

The Medical Roundup

by

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MULTIPLE DIVERTICULA

I hate to be devoting so much space to repeated comments on diverticulosis of the colon, but from the large number of requests for information on this subject that pour in, it seems obvious that, of late, thousands of us physicians are being either too alarming about this harmless situation, or are not being clear enough or reassuring enough in what we say. From the letters I get by the dozen, it is obvious that we doctors are leaving people all mixed-up about the common and harmless diverticulosis, and the rare and serious diverticulitis. I suspect, also, that we are ordering diets for diverticulosis, which I think is unnecessary and unwise.

During 45 years of looking at x-ray films of people's colons, I have seen so many thousands of films showing diverticula, in persons who appeared to have had absolutely no distress from them, that when I see the little out-pouchings I hate to mention them. If I do mention them, it is only to protect the patient from being alarmed later, when, perhaps, some physician much more pessimistic than I am, views with great concern the tiny pockets, which, so far as I can see, are just a sign of aging. They can be found in the wall of the colon of four out of 10 persons over 50 years of age.

From the experience of many years, I am satisfied that these little pockets do not produce symptoms, and do not constitute any danger to the person. Two years ago, when I found that a few had shown up in me, it never occurred to me that I should worry about them or change my diet in any way. When I get a little indigestion it never occurs to me to blame it on the little pouches, because I had the same type of indigestion long ago, before I had any diverticula.

As everyone should remember, all that diverticulosis means is that the man or woman has some of these harmless little pouches on the colon. Diverticulitis means an inflammation of some of the pouches. This disease is apparently rare because I haven't seen a case in many years. The trouble can easily be severe pain in the left lower quadrant of the abdomen associated with the presence of a tender, sausage-like mass. The person is likely to get constipated, and he may pass a little blood by rectum. Often he has

to be operated on. Many a person gets much worried when the doctor drops the idea that possibly he can get a cancer in a diverticulum. For many years I have studied the world's statistics on this possibility, and the conclusion I am forced to is that the presence of the little pouches tends to protect one from getting cancer. I cannot remember ever having seen at autopsy a colonic cancer that seemed to have arisen in a little pouch. Many people write and ask, "Should I be operated on for diverticulosis?" and my answer is "Most assuredly no." I would as soon be operated on for my gray hair or any other sign of aging. The pouches form when the muscle of the bowel gets somewhat weakened with age.

Briefhand Writing Introduced At OSC

Corvallis — A new system for abbreviating longhand and increasing writing speed will be introduced on an experimental basis for the first time in a college classroom next quarter at Oregon State college.

Called "Briefhand," the new system has been found to speed up longhand writing from the usual 30 to 40 words a minute to 80 or 100 with a little practice and training, according to the OSC professor who helped perfect the system.

It differs from shorthand and other short-cut writing systems in that no special symbols are used for words—only letters and abbreviations that cut down the writing load.

Under the Briefhand system, speed-up is achieved by such things as dropping the silent vowels and using word abbreviations. Number becomes nmbr, service is srvc, address is adrs, a is abbreviation for an, and at, about.

"The system looks interesting," is written "e sstm loks ntrstg." Writes Book.

Dr. Theodore Yerian, head of the departments of business education and secretarial science at OSC, worked on the Briefhand method and is one of the four authors of the new book that outlines the system.

He is convinced that Briefhand has great possibilities not only for students and clerical workers who spend a good part of their time taking notes, but also for "anyone interested in writing more rapidly—businessmen, housewives, salesmen, reporters, lawyers, etc."

Yerian emphasizes that Briefhand is not a replacement for high-speed shorthand that enables stenographers to take dictation or notes at 125-200 words a minute. For the really skilled worker, shorthand is faster and better, he says.

For the average person, however, who is not interested in specialized shorthand training, Briefhand can streamline writing, Yerian believes. It is easily self-taught, he said, and has already brought favorable comment from students, business teachers and school administrators who have heard about the system.

BUT, CHIEF . . . Atlanta — Detective T. V. Mullinax is taking a special interest in a stolen car case. The mission vehicle is his, taken while he was on duty.



THIS REMARKABLE PICTURE of the earth was taken from a camera mounted in an Aerobee rocket from 100 miles height above White Sands, N. M. Dark streak at lower left is valley of the Rio Grande. Diameter of picture is approximately 900 miles. (International Soundphoto)

The Hollywood Scene

By VERNON SCOTT
United Press Writer

Hollywood — When Kim Novak is described as one of Movietown's "brightest" stars the reference is not necessarily to her acting ability or her IQ.

Despite her Greek goddess face and roller-coaster curves, Kim is characterized as "the great stone face" whose performances run from deadpan to lethargy.

More than one of her leading men have complained that making screen love to the blonde glamour girl is akin to romancing a totem pole.

No Overacting, Please But Kim says defensively, and with beguiling understatement, that she doesn't hold with overacting.

"I believe the audience should have something more to do than just sit and watch," Kim said between takes of her new movie. "I let them do some of the acting for me."

How this attitude sits with Alfred Hitchcock, who is putting the Novak gal through her paces in "Vertigo," isn't known. Kim, however, says rumors of a feud between the rotund director and

herself are not true. Her dressing room was littered with clothes, makeup, a record player, her script and the usual feminine beauty aids. Only two books were in evidence, "The Psychology of Insanity" and "Principles of Abnormal Psychology."

"For my role in the picture," Kim explained, "I have to pretend to be insane. You Have It Or Not?"

"I don't know whether I've improved as an actress since I started out. In acting, either you have it or you don't to begin with."

"Sure, you can improve technically, but that isn't acting itself. I never had any background for dramatics, and it was a big thing just learning the mechanics. I'm still learning to read lines, how to look for marks on the floor, and to say 'I love you' to a light bulb while the camera's rolling."

Kim, wearing a brown wig for her role, stood in front of a three-way mirror tugging at her skin-tight sweater and skirt to prevent them from clinging too snugly.

"Actually," she smiled, "my acting depends on my director. I always do exactly what my director wants."

Though she may never win an Oscar, Kim is in demand. Columbia Studios recently came to terms when Kim went on strike for more money. Now the studio is buying her a \$95,000 home in Bel-Air.

She needs an Oscar like she needs a new skirt and sweater.

New Transcontinental Non-Stop Flight Mark Set by Two AF Pilots

Ontario, Calif. — A new transcontinental non-stop flight record was set Wednesday by two Air Force RF 101s Voodoo jet planes, both cutting the old mark by a margin of nearly three hours.

The jets zoomed over Ontario International Airport approximately 20 minutes apart on the return leg of their roundtrip run between Los Angeles and New York. The new time for the trip was 6 hours, 42 minutes, 6.7 seconds.

Capt. Robert M. Sweet, 30, of Barronette, Wis., was credited with the faster time although his plane came over the airport behind the craft piloted by Capt. R. W. Schrecengost Jr., 31, of Kittanning Pa. Sweet crossed the control point at 2:32:45.2 p.m. (PST) behind Schrecengost who was timed in at 2:12 p.m. Old Record

The previous roundtrip mark was set on March 21, 1957, by Navy Cmdr. Dale W. Cox of Spirit Lake, Idaho, clocked at

9 hours, 31 minutes, 35.4 seconds in an A3D Skywarrior jet. In addition to breaking the old round trip record, the Air Force claimed a new east-west mark by the two pilots. In addition, all four planes in the flight set a west-east record.

The mark established by Sweet from Floyd Bennett Field, New York, to Ontario, was 3 hours, 34 minutes, 8.8 seconds, as compared with 5 hours, 14 minutes, 57.4 seconds set by Cox. Schrecengost's round trip time was 7 hours, 12 minutes, 18 seconds and his east-west mark was 3 hours, 58 minutes, 46.6 seconds.

Both planes landed at nearby March Air Force Base upon completion of the historic flight.

The Air Force revealed the record-setting plane averaged 721.9 miles per hour for the round trip while it averaged 677.7 miles per hour on the east-west run. Capt. Sweet said he timed himself at between 980 and 990 miles per hour several times during the flight.

Tularemia Found In Mice in State

Portland — Oregon health authorities today summoned specialists from the U.S. Rocky Mountain laboratory at Hamilton, Mont., and the federal plague laboratory at San Francisco to consult about a finding of tularemia in some mice collected from a southeast Oregon infestation.

Dr. Harold Erickson, state health officer, said that at the present time the field mouse infestation in some areas of the state was "primarily" an agricultural problem. Residents of southeastern Oregon, he said, "do not appear to be in any immediate danger of widespread disease outbreaks" from the mice unless large numbers of the rodents are driven indoors by cold weather and shortage of food.

Experts have estimated that the infestation runs as high as 10 thousand mice per acre in some sections. It is reported to be the largest ever noted in the United States and extends from Madras in central Oregon to northern California and from the Cascades to the southern Idaho border. Such an increase in the mouse population has been noted only twice previously during modern times, both occurring in Russia, according to the state board of health.

Dr. Erickson said it was believed that mice might be killed off by disease, but tularemia could be spread to humans by handling dead mice or from contamination of food supplies. Tularemia has a case fatality rate of about five per cent, Dr. Erickson said.

LINE FORMS TO LEFT

Elberon Park, N. J. — Few leftovers were expected after Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Manning and their "immediate" family finish a turkey feast today. The "immediate" family consists of the Mannings' 15 children, 11 daughters and sons-in-law and 30 grandchildren. Mrs. Manning figured two 24-pound turkeys would do the trick.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

San Francisco — Dr. Gregory Bard, University of California heart specialist, who says President Eisenhower will live longer if he goes back to work!

"The old-fashioned treatment of severely restricting a man's life, of making a permanent invalid out of him is gone."

Huntsville, Ala. — Maj. Gen. John B. Medaris, commandant of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, on Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy's decision to order both the Army's Jupiter and the Air Force's Thor missiles into production:

"I am grateful for this expression of confidence in the efforts of my agency to provide the nation with an IRBM capability at the earliest possible date."

London — Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd when asked by Laborite Aneurin Bevan if British-based U.S. planes carry H-bombs on duty flights:

"I am quite prepared to assume for the purposes of answering this question that they are."

London — Actress Betsy Drake on reports of a rift between her and husband Cary Grant:

"There have been rumors since we were married eight years ago. But they are now and have always been untrue."

Kandy, Ceylon — Nelson Poynter, editor of the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times in asking the Asian conference of the International Press Institute to call upon all governments to permit newspapers and radio stations to get their foreign news from whatever source they desire:

"The temptation of any government is to control all incoming and outgoing news, news pictures and features."

Woman Slightly Hurt In Three Car Crash

Mrs. Robert Jones, 17, of 45 Myers court, was slightly injured when a car in which she was riding was involved in a three-car collision on North Central ave., between Jackson and Clark sts., on Wednesday afternoon, according to city police.

Police said Mrs. Jones complained of internal injuries following the accident. She was taken to her family doctor by private car, they said.

Jones and Lowell Curtis Sorenson, 1300 Winchester ave., were cited for failure to maintain proper lookout after cars they were driving were involved in a collision with one driven by Anthony Albert Ruchinski, Elk River route, Port Orford, Oregon, police said.

They said the Jones car was heavily damaged and had to be towed away. The Ruchinski and Sorenson cars had minor damage in the accident, they said. Police said the accident took place about 3 p.m.

Hearing Set on Gas Company's Proposal

San Francisco — Pacific Gas and Electric company's application for an increase of approximately 7.7 per cent in its natural gas rates will be considered by the Pacific Utilities commission at a public hearing Jan. 2.

The hearing will be conducted before Commissioner Ray E. Unterreiner and Examiner Manley E. Edwards.

The proposed increase would raise the company's annual revenues by 18 million dollars.

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