

Appendix Has Uncanny Ability To Get Human Body Into Trouble

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—If 50,000 human appendixes can't be wrong then its usefulness in the human body is matched by an uncanny ability to get the body into trouble.

For 52 years new hospitals in three cities have been amassing their surgically-removed appendixes, giving that organ such a concerted look-see as few organs have ever had. The study has just been called off, with the 50,000th appendix.

Inside the 50,000 the scientific explorers found such items as bubble gum, lead shot, tooth-picks, screws, nails, fish and chicken bones, needles, safety pins, bits of plastic, pins, and pieces of assorted metals. They also found members of 10 different families of fungi and 18 varieties of parasitic worms. Appendixes had been affected by 25 specific diseases, not one of which is a disease of the appendix primarily.

The final report was made by Dr. Donald C. Collins, of the College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles, in a technical journal of the American College of Surgeons. There had been 22 previous reports over the 32 years, each dealing with a separate phase of the new appendectomy lore.

The hospitals were in San Francisco, Rochester, Minn., and Los Angeles, and the United States Army Medical Department cooperated during the war. Each appendix removed was subjected to minute scientific examination. The findings, together with microscopic samples and slides, were sent to Dr. Collins for mass comparisons and for tabulating.

Speaking of fungi, a very useful discovery yielded by the 50,000 was an unexpected liking of histoplasma capsulatum for the appendix. That is a kind of fungus which causes histoplasmosis and which older medical references classify starkly as, "a fatal disease." However, the study revealed that there are benign forms—benign, that is, when found in the specific appendixes studied.



AVIGUING HEART SURGERY would give President Eisenhower longer life expectancy, better work capacity, Drs. Bernard L. Brofman (left) and Claude S. Beck, Cleveland, O., give Washington, D. C. doctors details of new technique. Dr. Beck holds two glasses representing amount of extra blood available for heart muscles as result of operation. (International)

Yet the 50,000 provided no reason for anyone who has never been troubled by his appendix, to start feeling troubled now. Something like half the 50,000



USE TRIBUNE WANT ADS!

A Nichol's Worth of ... Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—100 years ago in Washington:

Real estate values must have been on the upgrade in the nation's capital a century ago. At the start of 1855, newspaper advertisements offering property for sale always carried a price tag. Also come-ons, like a fine location, a well out back supplying drinking and cooking water, and comfortable shelter for the cow and the carriage horses.

But in mid-October of 1855, the real estate ads took on an aloof tone that smacked of a seller's market. Places for rent and sale could be "viewed by appointment only," and instead of a price tag, the seller was often content to say that a home was "available."

It was a little different in the matter of dry goods. Perry and Brothers "opposite the Centre Market" was proud to say it had a fine sale on 40 pieces of fine white Birds-eye diaper cloth at 25 cents a yard—"well worth 37½ cents; a superior article for children's aprons." Diapers can be used for other purposes than wrapping the bottom of a baby. Indeed, the latest Webster lists as the first definition of diapers: "Since the early renaissance of a fabric of linen or cotton." Not until a few lines later does the dictionary define a diaper as "an infant's breechcloth."

Letter to Editor
The Washington Intelligencer conducted a Letters to the Editor column. People wrote in complaining that there were not enough hitching posts in the downtown area. One reader said he had "the very devil of a time finding a place to tie up his horse 'Bessie, so's Martha could run in and buy some gingham which was for sale at 7½ cents a yard. By the time I got 'Bessie' (the mare) tied up, Martha had to walk three blocks and every last yard of that gingham was plumb gone."

Congress was supposed to be in session, but there wasn't a line about the business the lawmakers were transacting; nor any mention of all of the comings and goings of President Franklin Pierce.

Perhaps Jane Pierce, the President's wife, was keeping him out of circulation. When he was nominated, Jane protested violently. She warned him that "Those politicians will make a drunkard of you." The record shows that the politicians failed, that's what they were up to.

Society Page
On the society side of life in Washington in 1855, the papers noted that there was an "epidemic of female equestrianism." One of the papers noted that "A fair without female competition in the ring is not a fair." It added that "Fashionable ladies are riding on all the paths. See adv. on page one for bargains in leather side-saddles for ladies." Along this same line, the Intelligencer pilfered an editorial from the Cleveland Herald, which declared: "Encouragement for female riding is very well, but the danger to watch is that Americans often tend to run

every new thing into the ground." The Herald went on to say that lady horsemen were fine, but warned "against this circus stuff." "The pain of it is the ladies don't know how to pull in the reins," said the Herald, "and have a bad tendency to go too fast."

U.S. National Deposits Listed

Deposits in the Medford branch, United States National bank, totalled \$23,187,136.70 as of Oct. 5, according to figures released today by Allan F. Perry, manager.

Total loans and discounts for the Medford branch were \$9,453,408.32. Statewide figures for United States National indicated the bank has marked up a better than 12 per cent increase in deposits since October, 1954.

The bank's statewide deposits now total \$762,003,269, a gain of more than \$86,000,000 during the past 12 months. During the same period, loans and discounts for the statewide banking system increased more than \$46,000,000, to a total of \$292,505,416.

As of Oct. 5, U.S. National also showed gains in total resources, from \$732,933,021 in October, 1954, to \$827,562,848 on Oct. 5, 1955.

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