fight its own battle, is all that can be done in polio. There are two special aids. One is heat. The other, movement of stricken muscles. Both are Sister Elizabeth Kenny's contributions and have done more than anything else to reduce crippling. Others than Sister Kenny knew the merits of these two treatments, but she was the person who did most to convince doctors. Both treat the paralyzed muscles and not the horn cells. Nothing new known does any good for the stricken cells in spinal cords.

Early diagnosis—detecting the disease—is the most important single thing to be done. And the most difficult. The only scientific proof is to use spinal cord fluid to make a monkey sick. This test takes weeks and hun-



**DRIVING HOME A POINT**—For years teachers have been pounding facts into their students' heads, but here the process is reversed. Edna Ellyson, of Cowen, W. Va., a science fellow at Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, O., pounds on the head of her physics professor, Dr. Richard Sutton. The wood block into which Edna drives the nail rests on a 50-pound chunk of iron atop the prof's head. The inertia of the iron serves as a cushion which protects Sutton from feeling the blows of the hammer.

### Warning To Slay Radio Crusader Is Disclosed

ALICE, Tex., Aug. 2.—(AP)—The word has been passed to me that I better shut up, or else! W. H. (Bill) Mason said in his last broadcast.

The text of the final program was released Monday by the son of the slain radio commentator. Burt Mason, 22, gave the document over to the Associated Press following his father's funeral Sunday.

Bill Mason was shot to death here Friday and Sam Smithwick, 60-year-old deputy sheriff, is charged with murdering him. The last broadcast, delivered Thursday, was a stinging broad-

side at the sheriff's department. Burt Mason also revealed that his family received a warning Friday, two hours before his father was fatally shot.

"A woman telephoned my mother," Mason said, "and told her 'I just overheard a conversation—your husband is in danger.'"

According to the text of the final broadcast, Mason was sharply critical of Sheriff Sain and accused Smithwick of being the owner of property at the edge of town where a night club was situated. Mason declared that prostitution was being practiced at the night spot.

Friday night raiders armed with shotguns fired eight shots at the darkened and deserted establishment. "I am going to take the gloves off today in the prostitution situation and start swinging," Mason said in the last broadcast.

**QUICK WHISKEY**  
WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Reports that a Japanese citizen claims he can "age" whiskey 15 years in 12 minutes are nothing new in the U.S. patent office. The office has 239 registered schemes to do the same trick.

The 239 patents were issued between 1887 and 1942. Some of the processes were used by distillers shortly after repeal of prohibition in the United States. They were abandoned, however, as basically unsatisfactory when naturally aged whiskies became available.

**MEAL 2,600 YEARS OLD**  
MOSCOW.—(AP)—Excavations in Armenia have unearthed an unfinished meal—2,600 years old. The digging has been taking place at what is known as the Karmir Blur, the site of an ancient Urart fortress. The unfinished meal—preserved along with grain 2,600 years old, some balls of woolen thread and wooden utensils—were found in the palace section of the fortress.

**EX-TOILER BUYS MANOR**  
LOUTH, England.—(AP)—"I used to think how I'd like to own it," said 64-year-old John Homes. So he plunked down close to \$400,000 for 30-bedroom Grisy Manor and part of the nearby village of Burgh on Bain population 161.

Now a wealthy timber merchant, Homes used to work at the manor for nothing but his keep when he was a carpenter's apprentice in his teens 50 years ago.

**MILK PRICE DROPS**  
CORVALLIS, Aug. 3.—(AP)—The price of milk went down a half-cent a quart here Monday, following a similar decline in other Oregon cities. The new price is 19½ cents.



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## British Commonwealth Creation Began With Newfoundland Take-Over

By HERMAN R. ALLEN  
WASHINGTON.—Much is heard these days of the British Commonwealth, especially of how Great Britain has called on other members of the Commonwealth to help it out of its financial difficulties. Does "British Commonwealth" mean the same as "British Empire"? Generally speaking, it does. However, the Encyclopedia Britannica points out that many of the colonies and protectorates, while parts of the empire, participate in the affairs of the commonwealth only theoretically. The empire (or commonwealth) consists of:

1. The United Kingdom—England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. The first three alone are properly known as Great Britain, or just Britain, but that term is commonly used to mean the entire United Kingdom, or "U.K."
2. The dominions—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon.
3. Two self-governing colonies, Malta and Southern Rhodesia. There is a movement to make the latter a dominion.
4. Colonies "not possessing responsible government," commonly called crown colonies. Some of them are North Borneo, Basutoland in Africa, Bermuda, Hong Kong and Cyprus.
5. Protectorates. These are practically the same as colonies, but they are not "annexed" to the British crown and their inhabitants are not British subjects. They include mostly such African spots as Uganda and Northern Rhodesia.
6. Protected states. These are native states like Sarawak and Zanzibar. They have been taken over but more or less allowed to run themselves.

The U. K. holds joint rule with Egypt over the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and with France over the New Hebrides Islands in the Pacific. Britain, Australia and New Zealand are "protecting powers" under the United Nations of certain islands in the Pacific and areas in Africa. These are all former German and Japanese territories. Neither the "condominiums" nor the UN protectorates are considered as parts of the British Empire.

**Began 366 Years Ago**  
The British began to stretch their lines of empire overseas in 1583, when Sir Humphrey Gilbert took possession of Newfoundland. In succeeding centuries, right up to 1909, when bits of India were taken in, the empire expanded by small pieces and large pieces the world over.

Some of these pieces developed apace and eventually began to make their own weight felt. One of them (guess which?) got so chummy it broke away entirely in 1776. Several of the larger were self-sufficient enough to gain what is called dominion status. The first of these was Canada in 1867. New Zealand became a dominion in 1870. Australia in 1900 and South Africa in 1909. The United Kingdom and the

dominions are defined in the 1931 Statute of Westminster as "autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

The dominions, in other words, are not constitutionally obliged to come to the aid of Great Britain in its financial crisis—but it is almost unthinkable that they would not.

With all the other elements of the empire, the British Information Service says, it would be as unlikely—but the underlying situation is different. If it should be necessary, the colonies and protectorates could be compelled, almost with exception, to take such economic steps as London directed. A possible exception, the British Information Service says, is Southern Rhodesia, which might balk and balk successfully.

### City Too Attractive For Visiting Skunks

KEYSER, W. Va.—(AP)—This little city would like to know just what it has that attracts skunks—and then get rid of it. Coming on the heels of a similar invasion, a squadron of five sightseeing skunks pushed into the downtown area the other night. There was consternation, and a call went out to Police Chief Claude Martin.

Armed with a 22 caliber rifle and a flashlight, the Chief nimbly bagged three of the critters, routed the others. Unfortunately, long after the smoke of the battle cleared, the odor lingered.

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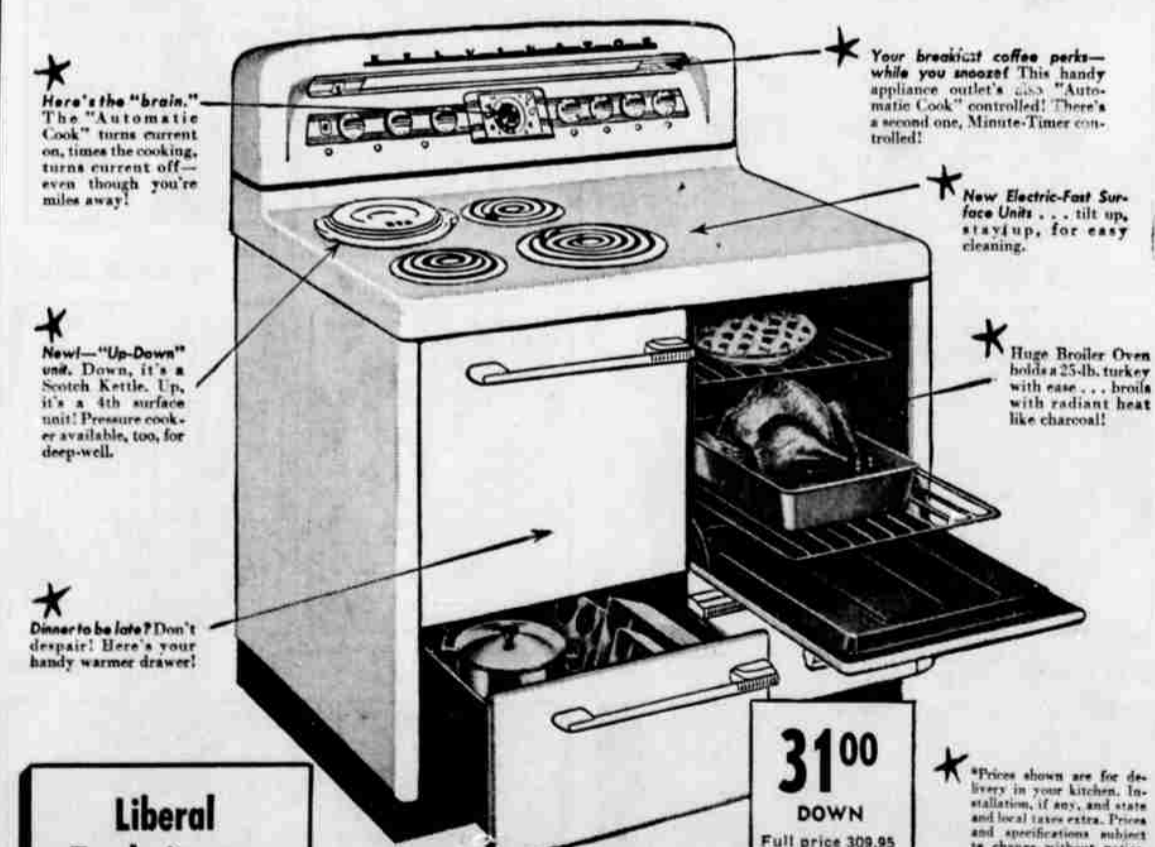
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