

Average Stay in Tuberculosis Hospital Down to Eight Months

By DICK HUMPHREY
United Press Correspondent

Salem — Twenty years ago there were 321 patients at the Oregon State Tuberculosis hospital here. Their average stay was four to five years.

Now there are about 200 patients whose average stay is only eight months. With this decrease has gone a 30 per cent rise in the number of patients treated.

Twenty years ago or more the death rate from TB ranged as high as 40 per 100,000 population. Now it hovers around 3.5 per 100,000.

Formerly TB killed more people in their 20s and 30s. Now the average age of patients at the state TB facility is 50.4 years. What has caused this startling change?

Superintendent R. E. Joseph says a major cause is breakthroughs made in the past 10 years on new drugs to fight the tubercle bacillus.

New Techniques
Chief among them are streptomycin and a newer drug known by its chemical abbreviation "INH."

These drugs do not have the power to kill TB bacteria outright, but they do interfere with their growth and prevent reproduction.

The result is that the disease can be arrested much more rapidly.

Newer surgical techniques, used on 30 to 25 per cent of the patients, also play an important part in controlling TB.

When Dr. Joseph first went to work for Oregon at the Dalles TB hospital in 1935, the foundation of treatment was a long, long rest in bed combined with techniques such as pneumothorax, which

consisted of pumping air or gas into the chest cavity to collapse the lung and let it rest.

The dramatic change in TB treatment has made it possible for any Oregon resident who discovers he has TB to get immediate treatment either at the Salem or The Dalles hospital. The University of Oregon medical school also maintains a 75-bed TB hospital at Portland which is administered by the Board of Higher Education under contract with the State Board of Control.

In fact Oregon may have too many TB facilities and a committee appointed by Gov. Robert Holmes is now studying the possibility of closing one of the hospitals or putting it to some other use such as treatment of the mentally ill.

No One 'Committed'

No one is committed to the state TB hospital, but individuals are urged to go there by private doctors, the State Health Department, Oregon Tuberculosis association and others.

The fundamental nature of TB as a communicable disease (it is spread by direct contact, coughing, etc.), is stressed from the moment a patient enters the TB hospital.

The isolated patient is taught first of all to carry at all times tissues to use in coughing or clearing of the throat. Patients whose sputum shows live TB bacilli are isolated from those with negative sputum and those with the live bacilli are urged to wear masks when traveling around the hospital.

The real purpose of the TB hospital is to get the patient off to the best possible medi-

cal start and then to teach him to manage his disease, protect others from it and live as normal a life as possible.

Despite remarkable advances, TB is not a "dead disease."

Dr. Joseph points out that about 500 cases of it are turned up each year in Oregon and there are probably many undetected cases.



BACK TO BRITAIN—Smoking his usual cigar, Sir Winston Churchill leaves villa at Roquebrune, France, en route to Nice Airport for flight back to England. Churchill spent 11 weeks at the villa battling attacks of pneumonia and pleurisy.

Moscow — The Soviet government has declared 56,000 bureaucrats redundant, State Planning Commission Chairman Josef I. Kuzmin said Saturday.

Survival of Man In Nuclear Age Takes Priority

Lac Beauport, Que.—Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel prize-winning scientist, has said the survival of mankind by control of nuclear energy comes above the fight for supremacy between communism and capitalism.

Speaking at a recent meeting of scientists in Lac Beauport, Que., Pauling said "man never had such tremendous destructive power in his hands, and the danger of misusing that power is greater today. The use of guided missiles and nuclear weapons creates a danger which can explode in a matter of minutes."

Scientists from both East and West discussed ways and means to control the nuclear and atomic arms race. The meeting is sponsored by industrialist Cyrus E. Eaton.

"I don't say that research for nuclear defense weapons should be stopped suddenly," Pauling said. "But it should be reduced gradually and the energy spent on the construction of these weapons should be spent on research for peaceful purposes."

Pauling said both the East and the West are spending about \$120 billion a year for the nuclear arms race. He said part of that money should be diverted to other purposes which would be more useful to mankind.

"The Russians want to live just as we do and this is why meetings to safeguard peace and to protect mankind as organized by Mr. Eaton are so much needed," he said.

The young blue whales grow at an average rate of 220 pounds a day.



LANA'S DAUGHTER SLAYS MOBSTER—Cheryl Crane, 14, daughter of actress Lana Turner and Steve Crane, rests her head on her father's shoulder on arrival at police station in Beverly Hills, Calif., where she was booked for the murder of underworld character Johnny Stompanato. Cheryl said she stabbed Stompanato because she thought he was going to disfigure her mother.

NINE INJURED IN CRASH

Kingston, Jamaica — Nine persons were injured Sunday when two trains collided in Albany station in St. Mary's on the north coast.

LAW EXPERT DIES

Rome — Prof. Salvatore Riccobono, 94, famous expert on Roman law, died in Rome Saturday.

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Adams Testimony Wanted by Schwartz

Washington — Bernard Schwartz, ousted chief counsel of a House investigating subcommittee, believes Sherman Adams should be required to testify about White House influence on government regulatory agencies.

Schwartz also proposed on Sunday that Congress make it a crime for any senator or House member to contact a member of these agencies privately about any pending case.

Schwartz said he knows of other cases of White House connections with these agencies besides Adams' alleged contact with a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board about an airline case. He did not elaborate.

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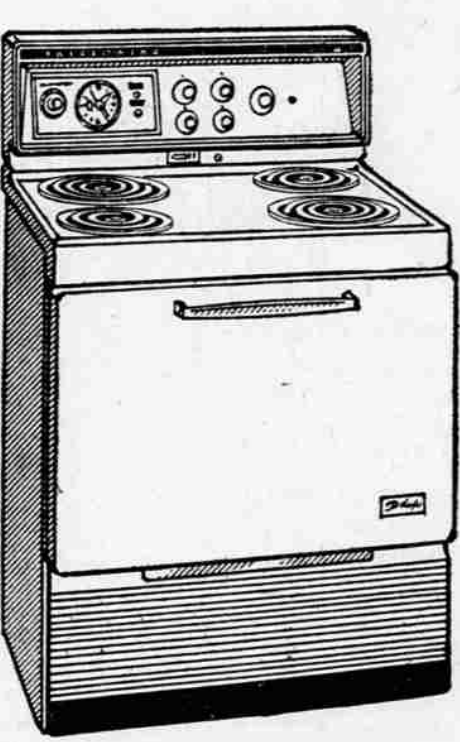
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