

# The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

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## Influence of Heredity On Tennyson

I recently read the interesting story of the ill health of Alfred Lord Tennyson, who throughout his long life kept going into depression. He was the fourth of 12 children. His father, a scholar but a temperamental minister, suffered from moods of deep depression. In them he would take to drink, and would become violent. In school, Alfred and his two older brothers were brilliant. All three could write good poetry. One of them, Charles, became addicted to opium. Among the younger brothers, Edward was soon committed to a mental hospital. Arthur had to be treated for alcoholism, and Septimus was depressed. When Arthur Hallam died, Alfred became depressed and suicidal. For a while, he drank heavily. His sister also went into a nervous breakdown. After losing all of his money, Alfred spent more than a year in a hospital with constant panics and horrors. Throughout the rest of his life, "he had frequent plunges into deep melancholia."



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One would think that mental disease appearing in six out of 12 of the children of an alcoholic and violent father would suggest that heredity is an important factor in producing psychoses, but today the taboo against such an obvious conclusion is very strong. Psychiatrists usually assure me that in these cases the home environment just must have been bad. My answer to that is to ask why, then, did half of the children escape its influence? They remained perfectly sane. The answer some psychiatrists give to this is that the father and mother must early have decided to ruin the minds of one or two of their children! I once had a professor of psychiatry tell me this about a family of four children of an eminent man when, early in life, the eldest child went insane. The psychiatrist's conviction that the parents had planned to ruin this child did not seem logical to me. It seemed entirely disproven when, later, two more of the children cracked up mentally. My impression was that three out of four of the children had gone insane because both of their parents showed a mild

form of a psychosis that had shown up here and there in the grandparents and great uncles and aunts.

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

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## 34 Disease Cases Reported Last Week

A total of 34 communicable diseases were reported in Jackson county last week, according to Dr. C. I. Drummond, public health physician. Medford reported 14 cases of measles, while Central Point had 4, Shady Cove 3 and Phoenix 1.

Other cases reported included pneumonia, Medford 1; chicken pox, Medford 1; rheumatic fever, Medford 1; mumps, Medford and Ashland 1; meningococci meningitis, Ashland 1; influenza, Medford 4; German measles, Central Point 1; and whooping cough, Medford 1.

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by Alice Brooks

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## One Injured in One of Four Auto Accidents Friday

One person was injured in one of four accidents occurring Friday as the July 4 holiday week, and got under way, state police reported.

Kathleen Houston, 17, Trail, was reported in fair condition Saturday in Rogue Valley hospital. She was being injured for head and back injuries following a Jeep accident on the Tiller-Trail highway. She was taken to the hospital by Medford Ambulance service.

State police said the accident occurred about 11 a.m. Friday about a half mile up the Tiller-Trail highway. The Jeep went over a bank and onto some rocks, the ambulance service attendant said. The girl is the daughter of Orage Houston, Trail.

About 3:30 p.m. Friday, a station wagon driven by Benjamin William Ziegler, 54, of Albany, Ore., struck a boat and trailer near Miller's Gulch bridge north of Gold Hill.

State police said Raymond Earl Finley, 40, Crescent City, Calif., towing the boat on the trailer, started to pull onto the shoulder as two other vehicles stopped in front of him on Highway 99. The Ziegler car collided with the boat and trailer.

State police informed Ziegler that he would be charged in Gold Hill justice of the peace court with following too close.

## Highway 99 Mishap

Another accident occurred about 4 p.m. on Highway 99 opposite Bear Creek Orchards parking lot. Although none of the three cars involved touched, the incident caused one to drive into the highway ditch and up against a fence to avoid collision, state police said.

Cars involved were driven by Stephen Newman Blackmore, 51, Cave Junction, Richard Raymond Lowry, 51, Prospect, and Janet Louise Martin, 28, of 482 Walker ave., Ashland. The Lowry car pulled to the right to avoid collision and the Martin car was forced into the ditch to avoid collision.

State police informed Blackmore he would be charged in district court with failure to yield right of way.

Another accident Friday occurred on Crater Lake highway near Four Corners, state police said, about 6:30 p.m. David Marion Chandler, 49, Prospect, was traveling north on the highway when he attempted to overtake and pass three other northbound vehicles, state police said. One was making a left turn into a private driveway, and Chandler drove into the ditch to avoid collision.

## Bank Debits in Area Show Slight Decline

Eugene—Bank debits for Curry, Jackson and Josephine counties decreased by 1.2 per cent in May compared to April, and increased by 1 per cent over a year ago, according to the University of Oregon.

Debits for May totaled \$91,564,868; for April, 1960, the total was \$92,705,353; and for May, 1959, the total was \$91,436,318.

Bank debits represent the dollar value of checks drawn against the deposit accounts of individuals and business firms. Bank debits are considered good indicators of current business activity. Each month the bureau of business research at the University of Oregon collects data on bank debits from Oregon banks and branches.



MOVE OVER, ROVER—Jerry Heater of Indianapolis takes his dog, Hamlet, to work with him each day, but it's a struggle. His sports car gets more cramped as Hamlet keeps growing. So far, Heater has managed to retain part of the driver's seat as his own. (UPI Telephoto)

## 'Rescue Breathing' Planned for Show

"Rescue Breathing," a film showing the enactment of step-by-step procedures in saving lives, will be featured on the Jackson County Tuberculosis and Health Association's television program at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The bi-weekly program, presented by the association in cooperation with the Jackson County Medical Society and the television station, is based on presenting authoritative health education.

Mrs. C. Ivan Burton, moderator of the health series known as "Adventures in Medicine," pointed out that the film has been called the most important safety film ever released. It is so simple that even a child can learn to save a life through the film, she emphasized.

In "Rescue Breathing" mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is demonstrated—a method of artificial respiration now recognized as the most successful and satisfactory. It has been officially adopted by rescue, medical, health and safety organizations for emergency use in reviving suffocation victims of all ages, and is said to be taught and practiced by all branches of the armed forces.

This safety film has been literally hailed by the American Medical Association journal as having "unequivocal superiority over all manual methods in all age groups." It has been officially approved and endorsed as a teaching film by the New York Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

In telling of the film, Mrs. Burton stated that it was produced locally by the California Oregon Power company for use on television. Mrs. Burton will introduce the film.

## COUNSEL DIES

Clifton Springs, N. Y.—C. Lloyd Fisher, 63, associate defense counsel for Bruno Richard Hauptmann in the Lindbergh kidnap-murder trial in 1936, died Thursday.

## Number of Physically Handicapped Employed By VA Shows Increase

The Veterans administration, as of last October, employed 9,280 physically handicapped persons, an increase of about 853 more than on the same date in 1958. Henry C. Herzog, manager of the VA Domiciliary, White City, has announced.

Approximately 6.2 per cent of the full time employees at the VA were physically handicapped. This, Herzog continued, represents a ratio of one full-time handicapped employee to every 17 full-time "non-handicapped" employees.

In order for federal agencies to determine who is being considered physically handicapped, the civil service commission has set up major categories of disabilities. Included are disabilities from deformity of limbs, arrested pulmonary tuberculosis, amputations, compensated organic heart diseases, blindness in one eye, deafness, and total blindness.

Three new divisions for reporting have been established for this year's report, Herzog noted.

They are controlled diabetes, adequately controlled epilepsy, and persons with histories of emotional or behavior problems requiring special placement efforts.

The Veterans administration has, with few exceptions, had physically handicapped employees in all categories of physical disabilities. Exceptions are in the department of

insurance reports where no employees are industrially or totally blind, and the central office where no employees are deaf, according to the administration.

Largest Number  
Disabilities and deformities of limbs and body is the category which contains the largest number of our physically handicapped employees, Herzog noted. Almost one-third of the VA handicapped employees are in that group, he added.

The administration said that handicapped people are utilized in all fields of employment with heaviest placements being made to the positions of nursing assistant, food service workers, physicians, laborers, clerical positions, nurses, fiscal operations, supply, contact representatives, therapists, radiology technicians, adjudicators, and attorneys.

Herzog said the care and rehabilitation of the physically handicapped is their business



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