The Medical Roundup

by Walter Alvarez

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What Is a Normal Child?

Recently, Drs. R. Lapouse and M. A. Monk, of the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, reported a study of the behavior characteristics of 482 children, between the ages of six and 12 years, and with the sexes equally represented. The doctors were surprised to find how many of the children presented behavior which usually is supposed to be abnormal, and a sign of mental disease. I suspect that these findings will give some comfort to thousands of parents who are now worried–fearing that a child is "abnormal."

Dr Alvarez

The writers say that 17 per cent of the children were still wetting the bed; 28 per cent suffered from nightmares; 65 per cent showed signs of nervous tension, and 36 per cent wanted to eat either too much or too little. Twenty-seven per cent were nail-biters; the mothers thought that 49 per cent were over-active and into everything; 30 per cent seemed to be too restless; 4 per cent stuttered; 12 per cent had some kind of a tic or spasm of the face or shoulders, and half of the girls and a third of the boys suffered from fears and worries.

Now, the authors plan to keep in touch with these children to see what happens to them in later years. How often will the child outgrow these troubles?

Some Blinded Boxers Are Now Suing

I read that T. J. Nollet, former lightweight boxing champion of France is suing the French Boxing Federation for 50 million francs because, at 28, he is blind and old. He thinks that, somewhere along the way, the boxing federation should have told him to stop fighting. Similarly, Tino Cardinale is suing for 10 million francs because he lost one eye and has saved only a little of the vision in the other one.

These fighters suffered a detachment of the retina (the seeing membrane in the back of the eye). It is not surprising that, with the tremendous blows that these men receive, some of them lose their sight. Another boxer in France is suing a fight promoter because of the great brain injuries he has suffered.

It is estimated that 300 boxers have died in the ring in various countries, usually because of a hemorrhage into the brain. Many more have lived on for years, mentally and physically slowed-up. I have seen such punch-drunk men, shuffling around, prematurely aged, and unable to do any work because of the many small injuries suffered by their brains in many a fight.

I'll never forget my distress at seeing one of America's former great fighters, blind, and being led into the Mayo Clinic with the hope that something might be done to restore his sight.

An amateur boxer, when he realizes that his brain is being seriously injured by fighting will often quit, but a professional, who knows of no other way of earning a living, will often carry on until he is so slow that almost anyone can knock him out. I am old enough to remember when Jim Jeffries fought his last fight. He was so slowed-up, mentally and physically, that those at the ringside kept wondering if he was drunk or drugged or ill, or what.

Doubtless more often doctors ought to be stationed at ringsides with authority to stop fights in which a mismatched man is taking a terrible beating about the head.

Multiple Sclerosis

Sufferers of multiple sclerosis will be interested to know that in a recent communication, Dr. George E. Seiden, working under a grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (257 4th ave., New York 10, N.Y.) reported that very careful studies have failed to show any signs of a virus in the blood or spinal fluid of a number of the patients. As he points out, this work of his does not absolutely rule out the presence of a virus, because conceivably it could be in the blood only during certain stages of the disease.

A New and Very Powerful Morphine

I recently read that a new drug, labeled NIH 7519 has recently been synthesized. It is 10 times more powerful than morphine, and appears to have a much smaller tendency to produce addiction. It is 50 times more powerful than codeine. Already, the drug has been tested on more than 200 persons suffering from severe pain. The drug is being developed by Dr. Everette L. May in collaboration with Dr. Nathan B. Eddy and several drughouses. It is to be hoped (1) that further tests will reinforce the impressions that the doctors already have about this drug, and (2) that no bad or dangerous side-effects will show up.

Dr. Alvarez' new booklet on heart trouble may be obtained by sending 25 cents and a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

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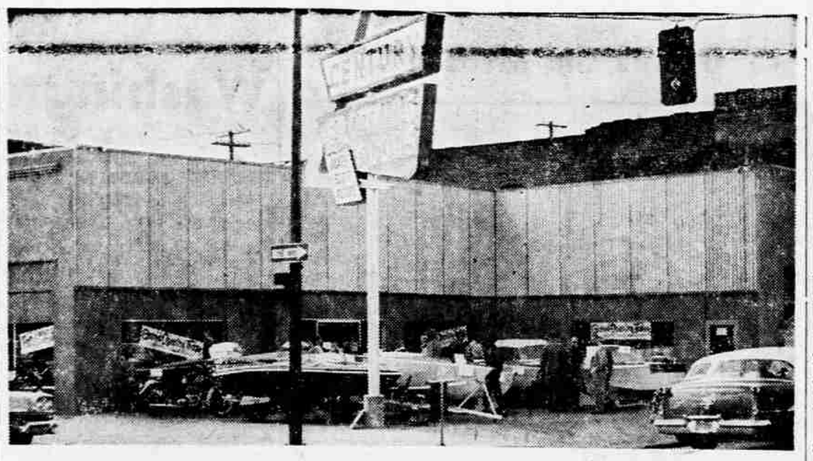

NEW STORE—Century Sporting Goods, Inc., opened last week at the corner of Eighth st. and Riverside ave., in the location formerly used by Older Tire Service. The area shown in front where boats have been displayed will be used for off-street parking, store officials said. The building was remodeled. Operating the store are E. E. McGrew, president, and H. A. (Mac) McCullough, manager.

Bump on Car Top Startles Driver

Santa Monica, Calif. – (UPI) – Reginald Hawkins, 58, said he was driving his car and minding his own business Thursday when "I felt a bump on the top of the car and saw an airplane skid off the hood."

A single-engine private plane, out of fuel, smacked onto the top of Hawkins' car as the pilot, his engine dead, tried to land on the street.

None of the four persons aboard the plane was injured nor was Hawkins. Said the motorist after the freak mishap: "First accident I've had in 35 years of driving."

Hubert Sharp Gets Science Scholarship

Corvallis — Hubert Sharp, teacher at Medford High school, will do advanced study next year at Oregon State college under a special National Science Foundation program grant.

The grant includes a $3,000 stipend, plus all tuition and fees, travel and book allowances, and dependent allowances in the case of married teachers.

Fifty high school science and mathematics teachers from across the country were named to study at Oregon State, one of the 16 colleges in the nation picked to start the science teacher training program three years ago. Next year, 32 colleges will offer the special work for the high school teachers.

The National Science Foundation launched the national program to "improve science teaching and to increase the U. S. supply of top quality scientists and engineers."

350,000 FOREIGN CARS

New York –(UPI)– Two out of every three cars imported into U.S. last year came from either Britain or West Germany. Imports amounted to 350,000 cars, of which 36 per cent came from Britain, 34 per cent from Germany and 18 per cent from France. Of the balance, Italy supplied 6 per cent and Sweden 4 per cent.

County Assessors Attend Short Course

Corvallis — More than 110 county assessors, deputy assessors and appraisers from every section of Oregon attended the fourth annual Oregon appraisal training short course last week at Oregon State college.

Attending from this area were Thad W. Hatten, chief personal appraiser; Ray J. Schumacher, assessor; Stewart M. Penington, chief land appraiser; and Chester H. Wendt, county commissioner, Medford; and Tom E. Hess, appraiser, Central Point.

The five-day course was started in 1956 under joint sponsorship of the state tax commission and the college to provide a continuing training program for appraisers and to help bring about greater uniformity in valuation of real property across Oregon.

The effects on downtown business property value of outlying city shopping centers that are building up in many Oregon cities came in for special study this year. Appraisal of livestock ranches was also emphasized.

HOW CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALS

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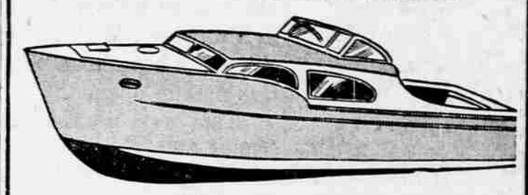

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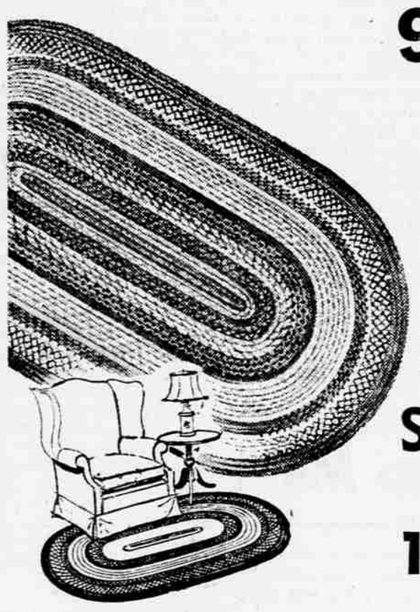

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