

Reluctance to Discuss 'Social Diseases' Worries Authorities

Portland — A carry-over of the Victorian age, reluctance to discuss "social diseases," has Oregon health authorities worried.

Dr. Richard H. Wilcox, state health officer, said this week that state health officials are "very concerned" about a 70 per cent increase in Oregon venereal disease case reports since 1955.

They are even more worried, he admitted, by an alleged failure of many people to face up to the fact that "venereal disease cases come from virtually all socio-economic levels, and the problem is thus one which the community as a whole must frankly recognize before it can be defeated."

Total Higher

The health officer pointed out that 224 Oregon youngsters under the age of 20 — 11 of them not yet 15 years old — were reported as venereal disease victims last year alone. Another 261 had not yet reached the age of 25.

What alarms the public health authorities most is that last year's VD total among the children and young adults was three times higher than the number reported in 1955.

Most of the increase is in gonorrhea, scorned by many people as a defeated disease shortly after penicillin came into widespread use about the end of World War II.

This popular belief, Dr. Wilcox said, seemed to be borne out by State Board of Health

statistics for 11 years. Oregon VD reports declined steadily from an all-time high of 5,315 cases in 1944 to 1,085 in 1955.

Since then, however, the trend has been reversed. Incidence rose slightly to 1,092 cases the following year, jumped to 1,209 in 1957, increased almost a quarter to 1,636 in 1958, and reached 1,777 cases last year.

The 1959 total was highest in Oregon since 1948, Dr. Wilcox said.

Case-Finding Projects

Part of the increase, he admitted, "probably" can be attributed to intensified case-finding projects launched by state and local health departments because of their belief that some of the 11-year decline was artificial.

It was indicated that such artificial declines could result from lack of case reports from physicians, or from failure of victims to seek treatment, or both.

A large part of the increase, however, is real, according to the health officer. Three reasons are given: promiscuity, failure of victims to obtain prompt treatment before passing their disease on to others, to continue treatment until cured.

Another facet of the problem which has given an uneasy feeling to health authorities is the possibility that penicillin may be losing its effectiveness in controlling gonorrhea.

Although Dr. Wilcox said

there is no proof yet this has happened in Oregon, health officials throughout the world have indicated some gonorrhea organisms may be developing resistance because of the widespread use of penicillin for other diseases.

Could Develop Resistance

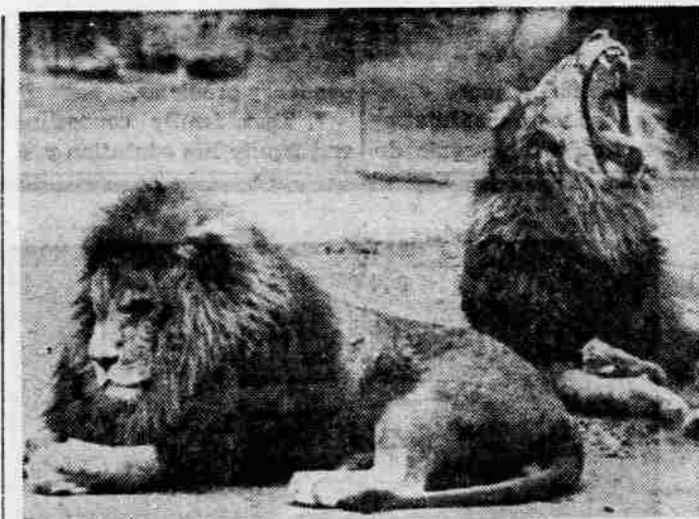
If gonorrhea germs were in the body, and survived the onslaught of inadequate dosages of penicillin, they could develop such resistance. This has happened already to some other germs, such as certain strains of staphylococcus, Dr. Wilcox said.

About 90 per cent of the Oregon gonorrhea cases last year were persons under 40 years of age.

Cases are usually found by one of four methods: the victim may go to a private physician for a routine check-up or because he suspects VD; he may be located as a result of health department follow-up of a known case; he may be found to have VD during a routine institutional admission examination; or the case may be detected as a result of Oregon's premarital or prenatal blood test program.

Budget Limited

The State Board of Health budget is too limited to permit employment of venereal disease investigators, but Dr. Wilcox said the state "fortunately" has been able to obtain the loan of two of these specialists from the U.S. public health service.



A BEASTLY BORE—Perhaps it is just a beastly bore so the photographer caught just that as the inhabitants of the lion colony at Fleishacker Zoo in San Francisco enjoy the spring weather. With nothing to do but look attractive, these lions felt a bit social, with their winter manners showing. —(UPI Telephoto)



'CUBS' ON THE JOB—Two "cub" reporters prepare a stinging editorial in the game department office at Seattle. The cubs were found in a hollow tree by loggers near Shelton, Wash., and were turned over to the Woodland Park Zoo. The cubs' complaints seemed to be satisfied after a warm meal. —(UPI Telephoto)

Venereal Disease Rates Said Rising Among Teen-Agers

Washington —(UPI)—Venereal disease rates are rising among America's teen-age children.

That ominous report comes from the American Social Health association, leading private organization in the fight against VD.

Contrary to widespread popular impression, the association says, VD has not been "brought under control." It still is an extremely serious health problem, especially among young people.

During 1958, the most recent year for which detailed figures are available, the number of syphilis and gonorrhea cases reported among children 10 to 14 years old rose 14 per cent. There was a rise of 11 per cent in VD cases reported among young people in the 15 to 19 age group.

Incidence Rising

Spot checks indicate that VD incidence still is rising in both age groups, officials said.

They estimated that about 1,000,000 cases of gonorrhea and 60,000 new cases of syphilis occur in the United States each year. Only one-fourth of these are officially reported to health authorities.

Many cases go untreated and the disappearance of superficial symptoms deludes victims into thinking they have recovered. Actually, the disease may have entered a dangerous "latent" stage, from which it will emerge years

later with crippling physical and mental deterioration.

Penicillin therapy is highly effective in treatment of venereal disease — provided the case is brought to medical attention during its early, contagious stage.

T. L. Richman, associate executive director of the association, said the rise in VD among teen-agers is associated with "increasingly casual sex relationships."

The trend toward greater sexual promiscuity also is reflected in a sharply rising number of illegitimate births, he noted.

Found in All Groups

Promiscuity and its attendant hazards of venereal disease and illegitimacy are found in all social and economic groups. But the problem is most severe in areas which also have the highest rates of juvenile crime — namely, the overcrowded city slums where young people grow up with a minimum of family guidance and a maximum of temptation.

The association believes the problem must be tackled at its roots, through strengthened church and community services to young people, better sex education programs in schools, and other long-term effort, to relieve the "social maladjustment" which breeds delinquency.

In the meantime, the asso-

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Thursday, March 24, 1960

TORCHY OREGON'S LAMP OF LEARNING

PREPARED BY OREGON STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION



ciation urges a vigorous revival of the "fight VD" campaign which brought a sharp decline in syphilis and gonorrhea cases during and immediately after World War II. It is particularly distressed

by the Eisenhower administration's recommendation to Congress that funds for the national venereal disease control program be reduced from \$5,400,000 to \$4,700,000 a year.

SEARS ROEBUCK AND CO.

ALL WOOL TEXTURED TWEED Broadloom Carpeting

Completely installed by Sears expert craftsman... Save 60.40 on the average 40 sq. yd. home.

BEAUTIFUL MODERN ALL WOOL TEXTURED TWEED CARPET

Luxurious Dense Surface In Choice of Two Plains and Three Tweeds in Today's Color Demand

3 DAYS ONLY 779

SQ. YD. INCLUDES REG. PAD AND INSTALLATION

NO MONEY DOWN

PAY ONLY \$10.00 PER MONTH ON A 40 SQ. YD. HOME

PHONE SP 3-6661 For FREE MEASURING and ESTIMATES No Obligation, of Course

COMPLETELY INSTALLED ROOM SIZE EXAMPLES ... SAVE

11'2" x 12'4"	\$128.08 — SAVE \$26.12	11'9" x 16'2"	\$167.89 — SAVE \$34.24
11'5" x 13'3"	137.61 — SAVE 28.09	11'11" x 17'7"	182.61 — SAVE 37.25
11'7" x 15'1"	156.66 — SAVE 31.97	12' x 18'	186.96 — SAVE 38.16



Custom-made draperies to accent or cover wall to wall in glamorous

MURAL PANELS CUSTOM STYLED AT 25% SAVINGS

Each design is so beautiful it deserves to be framed and set off like a piece of art. Use them as sharp accent center panels with matching plain fabrics in rayon and acetate. Set them to the side of a large window treatment for real drama.

PHONE SP 3-6661 FOR FREE HOME DECORATOR SERVICE. FREE MEASURING AND ESTIMATES — NO OBLIGATION



Meteor Portable TV For Low Cost Family Entertainment

REG. \$119.95

There's a world of entertainment waiting for your family... enjoy sharp image pictures, clear sound. Side controls, removable safety glass.

99⁸⁸ \$5 DOWN DELIVERS

dramatic Danish lines... in deep rich walnut

big storage 3-piece bedroom suite

SAVE 30⁹⁵ \$ **169**

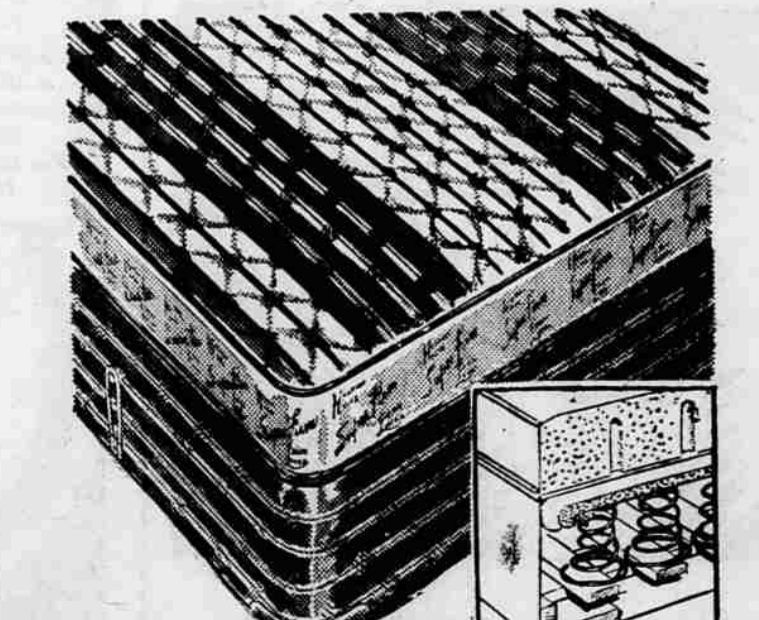
regular 199.95

6-drawer double dresser, 4-drawer chest, bookcase bed

So clean, so simple in line you'd never guess at all the storage! Ten drawers in all, fully dustproof and dovetailed. Crafted with infinite care in silken walnut veneers over solid hardwood. Includes framed plate glass mirror.

add correlated pieces for round the room storage

\$128 9-drawer dresser \$110 \$49 bachelor chest...\$44 \$49 corner unit.....\$39 \$49 nightstand \$19.88 \$39.95 panel bed \$34.88



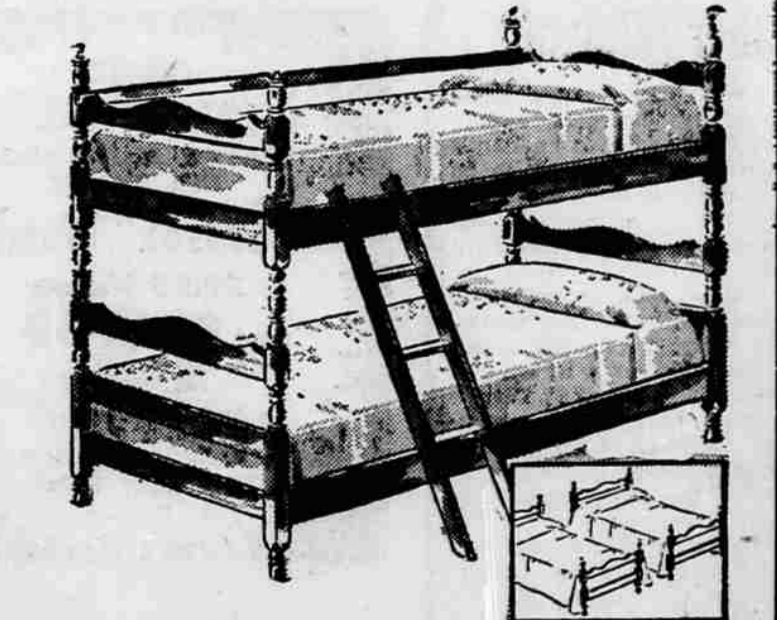
Save \$20! Full 4 Inch Foam Latex Mattress Plus 312 Coil Box Spring

REG. \$139.95

Buoyant support with medium firm foam mattress. Rayon damask cover. Reg. \$119.95.

119⁸⁸ \$5 DOWN DELIVERS

Twin Combination \$109.88



Save 7.07. Versatile Maple Bunk Beds... Or Use As Twin Beds

REGULAR \$49.95

Top quality bed has solid maple ends and posts. Side rails held by six lock-in slats for added safety. Complete with ladder and guard rail. Set as above plus 2 innerspring "bunkie" mattress units. Reg. 119.95...106.88

42⁸⁸ \$5 DOWN DELIVERS