

The Medical Roundup

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So-Called Fever

Many people come to me or write asking what on earth are they going to do because whenever they get worried or go to a doctor or to a party their temperature goes up to around 99.5 or 100.5 degrees or higher. I remember well a woman who, whenever she came into my office, ran a temperature of 102. After I had chatted with her a while and calmed her fears, her temperature would drop to 98.6 which is the supposed normal.

During my medical lifetime I've seen scores of people who have been thoroughly examined many times by prominent physicians because of a supposed fever. Most of them had been told that they had Brucellosis, but my bacteriologists could never find much sign of it. I remember a woman who ran "a fever" whenever she went out with a beau. Once for four days when she was terribly worried about her father who just had an operation, her

temperature was 102.5. It dropped to normal as soon as her father was out of danger. I have known persons who developed a fever of 102.5 for a few hours whenever they lost their temper, and had a violent tantrum. All of them had been treated for years for Brucellosis without getting anywhere. I remember a woman who was thought to have tuberculosis because, for over a year, she ran an afternoon temperature of around 101.5. Many tests failed to show anything wrong with her; her lungs were perfectly clear, and years later I heard that she had never become seriously ill. I think all that was wrong with her was that she had contracted a foolish marriage which distressed her greatly.

Daily Temperature
Some 30 years ago, at a student health service in a great university, the doctors found a young woman with a daily temperature of 101 or so. Every test known to science was run on her and nothing wrong was found. She said she was perfectly well, and evidently she was because when I heard from her, she still had "a fever" and was well. Apparently, she was born with a temperature somewhat different from the average, just as a young fellow who stands 6 feet 7 inches in his stockings is a bit different from the average lad who is about 5 feet 8.

Every children's specialist in the land, I imagine, would just love to smash the thermometer in the medicine cabinet of some of the mothers of the children he takes care of. These mothers are constantly ringing him up in great alarm because Junior has a temperature of 99.5. The doctor perhaps feels compelled to go out to the house to see the youngster, but on arrival he perhaps finds him reading, or wrestling with his brother, or chasing the dog around the house. He isn't ill. It is the mother who needs treatment.

Commonest Figure
One of the things that some of us physicians need to learn is that there is no need for worshipping 98.6 or any other average figure in medicine. This figure is what the statisticians call a mode; it is the commonest figure which one finds if one makes a thousand measurements of a certain type on a thousand people.

Ordinarily, I am a good-natured, easy-going man, but I can get annoyed when a patient tells me that all her neurotic symptoms have been diagnosed by some physician as due to deficient function in her thyroid gland because one measurement of her basal metabolic rate came out minus 12 per cent. Probably in desperation, trying to please the woman, the doctor is giving her thyroid substance. Actually, experts look on any variation up to 20 per cent above or below the mode as normal. Treating a woman for a minus 12 per cent is like treating a perfectly normal and happy and husky little woman five feet tall for dwarfism. She is no dwarf; she is just a variant of the human race.

The other day I saw a woman who had been treated for months with shots of liver and iron because she had been found to have a hemoglobin (red coloring matter of the blood) reading of 90 per cent. Her doctor thought this was dangerously low. I told her that for much of my life my hemoglobin reading had been around 83 per cent. I never did anything about it because I always felt so healthy. Furthermore, today the best figures indicate that the average normal for women's hemoglobin is 85 per cent of the figure normal for men.

When Polio is Gone
Perhaps the most eloquent proof of the fact that now, with the help of the Salk vaccine, polio is going to follow into more or less oblivion, typhoid fever, diphtheria and malaria, is the announcement that at a recent conference of medical scientists who gathered to do honor to Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the question was raised—what to do with this great organization when its

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SHADY COVE-TRAIL Twins Born To Couple

By EVALYN P. WATSON
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Chamberlain, of Trail, are vacationing in Arizona but are expected home soon.
Mrs. Wendell Stalker of Shady Cove is home from the Forest Glen hospital in Canyonville, where she underwent surgery recently. She is now convalescing.

Several members of Shady Cove Garden club armed themselves with galoshes and umbrellas for a trip through the Genter Gardens on Groveland ave. in Medford Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ripley of Long Beach, Calif., are visiting their aunt and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Landry of Trail, and plan to make their home in Shady Cove-Trail vicinity for awhile.

Mrs. Bertha Newman, mother of Mrs. Don Harmon of Shady Cove, is ill and confined to Rogue Valley hospital in Medford.

Mrs. Louis Dusenberry of Trail attended the meeting of the Child Guidance Clinic in Medford last week.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Reed McKay of Trail learned from a letter that they expect to return home in May from Phoenix, Ariz., where they have been staying all winter. Reed was helping his brother with his nursery business during his illness. They said they miss Oregon and all their friends here very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Oliver of Trail are the parents of a baby boy born last week in a Medford hospital. This is the couple's first boy. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alice Oliver of Trail.

When giving the outdoor pool a spring housecleaning what we thought were embryo goldfish that were dug out of the ooze at the bottom, turned out to be only a specie of snail.

A number of Shady Cove residents have been on vacation trips. Joyce Connor of Shady Cove flew to Los Angeles last week to visit her brother, Henry Connor, who is working for an insurance company there. Mrs. Ray Briggs and daughter, Phyllis is working for an insurance company there. Mrs. Ray Briggs and daughter, Phyllis spent a few days during spring vacation visiting in Crescent City, Calif. Mrs. Richard Pfeifer is visiting relatives and friends in southern California.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Briggs of Belle Fourche, S.D., are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Briggs of Shady Cove.

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Williams of Shady Cove have purchased a modern 35 foot trailer house for rental purposes and have it parked on their lot adjoining their residence.

Mrs. Bill Massey of Trail wishes to thank her many friends for their sympathy and condolence which she received at the time of her mother's death.

Two Liquor Inspectors Declared Too Young
Portland—(U.P.)—The Oregon Liquor Control Commission said Tuesday it had released two 21-year-old agents.

A statement by the commission said:
"The new liquor commission took the stand that it was a very poor policy to close up a licensee for selling alcoholic beverages to a youth under 21 years of age, and in turn hire a 21-year-old to act as undercover agent."

Tennessee and Missouri each are touched by the borders of eight other states.

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Music Professor Finds Hobby Now Taking Full Time

Newark, N.J.—(U.P.)—A university professor who went into a sort of "salvage work" as a part-time hobby several years ago now finds the hobby becoming a full-time job, but he has no regrets.

Dr. Alfred Mann, associate professor of music at Rutgers University, believes his work enriches the cultural life of the contemporary world. Mann's self-appointed task is the reclamation of music acclaimed in past centuries and then forgotten. His quest has carried him to archives, ancient music volumes and collections of dusty manuscripts and papers of the composer who created them.

For Mann, the re-discovery of a neglected work is well worth the time-consuming, often hit-or-miss labor.

He has brought back to the concert stage several such works, including a piano concerto by Johann Christian Bach, son of Johann Sebastian Bach, who 200 years ago gave the first public concert on the modern piano.

He also has restored to public favor a "Christmas Anthem" composed in 1687 by Henry Purcell, England's major composer of the period.

Mann believes a knowledge of works played and enjoyed 300 years ago results in "a greater appreciation of our musical heritage, particularly if the performance of these works follows the manner the composer intended."

In performances of the resurrected compositions, Mann rigorously holds to the customs of the past, using relatively small groups of 20 voices and 20 instruments common in the time of Bach and Handel for oratorios usually presented with massive chorus and orchestra.

"A group of these proportions assures a clearer performance and enables listeners to hear individual voices," Mann pointed out.

Mann's concerts in the spirit of the past at the Newark Museum, where he is musical director, have won a devoted following during the past six years. Rutgers currently is publishing a series of "Documents of the Musical Past" based on his re-examination of forgotten music.

Mann believes this renewed interest in antique music is well worth while.

"You might say," he explained, "that we are adding still another dimension to the high fidelity provided by today's electronic equipment. This is true high fidelity to the composer."

An underwater canyon below the lower Mississippi river is about five miles wide and 600 feet in depth.

Fish are the principal source of animal protein for the Japanese people, and provide an estimated 85 per cent of their total supply of that variety of essential food products.

Presley Declared Harmful Influence

Hartford, Conn.—(U.P.)—Elvis Presley is a "harmful influence on American youth," according to the result of a collegiate classical debate.

Two Smith College girls and a pair of Trinity College males debated the topic Monday night before 400 persons, mostly adults, in Trinity's auditorium.

The judges' decision was split two to one, the single female juror siding with the girls that Presley sets a "good example." The college girls argued that the hip-swinging idol set a good example by "being good to his parents and not smoking and drinking."

Holes in Swiss cheese result from bacterial action.

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