

## Is Your Dog Off His Food? Pace of Big City Living May Be Causing Ulcers

Chicago—UP—If your dog has been off its feed lately, it may be that the pace of big city living is giving him ulcers, according to a Pennsylvania veterinarian.

Dr. William C. Glenny said the modern day dog is plagued with such ulcer-producing tensions as fear of traffic on city streets, doubts about food and relations with other dogs.

Glenny, owner of an animal hospital at Wynnewood, Pa., and president of the American Veterinary Radiology Society, discussed canine problems at the society's annual meeting here.

He said the situations confronting the big city dog are a far cry from the placid life of the "Old Dog Tray" of literature.

Tray and others like him in days gone by, Glenny said, had only one worry—"to keep noble and ever faithful."

Tray's descendants frequently develop inferiority complexes trying to cope with urban living, he said.

For instance, Glenny continued, in order to prove that he is not afraid of the big dog next door who barks at him all the time, a dog may start chasing cars just to prove his courage.

The cars become larger beasts to the dog and their "bark is more resounding," he said.

Glenny also warned that the rough attention dogs get from the children of the house also leads to ulcerous tensions in the animal.

"Some children think the good old dog enjoys it," he said. "But if they knew the truth, their rough tactics, in many instances, would be a lot more harmful."

General Motors Sets Earning Mark

New York—UP—General Motors Corp. in 1956 outearned every other company in the world despite a more than \$340 million decline in net income.

The world's biggest auto maker rang up sales last year of more than \$10 billion for the second straight year, a figure no other company has ever approached.

General Motors' net income in 1956 fell to \$847,398,102, or \$3.02 a share, from \$1,189,477,082, or \$4.30 in 1955, when it became the first firm in history ever to earn more than \$1 billion after taxes.

Sales were \$10,796,442,575, compared with \$12,443,277,420 in 1955.

Following General Motors as principal money earners were Standard Oil of New Jersey, with \$800 million, and American Telephone & Telegraph Co., with \$777 million.

Burbank, Calif.—UP—Police said John Wright, 35, was indicted when they arrested him on suspicion of drunk driving Monday after his car collided with a light post. They quoted Wright as protesting, "That pole jumped out and hit me."

Silent Violin Keeps Neighborhood Peace

Washington—UP—Good news for neighbors of kids learning to play the violin:

A humanitarian named Joseph Carcione has invented an all but silent one. Moreover, he is willing to share his secret with the nerve-wracked millions who live within earshot of budding virtuosos.

Carcione, a 23-year-old violinist with the National Symphony Orchestra, explained the way to silence a violin is to wash the hair of the bow and use it without resin.

"The sound only travels about a foot and a half then," he said. Carcione said he invented the silent violin so he could live in peace with his fellow men—particularly the ones next door.

"I can hear it," his wife said.

## Elvis Presley Signs For Motion Picture

Hollywood—UP—Rock 'n' roll singer Elvis Presley has signed with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio for his third movie, "Jail House Rock." For a reported \$250,000 salary, it was reported today.

## Jet, Cargo Planes Collide Over Japan

Tokyo—UP—A supersonic U.S. F100 jet fighter collided with a C47 cargo plane over southwest Japan Tuesday. The cargo craft crashed, killing three crew members, the Far East Air Force announced today.

The pilot of the F100 Super-sabre was able to land his plane safely at the Itazuke Air Base, near Fukuoka. His craft suffered minor damage, the release said.

Two vacant Japanese houses were destroyed by fire in the cargo plane crash, and there were no Japanese casualties.

The Air Force said it is withholding the names of the dead until the next of kin have been notified.

## IWA To Negotiate For Wage Increase

Portland—UP—Representatives of the International Woodworkers of America will open contract negotiations with employers this year in an effort to gain general wage increases and certain fringe benefits.

A spokesman for the union said that a meeting of representatives last week ended in the decision.

The first meeting between union officials and employers is expected to be held in early April to open the contract discussions. Affected will be union members in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and California.

## The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*  
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine, Mayo Clinic  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Mayo Foundation

### A New Blood Test For Insanity

For years, many of us physicians have wondered if certain forms of insanity might not be associated with some chemical abnormality of the blood, and perhaps even be due to a poisoning of the brain by some abnormal constituent of the body fluids.

Human prejudices being what they are, most persons with insanity running through their family would prefer to think that what they might some day inherit was not a defective brain but rather a defect in body chemistry much like that which produces diabetes or that which produces gout. That this is not impossible is shown by one of my gouty patients who tells me that when he has a flare-up of his disease, with terrible pain in one of his big toe joints, his brain is so poisoned by the uric acid in his blood that for a week he is almost out of his head and has to be locked up!

Recently, there came to Chicago from Sweden Dr. Stig Akerfeldt to be the guest of the Brain Research Foundation, and to tell us the details of his discovery that there are certain abnormal ferments in the blood of persons with schizophrenia—abnormalities which can be detected by a fairly simple test. His discovery has now been abundantly confirmed by a study of blood samples from over 1,000 insane patients—a study reported by Dr. Leo Abood, Director of the Neurophysiology Laboratory in the Division of Psychiatry of the University of Illinois.

This new test confirms what all the clinical experience of 52 years has led me to believe, and this is that a schizophrenic is usually born, and his mental troubles are not due to the weird, improbable, unproved, and often utterly stupid theories of the men on the "lunatic fringe" of psychiatry.

The really great psychiatrists of the world—men such as Dr. Adolf Meyer of Johns Hopkins University—who were right when they said that one cannot make an insane man out of just anyone—no matter what sort of an awful home he had to grow up in, no matter how sorely he may have been rejected or mistreated by a parent, and no matter what disasters may have assailed him during his lifetime. In order to go insane a man has to be born with a tendency to it.

In this connection I think of the eminently sane, merry and very likeable Jewish musician I know who, years ago, saw his mother kicked to death and his sister raped by German thugs. He was terribly beaten and left supposedly dead, with a fractured skull. Friends hid him and later got him across the line into Switzerland.

After that he underwent much hunger and privation until he reached the United States, but with it all his sanity never wavered. Why? I think because he was born of good stock . . . he was born so sane that no amount of disaster could ever shatter his mental processes.

Many persons will ask, "Do you believe that all mental diseases are going to be proved to be due to chemical changes in the blood?" And my answer is, "Certainly not." The brain is one of the many organs of the body; it is the most complicated one of all, and the most difficult to construct; so surely, it must have some malformations and malfunctions all its own.

But this new discovery by Akerfeldt has opened up a way in which really scientific research can be done on the causation and treatment of insanity. If a patient's flare-ups in mental aberration are due to a defect in his body chemistry, then it is probable that just as we keep a diabetic healthy with insulin, so also we may eventually keep a schizophrenic sane by injecting into him each day some ferment or anti-ferment that he lacks.

Today, if I were a wealthy man or if I were director of a Foundation, I would immediately begin putting money into an organization like the Brain Research Foundation of Chicago so that we in America could have at least one properly designed and equipped hospital to which persons needing study could go. Built into this hospital would be a specially equipped operating-room where expert nerve surgeons could find and cut out those bits of defective brain tissue in which arise the convulsions or queer psychic storms of many epileptics, or the muscle spasms of children with spastic paralysis, or the difficult behavior of some mentally retarded children.

Associated with this operating-room would be fine physiologic and chemical and electric laboratories, and the finest electroencephalographs, with which men can study the functions of diseased brains. Also, there would be laboratories full of monkeys and other animals, which would be used in studies of the workings of the brain.

Isn't it remarkable that for research on the commonest diseases of all—brain diseases—we Americans spend almost no money. In the past, a good reason for people's refusing to give money was that they feared it would be used for so-called research by some analysts, who would only sit at a desk and spin some new theories. But today real research by able scientists is being done; and, oh, how handicapped most of them are, without proper facilities.

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