

Vitamin B-6 Found To Be Helpful in Inborn Error Case

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York—(UPI)—An exceedingly rare child has provided insight into the mysteries of human brain chemistry—much needed because errors in that chemistry may well be the cause of both mental deficiency and of schizophrenia, the mental disease which puts more victims into mental hospitals than all others combined.

This child, who now is six years old, has an inborn error in her brain chemistry. Four hours after birth she went into convulsions. The drugs which usually stop convulsions didn't stop hers, but they were stopped when one of the more obscure vitamins, vitamin B-6 or pyridoxine, was injected into her body.

Dependent Upon Vitamin B-6

Since she was two years old she has had no convulsions only because she has been given a relatively large dose of vitamin B-6 daily. She is wholly dependent upon an outside supply of the vitamin which makes her a rare human being. The chemistry of practically all people has no trouble extracting vitamin

B-6 from food or if the diet contains none, in making it. Aside from this inborn error and a decided mental deficiency, the child seems to be entirely normal physically. Whether the mental deficiency and the in-born error are connected, no one can say. The present state of knowledge of human brain chemistry leaves much to be desired. For that reason, this child's case is of prime scientific interest.

Five scientists of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., withheld vitamin B-6 from the little girl. Within 72 hours she began going into convulsions. These convulsions were stopped promptly by injections of the vitamin. Chemical measurements were made before, during, and after the convulsions.

The measurements were of blood flow through the brain; of the rate at which the brain tissue utilized the oxygen brought to it by the blood; of the differences between the oxygen in the blood entering the brain and the blood leaving the brain; of the ratio of use of the brain tissue gets from the breathing in and out of air, to total body utilization.

Provided Insight

There were marked differences in all these measurements during convulsions and before and after. But all but one were within the limit of

Ashland Groups Help Launch Drive To Raise Funds For High School Band

Ashland—Seeking to underwrite the cost of sending the Ashland High school band to the Portland Rose Festival, several local civic groups have joined forces to launch a "Rogue to Roses" money-seeking effort.

Climax of the campaign will be a varied benefit entertainment Saturday, April 18, at

deviations to be expected among people and the scientists said it "was difficult to draw conclusions from them." However, the one which was outside these limits, provided the much-needed insight.

That measurement showed a marked increase in the cerebral utilization of oxygen during seizure. Oxygen is the basis of energy and the added energy had no place to go except into convulsions. The scientists reasoned that vitamin B-6 controlled the chemical background of the brain which if it had been whole, would have governed as it does in normal brain chemistry.

Southern Oregon college. Total amount needed for the tour is \$2,410, but the band has raised \$300 and pledged an additional \$250, lowering the goal of the current ticket sale to \$1,860. The sum will finance the appearance of the band, five majorettes, and five flag girls in the Junior Rose Parade and the Grand Floral Parade, and will also make it possible for an Oregon Shakespearean Festival float to accompany the group in both parades.

Feature Performance

Saturday night's benefit will feature a performance of the melodrama, "He Ain't Done Right By Our Nell," staged by the SOC Players under the direction of Dorothy Stolp. Audience members will be encouraged to cheer the hero and hiss the villain.

Oleo acts, composed of can-can girls and a male quartet, will precede and follow each production of the melodrama, set for two showings at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. in Churchill hall auditorium.

Immediately after the first staging of the play, Ashland High school's dance band will provide music for a dance and box social arranged for a 9:30

p.m. start in the Britt Center ballroom. As traditionally, participants will vie for the ladies' attentions by bidding on the box lunches. Special prizes have also been arranged for winning bidders.

Tickets Available

Tickets may be obtained from members of the Rotary club, high school students, at the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, or from any member of the Band Boosters club. Those who plan to bid on the box lunches are asked to bring a box lunch to place on the auction block.

For the benefit of school children, a special matinee performance of the melodrama will be given Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Both the band and the Shakespearean Festival float will promote the attractions of Ashland and the Rogue valley. Since thousands of additional Centennial visitors are expected to launch their Oregon trip at the Portland Rose Festival, spokesman for the Ashland campaign indicate that an appearance by a local group would be of key importance in attracting new tourist visitors to southern Oregon.

Connie Nicholas Declared Guilty

Indianapolis, Ind.—(UPI)—An all-husband jury today convicted Mrs. Connie Nicholas of voluntary manslaughter for killing business executive Forrest Teel, her married lover of 15 years.

The verdict carried automatic punishment of two to 21 years in prison. The tiny divorcee will be eligible for a parole hearing in 21 months. Voluntary manslaughter is defined in Indiana as a slaying in passion, but without malice or premeditation.

The verdict was the lightest she could have got without acquittal.

Wall Street Chatter

New York—(UPI)—Walston & Company notes April 16 was the last day of the big income tax "bite" and says possibly the easing of this pressure of selling to raise tax money may put some "spring" in the spring rally.

the Near East oil situation and the coming conference in Geneva.

The Spear and Staff mining and metal stock letter says Hudson Bay, American Metal Climax, Island Creek Coal, New Jersey Zinc, Eagle Picher, Pittston, U. S. Smelting and South American Gold

and Platinum have been under selling pressure and could become "sales" for traders if the support zones under their current prices levels are violated by a significant margin.

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