

Complaint of Indigestion Can Cover Up Discovery of Cancer

Editor's note: This is the fourth of five dispatches in which a leading cancer expert tells Americans what they can and should do to guard themselves and their families against the disease which strikes two out of three U.S. families.

By DR. EUGENE P. PENDERGRASS
President of the American Cancer Society
(Written for UPI)

It may not be indigestion. Keep this thought in mind, and you will go far toward guarding yourself and your family against the cancers of the digestive tract which account for more than 35 per cent of all deaths from cancer. The ubiquitous word "indi-

gestion" covers a multitude of minor complaints. It can also cover a malignant tumor somewhere in the pathway of food through the body.

"Oh, it's nothing, just indigestion," or "dyspepsia" or "heartburn" or "gas" or "constipation." There you have the greatest collective excuse for procrastination in seeing the doctor. And procrastination is the greatest single factor in tragic waste of 75,000 lives yearly.

Story in Figures
Here is a dramatic story in figures: Of all patients who get stomach cancer not more than five or six per cent are

living and free of the disease five years later. Yet, treated when the tumor is quite small and before it has spread to the lymph nodes, five-year cures can be expected in more than half the cases.

The statistical story of cancer of the colon and rectum is not so grim, but the discrepancy between potential and actual cures is still tragic.

Almost half of the cancers of the colon occur in the rectum. This is reassuring, or should be, for 75 per cent of rectal tumors that were treated while the disease was limited to the mucous lining have been reported cured. Unfortunately, the disease isn't usually treated at this early stage so the cure rate drops to a shocking 25 per cent.

Changes in Habit

Tumors of the colon announce themselves with changes in bowel habits, gas discomfort, abdominal uneasiness, and irregular pain which soon assumes the rhythm of cramps. The tumors tend to ulcerate early, so bleeding may soon occur, too slight to be visible but readily detectable in the laboratory. And the steady loss of blood can add up to noticeable anemia: fatigue, shortness of breath and weakness. If anemia is confirmed, and there is no other cause for it, x-ray studies should be made of the colon.

With rectal tumors, the blood is visible soon after ulceration. A timely warning, and how often neglected? Especially by the patient with hemorrhoids. Doesn't everyone know they bleed? Of course. Isn't it a nuisance many people endure all their

lives? Again, of course.

Can Conceal Condition

But like that "indigestion," hemorrhoids can conceal a coincident condition of early cancer. So don't be content with home treatment, not until the doctor says the bleeding is not caused by a tumor.

Surgery, aided by x-rays and radium, is the only means of saving life from colonic

cancer known to science at the present time.

With cancer of the stomach, detection is much more difficult. Symptoms are very vague and often long in developing. We have already discussed the omnipresent excuse of "indigestion." Just let us add this warning: Don't take powders or pills and forget symptoms. Home measures

can stop signs of trouble — while the cancer goes on growing and spreading. Perhaps fatally.

Accounts for Mortality

The silent interval of stomach cancer before treatment is sometimes as much as 20 months, rarely less than six or eight.

This shocking delay accounts for much of the high

mortality of cancer of the stomach. You can guard yourself and your family by reducing it. The slightest sign of disorder that persists for two or three weeks is worth a security visit to the doctor. And an old complaint should be watched for possible changes.

It is up to you!
(Next: Cancer in Children.)

TOO MANY CURVES

Joao Pessau, Brazil—UPI—The local civil service commission has issued an order it said was designed to cut down on loiterers and sight-seers in government offices. It directs girl employees not to come to work in low-cut blouses or skirts that are cut to "enhance the exuberance of curves."

PROFESSOR DIES

New York—UPI—Dr. Helen Huss Parkhurst, 71, professor emerita of history at Barnard college, died Tuesday.

AGREES TO MOVIE

Athens, Greece—UPI—Lt. Gen. George Grivas has agreed on a Hollywood movie treatment of his role as leader of the Greek Cypriot Eoka underground movement, providing he can approve the script, informed sources said today.

W. T. "Bill" Fasel

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Patient-Doctor Tie Important in Therapy for Cancer

Hot Springs, Va. (Science Service)—The relationship between the physician and the patient undergoing radiation treatment for cancer is an essential factor in the end result.

The quality of the physician-patient cooperation often determines the degree of success or failure, Dr. Howard H. Ashbury, Staunton, Va., told physicians at the annual meeting of the American Radium Society here.

"Such a relation is psychologically complex," he said, "in that the participants are equally dependent upon each other. Not only does the patient need healing, but the physician needs to heal the patient, and a successful resolution of the treatment situation brings mutual rewards to both."

One especially important point the physician must realize, Dr. Ashbury said, is that "there is a discrepancy between what the patient expects and what the doctor can accomplish which is unavoidable in our present state of knowledge."

Ideal Mother Declared Myth By Psychologist

Washington—(Science Service)—The ideal mother is a myth, Dr. Gardner Murphy, psychologist of the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kan., has assured the Family Service Association of America here.

A mother may be all the things expected of her and still not meet the individual needs of her own child.

These are some of the things expected of the "ideal" mother: She must be warm, strong, direct; she must enjoy her femininity and her motherhood; she must give affection and support; she must protect her children; she must be firm but not overbearing, tender but not mawkish; and she must be a stimulus and support to the child's growth and his ultimate achievement of independence.

Tenderness Rejected
Research in Topeka on the problems of children who are growing up revealed that this long list does not take into account the individual differences of children.

The researchers found an affectionate, tender mother whose little boy was a young roughneck. He did not want to be treated tenderly but was eager to bounce and jounce and from his first months had "a puppy-like need for energetic activity."

In another case, the mother, a strong, vigorous person had a little son who had a need for sensitivity and tenderness which she was unable to fill. Another child demanded a storytime hour which was boring to his active mother.

"Like all human relationships, the family relationships are intensely individualized," Dr. Murphy said.

Reaction To Penicillin Curbed

San Francisco—(Science Service)—Persons who have an allergic reaction to penicillin may now be helped by a new drug that curbs such reactions.

At least five to ten out of every 100 Americans have an allergic reaction to penicillin, a drug second only to aspirin in daily use. Symptoms include hives, swelling, fever and exhaustion.

Dr. William Strauss of New York City told the American Academy of General Practice's Scientific Assembly here that the new drug is effective in 93 per cent of the reaction cases. The drug is marketed under the trade name, Neutrapen.

The number of persons allergic to penicillin is increasing from one to two per cent each year, Dr. Strauss reported, due to widespread medicinal use and increased exposure to non-therapeutic sources of penicillin.

THE SHRINKING DOLLAR

New York—UPI—A worker who made \$5,000 in 1939 must earn \$12,113 in 1959 to get the equivalent amount of purchasing power, the National Industrial Conference Board said Tuesday.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION AND MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in compliance with Sec. 331.010, ORS, to the legal voters of School District No. 4, of Jackson County, State of Oregon, that the ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION of said District will be held at Prospect High School, Medford, Oregon, on the first Monday of May, being the 4th day of May, A.D. 1959, for the purpose of electing one Director for five year term.

Dated this 13th day of April, 1959.
Frank Boothby
Chairman Board of Directors
ATTEST:
Faye Orgain
District Clerk

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION AND MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in compliance with Sec. 331.010, ORS, to the legal voters of School District No. 4, of Jackson County, State of Oregon, that the ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION of said District will be held at Grade School 22nd, between the hours of 2 P.M. and 8 P.M. on the first Monday of May, being the 4th day of May, A.D. 1959, for the purpose of electing one Director for five year term.

Dated this 13th day of April, 1959.
Allen Harris
Chairman Board of Directors
ATTEST:
Florence Drake
District Clerk

No. 10253
NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR JACKSON COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of LACLEDE JONES, Deceased.
NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned Administratrix of the above entitled estate has filed herein her Final Report and Account, and that Monday, April 20, 1959, at 9:30 o'clock A.M., at the Courtroom in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, has been fixed by the above entitled Court, as the time and place for hearing objections to said Final Report and Account and for the examination and allowance thereof.

Dated and first published March 26, 1959.

BON NELL WALKER, Administratrix
NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT
No. 10324
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF JACKSON

In the Matter of the Estate of GORDON M. COFFEE, Deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the Final Account of Mabel L. Coffeen as Administratrix of the above-named estate, has been filed herein and that 10:00 o'clock a.m. on May 11, 1959, in the Courtroom of the above Court in the Courthouse in Medford, Oregon, has been appointed as the time and place for hearing objections to such Final Account and settlement thereof.

Dated and first published April 16, 1959.

Mabel L. Coffeen, Administratrix
Van Dyke, Dellenback & McGowan
Attorneys for Administratrix

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14-qt. **98^c**

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