



PEAR GROWERS MEET—S. B. Apple, (right, center) head of the horticulture department, and Henry Hartman, (second from left) horticulturist, Oregon State college, were among speakers from the college who participated in the Monday afternoon meeting of county pear growers at Central Point Grange. Two of the 125 growers attending were Orville Hamilton, Central Point orchardist, (left) and Dr. George Dean, Medford, (right).

Warning Issued on Use of Mineral Oil In Bodies of Aged

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—Three scientists have put up a red flag on the introduction of mineral oil and other oily substances into the human body in the aged, the debilitated, and in other persons with poor reflexes, they can lead to lipid pneumonia, a comparatively newly oily infiltrations into the lungs.

Dr. Hollis K. Russell, Pean-Pierre Gaudy, and Samuel L. Beranbaum demonstrated with 440 consecutive autopsies at the St. Barnabas Hospital for Chronic Diseases in New York, an incidence of more than 10 per cent. The patients had been debilitated and most were aged. Autopsy revealed that in 47, lipid pneumonia had been a contributing cause of death.

"In more than half the cases the probable etiologic-causing agent was mineral oil," the scientists said in their report to the Medical Society of the State of New York. "In 28 there was a history of repeated attacks of pneumonitis or definite bronchopneumonia.

Oily Substances Dangerous
"It would seem advisable that ingestion or instillations of oily material in the aged or debilitated should be discontinued."

But they were also against the use of such oily substances as nose drops and metholated petroleum jelly in the "upper respiratory passages." Moreover, when it is necessary to feed infants and the debilitated by tube, mineral oil shouldn't be applied to the tube, they said—it shouldn't even be put on the dry lips of debilitated patients.

Droplets of oil enter the lungs through the upper air passages. Because mineral oil is "bland and non-irritating," it produces little or no cough reflex, they said. This reflex would expel it from the air passages. Hence, the red flag as regards persons with poor reflexes—and the implied warning that oily substances deserve suspicion.

Disease Stages Shown
In their microscopic examinations of lungs showing lipid pneumonia, they demonstrated several stages of the disease. In the cases where the oily infiltration had been going on for a long time, they found that the cut surfaces of the tissue had "a characteristic appearance."

"It is smooth and fairly solid, and the color is yellowish white, canary yellow, or orange yellow," they reported. "Frequently these infiltrated yellow areas are found in more or less confluent patches. When the cut surface is scraped with a knife, many oily droplets are noted."

The first report of lipid pneumonia in human beings was made only in 1925, although European scientists had produced it experimentally in animals by injecting oil substances into their wind pipes. In 1943 Dr. W. J. Sweeney reported 264 cases.

New Volunteers Are Listed in Hospital Fund Raising Drive

Several new workers have volunteered for the Rogue Valley Memorial hospital fund-raising campaign, according to campaign officials.

Walter G. Garner, chairman in charge of the general organization soliciting subscriptions, said attendance at daily report breakfasts at the Elks club show "the spirit of service and determination that spurs the hospital organization to obtain a great modern hospital which will help make Jackson county a great medical center."

Some 207 volunteer workers have been attending the breakfasts.

May Contact Headquarters
Campaign headquarters on Bartlett st. noted that it is not possible for workers to visit all residents who could subscribe to the construction fund. Officials urged those wishing memorials or memberships to contact campaign headquarters, and a volunteer worker would be sent for an interview.

Recent volunteers to the general organization include Bill Burt, Herb Crain, Bob Duncan, Paul Dupras, Harvey Field Jr., Dr. Richard Frederick, Claude Haggard, Paul Hanlin, John Henson, Bob Johnson, Austin Layman, Elmer Luschen, James Goodwin, Bob Nelson, Dr. Dwaine E. Nelson, Carlton Robinson, Don Runyard, Wayne H. Safley, Sam Taylor, Walter Tomlin, Frank Van Dyke, and Lewis Wayburn, all from Medford.

Merle McGraw and Tom Shearin have volunteered from Eagle Point, and Jim Krupp from Central Point.

Service Team Inspects Air Force Base Sites

Salem—(U.P.)—Possible sites for a large Air Force base in the Salem area were visited Tuesday by an Air Force-Navy team of inspectors.

Locations visited included the Howell Prairie sector near Silvertown; the Stayton-Turner area, and Dallas. Already checked were sites at Vancouver, Wash., Hillsboro, French Prairie area near St. Paul, McMinnville, Albany, Tangent and the Ballston-Sheridan area.

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