

Deadly Poison Source Of Best Anesthesia In Last 45 Years; Permits Longer Operations

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — The greatest improvement in anesthesia in 45 years, says Dr. Forrest E. Leffingwell, is a life-saving drug developed from a deadly poison. The drug is curare, derived from a South American plant and used by savage Amazonian jungle tribes as a lethal coating for their arrowheads. In full strength it is a paralyzing poison. Properly diluted it becomes a muscle relaxer.

Leffingwell, head of the department of anesthetics at the College of Medical Evangelists here, told a news conference that curare

saves many medical cases by permitting longer surgical operations. Patients need not be so deeply anesthetized when curare is injected, and thus can remain unconscious on the operating table for a longer period.

Durare is employed most often in operations on the abdomen, chest and limbs, wherein muscle relaxation is important to the surgery, he said.

"Strangely enough," he added, "curare does not affect the heart muscle. Its fatal effect as a poison is paralysis of the respiratory muscles. In its use with anesthetics dates from World War II. Several synthetic forms have been developed also."

A striking reduction in the death rate among babies born prematurely was reported to the convention by Dr. Robert F. Chinnock, assistant professor of pediatrics at the college.

He credited this record to close prenatal care of mothers to eliminate infection and careful handling of the babies. Any child weighing less than 5½ pounds at birth is regarded as premature.

The mortality rate among babies at Los Angeles hospital's premature baby center was only 12 percent last year, one of the lowest in the nation, Dr. Chinnock said. Ten years ago the death rate there among premature babies was 35 percent. Some hospitals lost 32 percent of their premature babies last year, said Chinnock.

The pediatrician said the center has discharged alive in the past two years 23 babies weighing less than two pounds, two ounces apiece. In fact, he said: "The relative proportion of smaller premature babies is increasing."

Dr. John E. Peterson, associate professor of medicine at the college, urged physicians to watch carefully for diabetes in both old and youthful patients "since 1½ symptoms are not always apparent and, even when they are, they frequently are not alarming symptoms."

First, increased volume of urine, hunger and loss of weight are symptomatic, "yet very few persons come to the clinic complaining of these symptoms," he said, adding "most cases of diabetes are discovered accidentally."

Benson School Forms City's First Gra-Y Unit

A Gra-Y club is being organized at the Benson grade school, Marilyn Donaldson, local YMCA secretary, reports.

Donaldson said the new club is part of the national YMCA four-front program for boys. The Gra-Y draws its membership from boys in the fifth and sixth grades.

Donaldson said the club held an organizational meeting recently. It is the first Gra-Y club in Roseburg.

The club will meet regularly at the school on Mondays at 7 p.m. The Benson Gra-Y is under the leadership of Vic Sanders and Frank West.

Daylight Saving Problem Facing Oregon Governor

SALEM — (AP) — Governor Douglas McKay is caught between Portland merchants and the farmers over whether he should proclaim daylight saving time for Oregon this year.

He got a ruling from Attorney General George Neuner that he can order daylight saving time any one of the four adjoining states go on daylight time. Since California will have it, that makes it sure the governor could proclaim it.

The governor is under pressure from Portland business groups to order daylight saving time. And the farmers want to stay on standard time.

A 1949 law forbids daylight saving time any place in Oregon unless the governor proclaims it for the whole state. He can proclaim it only in order to conform with neighboring states, and only after he finds that the state's economy and general welfare are being placed at a material disadvantage by staying on standard time.

The 1949 legislature passed the law so that the state would have uniform time.

But what would prevent a city from violating the law and advancing its clock an hour?

Some state officials say that if a city went on daylight saving time, even the law couldn't stop it. The law doesn't have any penalty for violation.

And these same state officials say the law violates the home rule guarantees that the state gave to cities.

Texas has more miles of railroad than any other U. S. State — 15,670 miles.

Iran Put Under Martial Law

TEHRAN, Iran — (AP) — The Shah has proclaimed martial law in this terror-ridden, strategic middle eastern country where oil riches make her position vital in the East-West cold war.

The martial law, limited to Tehran and imposed for a period of two months, came amid a wave of rumors that new terrorism had taken the lives of Iranian officials. One rumor, totally unconfirmed here, was that Governor-general Eghbal of Azerbaijan province on the Soviet border had been slain along with his provincial chief of police.

Even as the proclamation was broadcast, the Iranian Senate completed action on approval for nationalization of the Anglo-Iranian Oil company, focus of the nationalist anger which has been generating public tension in Iran.

The presentation of the martial law proclamation to the Shah was the first action of the new cabinet formed by Hussein Ala, pro-westerner named premier after the assassination of his predecessor two weeks ago. Shah Mohammed Pahlevi took

the drastic step in a move to suppress the terror which has brought the assassination of American-supported Premier Ali Razmara March 7 and the shooting of the deputy chancellor of Tehran university, Dr. Abdul Zanganeh.

Zanganeh, shot by a young university student, was reported to be still in critical condition. The shooting, coming on the heels of the assassination of Razmara by a member of a fanatical religious sect, fanned the public tension generated throughout this strategic middle eastern country by its anti-foreign nationalist bloc.

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