

Vitamin D Overdone In Much Baby Food

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
 New York—The business of putting the anti-rickets vitamin D into just about every item of infant food is being overdone, according to three baby doctors who reported on a rather new and quite puzzling disease of babies — "hypercalcemia with failure to thrive."

Hypercalcemia simply is too much calcium. Rickets results when too little calcium is utilized by the infant's body for the processes of growing. Vitamin D sees to it—chemically—that the body retains and utilizes calcium. The question being raised is whether too much vitamin D causes some infant bodies to retain too much and choke growth.

Race in U.S.
 Drs. Alfred M. Bongiovanni, Walter E. Eberlein, and Irish T. Jones of the University of Pennsylvania suspected this was the case with three babies, and they wanted to put those infants on diets which contained no vitamin D. This proved extremely difficult because it "was almost impossible to obtain milk free of vitamin D."

"The fortification of milk, bread, virtually all infant cereals and artificially prepared commercial formulas in the United States enthusiastically prac-

ticed," they commented. "The practice seems to have got out of hand, and the quantities of added vitamins are frequently the focus of competitive advertisement."

The disease is rare in the United States, which they found puzzling because in Britain where infants are fed and cared for similarly, it is increasingly common. But in Britain, they pointed out, milk is fortified with 1,400 units of vitamin D per quart while in the United States the fortification is 400 units per quart.

Not Always Recognized
 In their Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, there were only three cases in a two-year period. However, "It is possible it is not always recognized in North America," they said in reporting their studies to the New England Journal of Medicine.

Obviously excessive vitamin D is not the only cause. If it were, more infants would have it. They suggested that something special in a particular baby's chemical make-up might, when combined with vitamin D intake, trigger "hypercalcemia with failure to thrive."

The cause of the disease remains unknown, they said, "although it appears highly probable that vitamin D has an important role."

At the Grange

Upper Applegate Grange

Good timber management practices and tree farms as an important and valuable adjunct to other forms of agriculture in this area were discussed by Brother Clem Ault, Conservationist for the Medford office of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service when Upper Applegate Grange held an open program on Friday evening, Dec. 13.

Timber is probably the most valuable crop that can be produced on hill lands, the speaker pointed out, and in addition to their actual monetary value, trees are most important in proper watershed management and flood control.

"Just as floods are composed of individual raindrops, so every acre of land properly managed, every tree, every blade of grass plays its part in the control of floods and of erosion," Brother Ault stated. He also outlined the progress of the small watershed management program now being developed in Jackson county for Bear creek and its tributaries.

Green Harvest, a sound film in color concerning timber management, was presented in conjunction with his discussion, since the slides he had hoped to show depicting soil conservation practices in the Applegate district, were lost in transit from the state office.

Brother Harlan Cantrall, Supervisor of the Applegate Soil Conservation district, who presided as chairman, described the values of soil conservation practices as he has experienced them in the operation of a diversified farm.

The program was arranged by legislative chairman Anna Scott, and was preceded by a potluck birthday dinner attended by more than 30 Grangers and guests. A birthday cake baked and decorated by Sister Cyrena Davis, honoring the 1957 birthday anniversaries of all Upper Applegate Grange members, was cut and served as a part of the dessert course.

During the regular business meeting following the program, Brother Bert Harr, who represented Upper Applegate Grange at recent sessions of the Water Resources committee, headed by William Jess of Eagle Point, gave a report of the deliberations of this group. Brother Ault urged all Grangers to give careful consideration to water resources and to decide now what they want regarding them in order to be able to act intelligently when opportunities for action present themselves.

Recent illness of Sister Florence Lance and of Brother Val Haskins was reported by chaplain Kathleen Scovell and chaplain-elect Mildred Redhead, representing the relief committee. Brother Glenn Williams is convalescing from spinal surgery in Sacred Heart hospital, it was stated. Otis Buck, who underwent eye surgery in Portland recently, is recovering at his

U.S. Aid Prepared For Quake Victims

Tehran, Iran—The United States prepared Saturday to give aid to homeless, freezing victims of Friday's major earthquake. The governor of Hamadan Province in northwest Iran telegraphed that 200 bodies had been recovered in the village of Farsanj alone, and that 1,100 persons had been buried in the rubble of a single village.

Unofficial and unconfirmed reports straggling in over shattered communications lines estimated the death toll at anywhere from 250 to 1,500.

Migrant Workers Show Decline in Gresham Area

Portland — The number of migrant workers' families seeking welfare assistance in the Gresham area declined this year, the Legislative Interim Committee on Migratory Labor was told Saturday.

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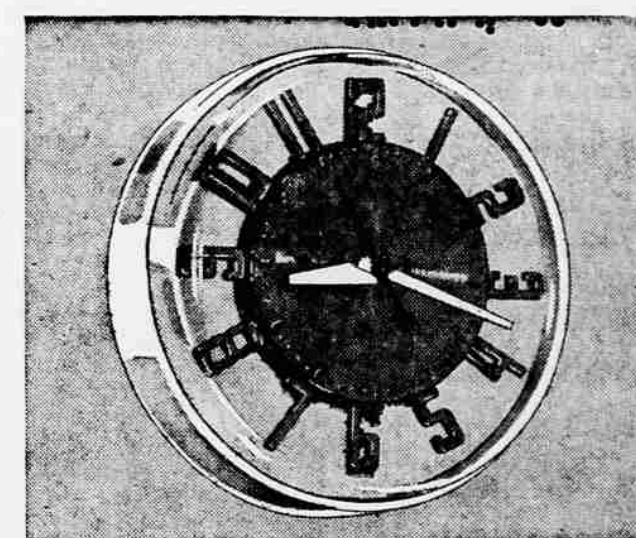
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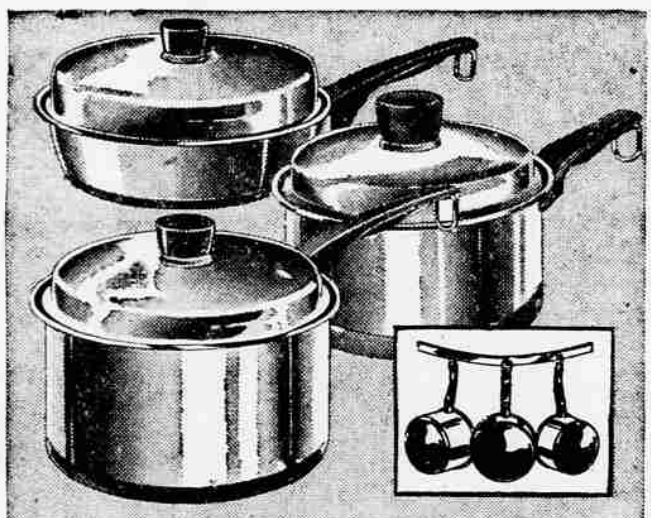
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