

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

The Meeting of the American Medical Association

At the recent meeting of 19,469 doctors in New York City, I was much interested in the hundreds of instructive exhibits that filled the four floors of the huge Coliseum. There I was able to study the many wonderful new advances in medicine and surgery. Many physicians and groups of physicians produce beautiful exhibits with models of organs, charts, diagrams, color photographs, movies and televised operations. Many a doctor is helped much in keeping up-to-date by studying all week among these exhibits. He can learn about the many new drugs and medical appliances; he can look over the new books that have just come out, and with the help of models, photographs, and movies he can learn much about the new operations that have been devised.

During the meeting of the American Medical Association, Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond and Daniel Horn, of the American Cancer Society, reported on their four-year study of the smoking habits of 188,000 American men between the ages of 50 and 70, and what happened to the 11,870 who died during the interval. Because the report has been well publicized, I won't go into details here. Suffice it to say, I don't see how anyone can now laugh off the significance of the remarkable figures obtained. More such impressive data can be found in the excellent summary published in Science (June 7) by "The Study Group on Smoking and Health," of the American Cancer Society, The American Heart Association, The National Cancer Institute and the National Heart Institute.

To me, there is nothing incredible about all these figures because in 1933 my old friend, Professor Raymond Pearl, showed that the mortality of cigarette smokers—from all causes in the later years of life—was perhaps twice that of non-smokers. According to the recent report, the death rates from all causes combined were 68 per cent higher for smokers than for non-smokers.

What struck many visitors to the American Medical Association convention was an exhibit of much enlarged microscopic sections of the wind pipes (by Drs. Oscar Auerbach, J. B. G. H. J. Smolin, J. B. Forman, G. E. Muehsam, J. M. Pawlowski and A. P. Stout, of East Orange, N.J.) showing what was to be expected, namely that for years, before the heavy smoker gets a cancer in his bronchi (air tubes), the membrane lining these tubes gets more and more damaged and prepared for the coming of a cancer.

After looking at these sections, I doubt if anyone will want to deny that great injury is being wrought every day to the bronchial tubes of heavy smokers by inhaled tobacco smoke. I can well understand now why many heavy smokers cough, and I can see why the more cigarettes a man smokes the more damage he must be doing to his lungs.

After looking at this exhibit, many of my doctor friends went right out and bought themselves a pipe, so as to keep smoking without inhaling. It is the inhaling that obviously causes the trouble. For pipe-smokers, the mortality rate is up only 12 per cent; for cigar-smokers, it is up 22 per cent; for moderate cigarette-smokers, it is up 34 per cent.

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Garden Notes

By C. B. CORDY, County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Blue Hydrangeas

Most hydrangea flowers in this area are pink. This pink color is due to the presence of considerable lime in the soil, which results in a sweet or non-acid condition of the soil. Blue color in hydrangeas has been associated with a slightly acid soil and the pink color with a soil high in lime. Attempts to turn pink hydrangeas blue by the use of acid fertilizers have been only partially successful.

This year one of our home gardeners sprayed parts of a hydrangea bush with iron chelate. The flowers on the parts sprayed developed with a very deep blue color. Along with this deep blue color, there was some dwarfing of the flowers and vegetative growth. This may have been because the spray was a little strong. The solution used in this case was one level teaspoon of iron chelate in two quarts of water.

This was sprayed on about June 1, when the small blossom clusters were about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Anyone wishing to try this should restrict it to one bush or a part of a bush until further experience indicates continued success.

By spraying parts of a bush which was producing deep pink flowers, the same bush could be caused to produce both deep pink and deep blue flowers.

Pear Blight

The most pear blight in 15 years is causing a lot of trouble and expense to pear growers. It is also showing that there is a shortage of blight cutters in the valley. In cutting blight, it should be recognized that the blight bacteria work well in advance of any visible discoloration. In cutting off diseased branches, it is necessary to cut at least six inches beyond any discoloration, and if the cankers are active a foot more of apparently healthy tissue should be removed.

All cuts and cutting tools should be treated with the standard blight solution as soon as the cut is made. Where diseased suckers or spurs are attached to a limb an inch and a half or more in diameter and if the disease gets into the wood at the base of the spur, an oval shaped patch of bark should be removed to be sure the disease is eliminated from the branch. For branches less than 1 1/2 inches in diameter, as a matter of economics it would generally be better to cut off the limb.

In some cases, new infections are occurring in the new shoots, especially on the main branches. In these cases the orchards should be sprayed using 1/2 pound of neutral copper per 100 gal. Spraying would be futile if new infections are not occurring. Where blight is prevalent in an orchard, irrigation water should be withheld until the trees approach the wilting point in order to check the blight and keep it from moving into larger wood.

As blight is readily carried from tree to tree by insects, home owners having one or a few trees are urged to look them over carefully and remove any blighted twigs or branches. The most evident indication of blight is a dead twig with the leaves hanging on. Twigs which die and shed their leaves are killed from other causes.

Portland Man Files Suit in Court Here

A Portland man, J. E. Bartlett, has filed a \$9,000 suit in circuit court here against Ralph Pickell, doing business as Pick's Apparel in Medford.

The suit is the result of an accident in which Bartlett's wife, Rose W. Bartlett, allegedly suffered injuries in a fall July 16, 1935, at Pickell's store.

The plaintiff claims his wife suffered knee, arm and eye injuries, including permanent disabling injuries to her left knee, kneecap and ankle. He seeks the money to compensate for alleged loss of his wife's companionship, assistance and other phases of their married life which he attributes to her injuries.

Bartlett charges Pickell with negligence in maintaining a degree of polish on the floor which created a dangerous condition and in failing to warn his wife of the dangerous condition. He is represented by the Portland law firm of Weiser, Bowles and Young.

Greenhouse, Barn Are Destroyed in Fire

Portland—A large greenhouse and barn half-filled with hay owned by Charles Barron, Portland, was destroyed by fire late Friday. Firemen kept the blaze from spreading to two other large greenhouses nearby, however, also belonging to Barron.

Defective wiring was believed to have caused the blaze. No farm equipment was lost, and an immediate estimate of the loss was not available.

HORN BROOK Scout To Attend Jamboree

By MRS. H. H. CHAPMAN
Hornbrook—Eagle Scout Mike Barnum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Barnum, was one of the group of Boy Scouts in the Crater Lake Area council who left Klamath Falls July 3 to attend the fourth national Jamboree to be held at Valley Forge, Pa., July 12-18.

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Haworth returned July 1 from Bakersfield, Calif., where they were called a week earlier by the sudden death of his brother-in-law.

Miss Barbara Burns, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ardon Burns, has been visiting the past two weeks with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Paulsen, in San Leandro, Calif. Her fiancé, Pfc. "Butch" Pickard, son of Mrs. Norma Pickard, arrived in San Francisco from Boston, Mass., and was scheduled to leave June 27 for his assignment in Korea with the Army.

Mrs. Bernice Hamilton, executive director of the Girl Scouts in Chico and Durham, Calif., spent last week-end here with her father, Gordon Jacobs, who observed his birthday June 30.

Other visitors in town last weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Chaucery Anderson Wheelless, who lived near Wilmington, Del. The couple called on Mrs. Florence Greive and son Charles. Wheelless' grandfather, T. K. Anderson, for many years owned and operated a gold mine 4 1/2 miles up Empire creek, and it was while his mother was out here visiting her father that Wheelless and his twin were born at Mrs. Greive's home. Wheelless is now employed by the Dupont industries in Delaware, and while he and his wife were here on their vacation, they made a trip to the site of his grandfather's old mining operations.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Walsh and daughter, Sharee, returned Sunday evening from a 17-day trip, during which they visited relatives and friends in Oregon, California, Canada, Montana, and Idaho. Miss Sally Smith of Burns, Ore., returned home with them for a vacation. Sally and Sharee have been friends since their grammar school days in Riddle, Ore., and both of them graduated in June from their respective high schools. On July 4, the Walshes and Sally were part of a group of friends who attended the parade in Ashland, then had a picnic in Lithia Park. Others in the party were Mr. and Mrs. Laurant Paine and sons, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gregory and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Williams and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bennett and three children from Yreka, and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene French and daughter, also from Yreka.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Cummins and children, Loren Howard and Jennifer, returned June 29 from Seattle, Wash., where they visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Howard. Mr. Cummins and the children went up by plane from Medford earlier in the month and Cummins drove up last week to bring his family home.

Mrs. L. Everett Jeter returned

July 1 from a three weeks' visit in the middle west. In Chicago she visited with a friend of her school days, and in Arcadia, Kas., with her parents and brothers and sisters. Mrs. Jeter said they were fortunate in that part of Kansas was not being hit by any of the tornadoes that struck the state during the month of June. She also stated that because of the heavy rain the farmers were finding it impossible to harvest their wheat crop, and many were plowing it under.

The Jeters' son, Bill, who is employed this summer by the Forest Service as a timber cruiser, is spending his days off this week with friends at Clear Lake, Calif.

A/3c Oliver Fick, who has been stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois, will arrive in Medford Saturday morning on a 30-day leave before reporting at Travis Air Force Base. He and his wife plan to spend part of his leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chapman.

Recent guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bear were Mr. and Mrs. Charles LeBrun and three children of Portland, Ore.

Postmaster Quits Job at Hornbrook After 33 Years

Hornbrook—H. H. Chapman, postmaster of the town of Hornbrook, Calif., retired June 30, exactly 33 years from the time he took the appointment in 1924, succeeding D. C. Earhart.

Mrs. Wayne J. Cummins, who has been clerk in the Hornbrook post office for the last seven years, will serve as acting postmaster until a permanent appointment is made.

Previous to becoming postmaster, Chapman, a veteran of World War I, was employed with the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, and was in charge of the building of the first fish racks on the Klamath river at Hornbrook. He also worked on the McCloud river at Baird, which is now covered by the waters of Shasta lake.

Chapman plans to manage his seven-acre ranch, on which he and his family have lived for the past 34 years, and will continue to operate the Hornbrook Water company, which he has owned for the past 25 years.

Chapman has three children, Mr. and Mrs. Chaplain, Mrs. Herb Dungey and her family, live in Medford. A son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Chapman live in Lodi, Calif., and another daughter and her family, M/Sgt. and Mrs. E. R. Burtner, make their home at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

THREE BECOME TWO
Chicago—Mrs. Rose Laux knows what she is talking about when she says three of her children are two. Her girl triplets, Dale, Daryl and Diane celebrate their second birthday Friday.

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Of reptiles now living—many more existed in times past—the largest in the world as far as weight is concerned is the crocodile of southeast Asia which may attain a length of 30 feet. For obvious reasons, few of the really large ones have



been weighed. Strictly meat-eaters, they will devour anything they can overcome. However, they have been known to live in tidal waters and have been sighted far out at sea.

During the 160,000,000 years in which reptiles dominated the world, these leftovers of ancient animals would be pygmies indeed. Then, some 80,000,000 years ago, reptiles went into a rapid decline. Perhaps there were violent climatic changes which were unfavorable for these bulky creatures which were dependent upon outside sources for their body heat, including the dinosaurs. Or it may have been due to the arrival of mammals with their more advanced methods of caring for their young and their ability to remain active in nearly all kinds of weather.

The largest member of this ancient reptilian tribe now living in the U.S. is the Mississippi alligator found in the southeastern states. Prior to the coming of the white man, they were extremely abundant in the south-east. Early explorers described places, such as the St. Johns river of Florida, as being so full of alligators that it might have been possible to walk across, using the 'gators' bodies as

stepping stones, had it not been for the aggressive natures of these "sidewalks."

Python New Longest
During the early part of the 20th century, it was still possible to find 'gators up to 20 feet long; mostly those seen today—say in roadside pools in Florida—are seldom more than five feet long.

The longest reptile living—and after writing this, I am going to duck—is the rich yellow, brown and black reticulated python. Specimens 28 feet long that weighed 200 pounds have been well authenticated, and 33 feet has been suggested as the possible maximum. This snake is found in southeastern Asia, the Malaya Peninsula and the adjacent islands, including the Philippines.

Much of the argument about the length of snakes comes from the measurement of skins—and it is easy to stretch a 20-foot anaconda to 28 feet! As for the boa constrictor, although commonly believed to be the longest South American snake it is exceeded by the anaconda and that as we have seen, by the python. Perhaps the largest living boa measured was 18 1/2 feet.

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