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Infant Mortality Rate Too High, Alumni Group Told

Portland — (U.P.)—Too many babies still die in the crucial first year of life despite medical advances that have increased life expectancy of the one-year old by more than 20 years in the past half century.

Dr. James L. Dennis of Oakland, Calif., said also that 80 per cent of all deaths in the first year of life occur during the first month. Mortality of the first day is highest of all.

Addressed Meeting

The California physician addressed the annual scientific meeting of the University of Oregon Medical School Alumni Association, held in conjunction with the Oregon Academy of General Practice.

Dr. Dennis outlined ways of combatting one of the major causes of infant deaths, diarrhea. Often considered a minor ailment, it is capable of causing death within 48-72 hours, he said.

More than 350 Oregon physicians were attending the 40th annual convention, which ends Wednesday. Dr. Howard C. Stearns, head of the school's obstetrics and gynecology department, presided.

Reporter Classifies Various Age Groups

Honolulu, T. H.—(U.P.)—Noting that man't life span is constantly increasing and may reach 100 years, Albert Grain, a federal court reporter here, has come up with a system for classifying various ages.

Grain, in letters to Honolulu newspapers, said he got his idea while reading about a musical note called a "semi-hemi-demi quaver." Here's what Grain proposed:

"A centenarian naturally would be one who is 100 years old, a semi-centenarian would be 50, a semi-hemi-centenarian would be 75, a hemi-semi-centenarian would be 37½, a semi-hemi-demi-centenarian would be 25 and a semi-demi-hemi-centenarian would be 12½."

They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

Teacher of Parakeets Says Non-Talking Birds May Be Emotionally Maladjusted

Chicago — (U.P.)—If your parakeet doesn't talk he may be emotionally maladjusted.

At least that's what Mrs. Marge Driscoll told her parakeet class at the YWCA.

The class, scheduled to meet one night a week, is for parakeet owners. But it's also for the birds.

Mrs. Driscoll, a buxom, gray haired woman who runs a pet shop and breeds parakeets, invited her pupils to bring their birds to her class.

She doesn't guarantee to teach them to talk, but she offered a few hints.

For one thing, she said, each parakeet is a "distinct personality." So don't get impatient if yours isn't quite as bright as the one down the street.

The best way to teach a bird to talk is to turn out the lights, Mrs. Driscoll said. In the dark there are no distractions.

Speak Simple Words

Hold the parakeet close to your lips and speak simple words slowly. Parakeets tend to slur their words, Mrs. Driscoll said, so don't set a bad example.

When you want to teach the bird a new word, use it with a word or phrase he already knows. Example: If his name is Fauntleroy and he knows it, then you can teach him to say "nice Fauntleroy."

But his name shouldn't be Fauntleroy. That's too much of a handicap, even for a bright bird like a parakeet.

Mrs. Driscoll offered other hints.

If your bird chews the plaster out of the living room wall, chances are he has a diet deficiency. Maybe he needs more calcium in his bird gravel.

"A clean bird is a healthy bird," Mrs. Driscoll said.

No Booze

But paraketts don't usually bathe. They'd rather squirm around in wet grass or leafy vegetables.

Never feed a parakeet lettuce. It doesn't agree with them.

"And above all, never give them anything alcoholic to drink," Mrs. Driscoll said.

Seems some birds develop a taste for the stuff.

Some parakeets are "natural biters," she said. But she didn't say what to do about it.

Mrs. Driscoll said it's pure fiction that female parakeets don't talk much.

"The females," she said, "are quite talkative."

Measures in Oregon Legislature

Salem — (U.P.)—The House has reversed itself and approved by one vote a Senate-passed bill that would deny cities the right to levy business taxes measured by gross or net income.

The bill was brought back to the floor for a new vote after it was defeated April 14. It would reserve to the state the right to levy income taxes and was opposed by cities who feared it would unduly restrict their right to raise city revenue. Portland officials had objected it would result in a loss of more than $1,000,000 a year in revenue they now collect from the business tax.

Rep. Pat Dooley (D-Portland), speaking in favor of the bill, said the effective date of July 1, 1957, would give Portland ample time to revise its business tax ordinances to comply with the income tax prohibition. He denied a claim from Rep. Emil Stunz (D-Nyssa) that the bill would affect franchise taxes now levied on utilities by many Oregon cities.

Final vote on the measure was 31 to 29.

The House also approved a conference Committee report on House Bill 40, the recommended charge in the definition of true cash value proposed by the interim tax study committee. The bill was re-passed and sent to the governor. Changes made in the bill by the Senate included setting the effective date in 1961, when the State Tax Commission is due to have completed its property reappraisal program. It would define true cash value for property taxation purposes as current market value.

Salem—(U.P.) —Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton says he believes a bill that would authorize establishment of recreation areas along a 20-mile stretch of the Deschutes river was unconstitutional.

The sector of the stream affected by the proposed act was between the cities of Maupin and Davidson. Thornton said that the bill would give to relatively few property owners in the area the right to condemn property for recreation purposes —a right that would not be enjoyed by other citizens. He said he believed that restriction was arbitrary and a violation of the constitutional guarantee that rights cannot be granted to some that are not granted to the citizenry in general.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Katherine Musa (D-The Dalles) but had not been reported out of the House Highways Committee where it was referred on March 23.

Salem — (U.P.)—Members of the Senate Tax Committe have agreed that income taxes may have to be raised as much as 60 to 70 per cent. The House has recommended 32 per cent.

The committee also discussed the House Tax Committee proposal for a sales tax, and approved raising withholding rates from one to two per cent. This would not increase total taxes but would bring in $2,700,000 earlier in the year.

Salem — (U.P.)—The Oregon Senate has passed unanimously and sent to the House a measure creating an Oregon Centennial Commission to promote a world's fair in 1959 to celebrate the state's 100th anniversary.

The money was appropriated by the measure but the commission would be empowered to accept gifts.

The Atlantic and Pacific oceans are only about 50 miles apart at the two channel entrances of the Panama canal.

Psychiatrists Grope With Big Words To Define Mental Health

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York — (U.P.)—Because this writer has known of the scientific interest of Dr. Jonas E. Salk in mental health, he has been shopping around to find out just what mental health is.

To his surprise, he found it isn't easy for the experts to say what it is. The psychiatrists have no trouble defining mental illness but when they try to define mental health they grope around with sixbit words.

Therefore, the writer had a sense of understanding something difficult when he read Dr. James Clark Moloney's description of mental health in the medical bulletin of the Henry Ford Hospital of Detroit.

'Mental Health'

"In its final development," said Dr. Moloney, "mental health is an expression of the mature, adult mind which possesses adequate capacity for body mastery, appropriate memory of experiences, and a capacity for prompt and meaningful memory recall and intellectual activity. The mature adult in good mental health enjoys acuity in all the five senses, and is immediately ready with appropriate responses. He competently evaluates and relates himself to living and non-living objects, and accurately measures time and space."

The conqueror of polio, Dr. Salk, who is a virologist and bacteriologist, is by no means the only non-psychological scientist interested in scientific investigation of what makes the mind healthy and keeps it that way.

So Much To Learn

There is so much to learn about the human mind—it's formation and how it functions and why it functions in the way it does,—that no field for scientific investigation seems to offer more possibilities to a scientist in search of interesting and important work.

Mental health is always tied in with "emotional maturity," which is loaded with more and more meaning as you think about it. Going back to Dr. Maloney:

Searching for Target

"If a human being does not achieve emotional maturity, he is frustrated. If he is frustrated, he is frightened and enraged. Sometimes the rage is concealed beneath his placid facade, but it is there nevertheless, and it is searching for a target.

"That target might be any innocent bystander. A nation of individuals of similar immaturity might well unloose their massed angers upon another nation as a target for their angers. The existence of such a pool of angers underwrites war."

British Bookies Make Eden Favorite

London —(U.P.)— Britain's legalized bookmakers have made Prime Minister Anthony Eden's Conservative party odds-on favorite to win the British general elections he called for May 26.

The professional bettors who back their predictions with folding money threw their books and offered to wager with all comers that the Tories will beat the Labor Party in the polling.

Eden, gearing to save the Conservatives's slim hold on Parliament without direct help from Winston Churchill, the party's greatest vote getter, today turned his attention to the budget which will be unveiled tomorrow.

Its contents, coming a month before an election, are extremely important.

MINISTER AS BOUNCER

Bollnaes, Sweden— (U.P.) —The new Saturday night bouncer at the local dance may be expected to use plenty of tact. He is a Protestant minister, the Rev. Carl David Othzen. Reverend Othzen said he took the job because no one else would work for the low wage offered.

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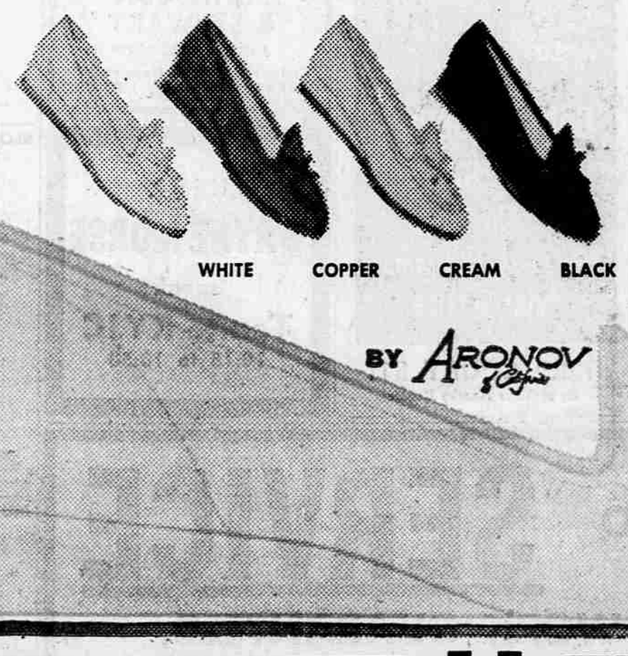

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