

Hospitals Resorting To Cleanliness in Infection Battle

Washington—UPI—Hospitals are resorting to their oldest weapon—cleanliness—to combat a serious wave of infections resulting from overuse of new antibiotic drugs.

The U. S. Public Health Service reports that the rub-and-scrub campaign is being pressed from coast to coast. It reflects genuine alarm among hospital officials about the rapid spread of drug-resistant germs that have caused more than 100 hospital epidemics in the past five years.

The germs are a variant of the common staphylococci, causing boils, abscesses and other external and internal infections. Doctors have coined the term "golden staph" to identify the variant, which is found primarily in the supposedly antiseptic surroundings of hospitals.

Immune To Drugs
The "golden staph" germs not only are immune to the new antibiotic drugs—they actually seem to thrive on them.

Some researchers believe that the antibiotics, by killing off other micro-organisms, give the golden staph a free field to multiply. Others say that hospitals in recent years have relied so heavily on the so-called miracle drugs to control infections that they have tended to become careless about old-fashioned sanitation.

For either or both of these reasons, golden staph germs have bred rapidly in hospitals. They are particularly menacing to newborn babies and their mothers, and to surgical patients.

The Public Health Service called experts from all parts of the nation to a conference on the problem in Atlanta, Ga., in mid-September.

There was general agreement that the golden staph has become a serious concern for virtually every hospital. One estimate given at the conference, and not challenged by any of the participants, was that 20 per cent of the newborn babies and five per cent of the surgical patients in the average hospital develop some kind of staph infection.

Can Be Serious
In many cases, the infection may be as minor as a boil. But sometimes it is more serious, leading to pneumonia and death. The most recent severe outbreak took place in a Houston, Tex., hospital early

this year. Of 261 patients who became infected, 22 died.

Following the Atlanta conference, the Public Health Service is now holding meetings with hospital officials, urging them to (1) cut down on unnecessary use of antibiotics; and (2) enforce sterner sanitation measures in all hospital operations, especially nurseries and surgery.

The problem is also being attacked on the research front. The National Institutes of Health, research arm of the Public Health Service, received a \$1,000,000 appropriation from the last session of Congress to press studies on the golden staph.

The institutes hope to answer through research such questions as how the golden staph evades antibiotic killers and whether new drugs or vaccines may be developed against it, and why some people seem to have a natural immunity to the germs.

Five, Dime Store Offers Selection

You may not find that "million dollar baby" (to quote an old song) in a "five and ten cents" store, and very few items for a nickel or a dime—but there are any number of under-a-dollar "good buys" to be found there.

Bulk candy, for instance, often the "old-fashioned kind" is wonderful to serve or cleverly packaged as a gift.

There are many toys for boys and girls that cost less than one dollar... and they are toys children will really like, too.

Desk items—memo books, papers, notebooks, pens, etc.—are all available for 99 cents or less!

Take a look through your favorite variety store... you may be amazed at how rapidly, inexpensively and perfectly you can check off the names on your gift list!

IMPROVES WITH AGE
London—UPI—Lord Boothby, making his maiden speech in the House of Lords Tuesday, said he had just read over the first speech he made in the House of Commons 35 years ago and couldn't understand it.

Thiokol, the first United States commercial rubber substitute, was introduced in 1926.

Scientific Age Seen in Miniature

From missile launching to space stations, the limitless future of our scientific age is reproduced in miniature for Christmas-giving.

It's the age of the junior scientist, and such subjects as chemistry, mineralogy, entomology, archeology, atomic energy, missile construction and ICBM launchings are featured in a variety of new play kits, designed to discover and develop the scientific aptitude of young Americans.

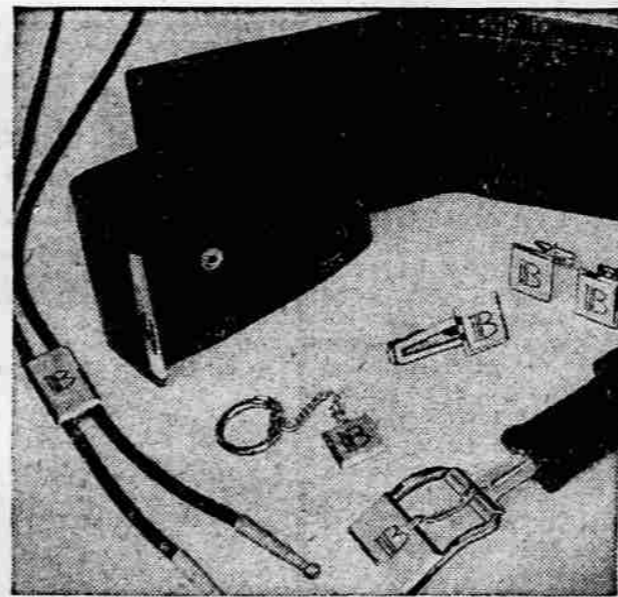
A portable junior planetarium projects 60 constellations and can be adjusted month by month to fit the changing pattern of the sky.

A space-station was designed by the noted scientist Werner Von Braun, and is an authentic replica of our projected bridge to outer space.

The topical problem of atomic waste is tackled with a miniature car modeled after the latest design approved by the AEC.

Even the traditional electric train sets have adjusted to the new era with a train accessory that reproduces rocket launching in exact detail.

For a "different" treatment for fairly large trees, spiral strings downward in smooth, evenly spaced (diagonal) lines.



THE PERSONAL TOUCH!—This Christmas the smartest men's accessories are matched 'n' mated! Wallets, belts, key rings, thong ties, as well as cuff link and tie-bar sets, are all coordinated and personalized. Give him two or three of these items, or a complete ensemble to start off the New Year with a well-dressed look!

SHIPPING TONNAGE UP

London—UPI—Lloyd's Register of Shipping said today that gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet now totals 118,034,000 tons. The 1958 increase was 7,788,000, a postwar record, said Lloyd's.

The Oberammergau Passion Play has been performed since the early 17th Century.

Nearly one-half of the 17 million inhabitants of Canada are of British stock, while about a third of them consist of the French-speaking descendants of the original French colonists.

South Dakota has an average of one teacher and one classroom for every elementary and secondary pupils.

Place Cards Add Real Party Touch

Place cards add a real party touch to your Christmas dinner. You don't have to expect a large crowd... they're fun to use, even for two.

Plan place cards to fit in with your other table decorations and for simplicity.

Easy and delightful... remove the ring from a tiny Christmas tree ball. Insert a small candle instead and print the name on the ball with paint or fingernail polish.

A "corker"... paint large corks green and decorate them with beads and sequins. Glue or straight pins will do the trick! Spray with glitter and then set large side down on top of a smaller brown cork... voila! you have a Christmas tree to attach the name-cards.

Inexpensive and gay... stuff in a fan-size red sock (you can buy in the variety store) so they will stand rather erect. Tie a ribbon and card to the sock and stand against the water tumblers.

Handsome... cut simple mitten shapes from a sheet of thick styrofoam. Tie a bright ribbon around mitten wrists and attach cards.

The drydock at the naval base in Esquimalt, B.C., was opened in 1887.



WOOL TIES—"Tie up" gift problems by giving the men on your list handsome wool challis ties such as the two shown here. Striped tie at left, in maroon and gray is right with blazer jackets. Foulard pattern, right, goes well with tweed striped jackets.

A pressure of eight to 10 pounds is required to break a normal egg. It requires 18 per cent more pressure to break an egg on the small end.

The country's pleasure boat fleet has nearly tripled in the last 10 years, with more than seven million pleasure craft now in use.

The Arctic is slowly warming up. The climate in some regions has moderated by about one degree Fahrenheit in ten years.



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A tip from Santa...

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