

The Medical Roundup

by

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

Why a Gallbladder?

Many persons who have either been told they must have their gallbladder out, or have just had this organ removed surgically, are now wondering how they are going to get along without it; they wonder what its function is, and why the body has such an organ if it can easily be removed. They wonder whether now they will have to live on a restricted diet.

The gallbladder is a pear-shaped organ, perhaps three inches long and an inch in diameter fastened to the under surface of the liver on the right side of the abdomen just under the ribs. It serves to concentrate the bile about seven times. Normally, the bile is being constantly formed in the liver and being emptied into thousands of microscopic tubes. These carry it to a large tube, the so-called common duct, which empties into the duodenum (bowel) eight inches below the outlet of the stomach. In the bowel the bile helps with the digestion of fats, but it isn't essential, because the body can get along remarkably well when there is little bile coming through.

A remarkable thing about our body is that it can get along pretty well without a stomach, without a gallbladder, without an appendix, without most of the small bowel, without any of the large bowel, with only one kidney or one lung, and without a spleen. A dog can get along beautifully without 6/7ths of his liver.

When a man has gallstones why does the surgeon remove his gallbladder? Why doesn't he just remove the stones? Because many years ago it was found that if the gallbladder is left, more than half of the patients must come back for a second operation. Most of their symptoms were being produced by the inflammation in the gallbladder wall.

Bile Stored Between Meals

But, getting back to the question, why do we have a gallbladder? The designer of our body thought it best to gather up the bile and store it between meals. When we eat, the bile tends to be dumped into the bowel. If all the bile were to

be stored as it is secreted we would need a gallbladder as big as a milk bottle. By concentrating the material seven times it can be stored in an organ as big as a man's thumb.

Do all animals have a gallbladder? No, there are a few that haven't any. Why do gallstones form? Apparently, on certain occasions, the bile will get so concentrated that some of the solid substance in it will crystallize out in the form of stones. This is thought to happen most commonly during a pregnancy, or, I suspect, an attack of peritonitis. Usually when a diseased gallbladder is removed, the patient gets along beautifully afterwards and does not have to follow any diet.

No Such Diet

Many people write asking me to send them the "Mayo Clinic Diet" for gallstones and I have to tell them that the Mayo Clinic has no such diet that I ever heard of. After spending my lifetime studying diseases of the digestive tract, I don't know of any logical diet for gallstones. It amuses me often to see a woman living on a diet designed theoretically to keep her from getting more gallstones, when already she has a hundred or more packed so tightly that one could not possibly get another in!

People with such a gallbladder ask me, "But, if I have the operation, what will I do without a gallbladder?" And my answer is, "You haven't a gallbladder now. All you have is a little leathery bag that has no function. No bile can get into it or out of it." Many people in whom gallstones were accidentally discovered during a routine x-ray study, ask if they must immediately go into the hospital for an operation. My answer is that if the gallstones have never given any symptoms and are not giving any now, I would leave them alone. I like to leave a sleeping dog alone! Dr. John Blackford, of Seattle, showed that over 50 per cent of the persons with gallstones live out their life without ever needing to have the gallbladder removed. I see very little danger in waiting to see if trouble will come.

Why Six Girls in a Family? People ask me why there are only girls in their family. For instance, a man who has six daughters wonders whether it is worth trying again to get the son he wants to inherit his financial

Chiloquin Man Is Found Innocent

Wade Crawford of Chiloquin, Ore., was found innocent by a jury Friday in circuit court to charges brought against him by Ben Conley of Williams, Ore. Conley had filed a complaint which alleged Crawford of acting maliciously and without proper cause in having him arrested early in 1955 in connection with the theft Jan. 11, 1955, and lodged in county jail, according to the complaint, on a complaint signed by Crawford Sept. 20, 1954. Charges in the original complaint regarding the alleged theft were dismissed Jan. 15, 1955, by the district attorney's office.

Conley said that he lost \$250 in earnings and suffered damage to his name and reputation as a result of the arrest. He had asked for \$50,250 damages.

Conley was represented by Edward Kelly with Donald A. W. Piper, attorney from Klamath Falls, representing Crawford.

180 Measles Cases Reported Last Week

A total of 180 cases of measles were reported to the Jackson county health department last week, the greatest number this year, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health physician. Seventy-four of the cases were reported in Ashland, 58 in Medford, and 25 in Phoenix. Talent reported 12 cases, and five were reported in Eagle Point, three in Butte Falls, two in Shady Cove and one in Central Point.

Other diseases reported last week include five whooping cough, two strep throat, two trench mouth, 19 German measles, four infectious hepatitis, three influenza, 18 chicken pox, and two impetigo.

empire. As this man says, according to the law of chances he thinks by now he should have gotten at least one boy.

To answer him, I looked up statistics on the subject and found that according to the law of chances, every so often one can throw six aces or even 12 aces in succession. The books tell us how often this can happen, and they tell us that the numbers of families in the land with six or even 12 girls and no boys is just about what was to be expected from the law.

Dr. Alvarez hopes his readers will understand that it would be impossible for him to answer requests for information or to attempt to diagnose by mail. (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1957)

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. J. R. — Our son won't work. Kenneth R. — They have no faith in my ability.

Mrs. J. R. — My husband and I are very confused about how to handle our 24-year-old son, who has never held a steady job.

When Kenneth came out of the Navy, he told us he wanted to become an artist — not the commercial kind, a real one. He went to various schools for three years and then said he wanted to work on his own.

As soon as he quit school, he no longer got his GI Bill allowance, so I suggested that he take a part-time job. He held it for a couple of weeks, but then said he couldn't work because he must paint by daylight.

I would give him a small allowance, but my husband is against it. He says Kenny has no talent and will never amount to anything. He says we ought to throw him out and make him work for a living, but I haven't the heart to do that.

Kenneth R. — My parents have no faith in my ability, but they know nothing about art. My teachers think I have what it takes and have given me a lot of encouragement.

I don't cost my parents anything and I'm not asking for an allowance. They would have to pay for the same apartment whether I live in it or not. My food can't cost them more than

a few extra dollars a week and my father can well afford that. My parents don't need any contribution from me. I ask for nothing for clothing or entertainment.

I have confidence in my own ability and know that someday I will achieve recognition. My parents would be proud then that they helped me. If they throw me out now, they will feel ashamed and guilty that they ruined my career. An artist needs faith and help.

The Council:—Kenneth is unfair to his parents and himself. He claims "they know nothing about art." Why, then, does he demand their faith in his ability? He has no right to set down his terms and then accuse them of lack of "faith and help" if they don't comply.

It sounds as though he lacks faith in himself and childishly demands bolstering from them. Kenneth should realize that his parents have faith in him as a human being, if not as an artist. They want to help him—but they have a right to their own idea about the best way to do it.

Even worse is Kenneth's unfairness to himself. He is depriving himself of the right to independence and self-respect. He cannot respect himself as long as he remains in the same relationship to his parents that he held as a child. When he must come to them for food and lodging, carfare and medical ex-

penses, he remains in this child-like position of dependence.

If Kenneth knows all he should about art and an artist's life, he is aware that the road to recognition may be very long and rocky. He could spare himself considerable heartbreak by seeking out a trade or skill that would give him the fundamentals of existence.

Many talented young men and women have found a solution to the problem in the teaching profession. Others have discovered that the practice of some form of commercial art is not as "corrupting" to genius as was once believed. But any honest work is better than being an adult dependent.

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From 1946 through 1950 there were 48 new coal mines opened in Kentucky with a daily capacity of 11,200 tons.

Longest Non-Stop Jet Flight Chalked Up

Los Angeles — The Air Force took credit today for staging the longest flight of a single-place jet fighter plane, a 6,710-mile non-stop hop from London to Los Angeles.

The history-making flight was completed Monday when three North American F100C Super Sabres touched down at International airport 14 hours, 5 minutes after they left London. The swept wing jets averaged about 480 mph.

Salem — Karl W. Onthank, dean of personnel administration at University of Oregon for more than 20 years, has been named by Gov. Robert D. Holmes to the recreation subcommittee of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee.

Use Tribune Want Ads

BOWLER SCORES 299

Memphis — The No. 5 pin wobbled on its edge but refused to topple and so bowler Julian Levitch lost \$10,000. After 11 consecutive strikes, Levitch missed the No. 5 pin on the 12th roll, making his score 299. Levitch wasn't very happy, for the alley manager has a standing offer of \$10,000 to any bowler who rolls a perfect 300 game.

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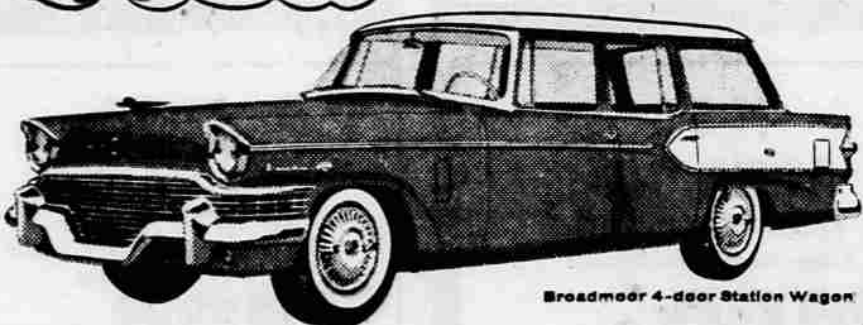
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