

Child Can Become Addicted To Dope Prior To Birth

New York (Science Service) A child can become a dope addict before he is born if his mother take narcotics during her pregnancy, three New York pediatricians report here.

The problem of addiction in the newborn infant may multiply in the near future due to the increasing trend in drug addiction, Drs. Ralph W. Corbrink, R. Thornton Hood Jr., and Emanuel Chusid, all of the New York Medical college, explained.

The three investigators studied 22 newborn infants whose mothers were addicts plus a review of the literature of the narcotics problem in the newborn since 1875.

Their conclusions were that: 1. Infants exhibit narcotic addiction by presenting difficulty in feeding, vomiting and diarrhea, yawning, sneezing and fever. The severity of these symptoms appeared to depend upon how much of the narcotic was taken by the mother and her method of taking it.

2. Paragoric, phenobarbital, chlorpromazine, calcium and reserpine were used in treating the infants. The most effective results were obtained with paragoric and chlorpromazine in diminishing amounts. Too rapid or too sudden a reduction of the dose only brought the infant back to its condition at birth.

3. A review of the literature revealed that one mother who took a large daily dose of morphine, 600 mgs, delivered a normal infant. One of the 22 mothers studied took less but had an addicted infant at birth. Therefore, each mother's ability to addict her unborn child is an individual case.

4. Among those infants addicted through their mothers, 37 received no therapy. Of these, 33 died, the doctors report in their review of available literature.

Many doctors appear to agree that if the addicted pregnant woman is not seen until her seventh month of pregnancy, there should be no attempt to withdraw her from the drug until two months after the birth of the baby. The three investigators point out that since they have obtained excellent results with proper care of the newborn, there is little reason to jeopardize the pregnancy by treating the mother severely. Their report appears in the journal Pediatrics (Aug.).

Combat Pilots May Be Guided by TV

Paramus, N. J. — (Science Service) — Combat pilots may soon be guided by airborne television sets as they fly towards their objectives. The television sets will show the plane's changing position and the objective superimposed upon a map of the underlying terrain. The pilot will simply "fly" the image of his plane on the television screen directly to his target. The closed circuit television sets are being developed by the Avion Division of ACF Industries here for the Army-Navy Instrument Program.



COMFORTS INJURED MOTHER—Weeping Paula Anne Petrolito, 7, tries to comfort her mother, Mrs. Celia Petrolito, one of nine persons injured in four-car collision on Long Island Expressway at Maspeth, N. Y.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

The Lookdown Fish Have High Foreheads

If an exceedingly high forehead is one of the important criteria of a superior intelligence, then the "look-down" fish should be an outstanding genius. Having one's entire front end developed into such a high forehead would seem to be a definite handicap, especially when one must live among the pitifully illiterate where the lookdown must necessarily live.

His entire front end is forehead. And he's just as unusual in many other ways, too. His body shape is moon-like. Viewed from the side he's almost as round as the full moon. Viewed from directly in front or straight from the rear, he has about the thickness of a piece of plywood.

Seldom, if ever does the lookdown fish exceed 12 inches in length, and the body diameter from top to bottom, or from tail to head, is just about the same. If you watched one of these fish passing by it would be conspicuous, but coming directly toward you, or going straight away from you, its extreme thinness becomes actually startling.

Usually they are highly and brightly colored. Some have a mother-of-pearl finish that glistens and sparkles like a great, flat jewel. The colors are rich and lustrous, resplendent in rich purples, yellows and various shades of blue. To make them even more ornate than most fish, Mother Nature decorated these spiny-rayed fish with long, filmy filaments that stream out from the ventral fins like gaudy streamers. Frequently the dorsal fin high up on the fish's back is also produced into silky filaments that wave like banners in the water as the fish swims.

One close relative of the lookdown fish, the so-called threadfish, has its dorsal filaments developed into exceedingly long, tread-like processes. Another member of the group, the true moonfish, whose forehead carries a pronounced bump which saved his countenance from being all forehead, probably knows just as much as the look-down,

but lacks the stupid looking front end.

Nearly Transparent The very young of the moonfish, which of course includes the look-down and the threadfish, are nearly transparent. Held over a white sheet of paper, under a strong light, the internal organs become visible. As the little fish develops, the long filaments become shorter, until at adulthood the fish may be entirely free of the thread-like "streamers."

Just what the function of these thread-like filaments is has never been established, unless they resemble sea weeds enough to fool predator fish. It is known that the young of the moonfish hide in sea weed for the early part of their life.

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Cows' Mastitis Human Problem

Washington (Science Service)—Steps are being taken to reduce the amount of penicillin found in milk.

The most recent survey of the nation's milk shows the amount of the antibiotic is down to approximately the same levels reported back in 1954.

Food and Drug Administration officials, concerned over the health problem in which one in ten persons is highly sensitive to penicillin, are studying ways to further reduce the contamination.

The penicillin gets into the milk when cows are treated for mastitis, a costly cattle disease. Dairy men are warned to wait 72 hours—by which time the penicillin is eliminated—before marketing milk from doctored cows. Additional warnings to abide by this waiting period and a reduction in the penicillin dose are credited with bringing the percentage of contaminated milk down to 3.7. The previous high was 11.6 per cent in 1955.

Discovery of a marker compound that would be added to penicillin, indicating its presence in milk, would help solve this public health problem, Dr. William R. Jester of the FDA said.

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

New York (UPI) — American smokers use about 96 per cent of all U.S. tobacco output, while the remaining 4 per cent is accounted for by commercial exports, industry sources say.

PUGS IN "FINE SHAPE" Philadelphia — (UPI) — Unbeaten Von Clay of Philadelphia and fourth-ranked light heavyweight Sonny Ray of Chicago were pronounced in "fine shape" by Dr. Alfred Ayella Monday for the nationally televised bout Friday night.

Catch-all Pockets



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by Alice Brooks

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Cloud of Comets Surrounds Sun

Cambridge, Mass. (Science Service)—The sun is surrounded by a large cloud of comets, most of them at such vast distances they are invisible from earth.

These comets may have been formed at the same time as other members of the sun's system from the original gaseous cloud, and with further growth might have become asteroids or even planets. Thus studies of comets can provide much insight into the origin of the solar system.

Comets have very low temperatures. They are believed to be composed of icy mixtures of frozen matter. Even when comets approach relatively close to the sun, they remain extremely cold. Their temperatures then reach only to about 190 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, due to the cooling effect when the comet's volatile gases are released by solar heating, Dr. Bertram Donn of Wayne State University, Detroit, has calculated.

Because comets are so cold throughout their lifetimes, they probably have not undergone any extensive chemical changes since their formation from the original solar nebula.



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"Alex Olmedo: While Critics Cry, He Wins"

by Ed Fitzgerald

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August 23

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