

Flu Vaccination Urged for Aged, Chronically Ill

Washington - (Science Service) - Protection from influenza for the aged and chronically ill through immediate vaccination is urged by the Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Influenza Research.

Although the National Office of Vital Statistics has not yet reported an influenza outbreak this year, Asian flu accounted for some 86,000 excess deaths in three epidemic waves in 1947-1948 and again in the early winter months of 1950. Almost 60,000 excess deaths were recorded in the six-month period from October to March, 1947-1948. The 1950 epidemic caused an excess of over 28,000 deaths.

May Threaten Lives

Routine immunization is recommended for all persons 65 years of age or older, for pregnant women, for patients of all ages who suffer from heart, lung, kidney or metabolic disorders.

The Public Health Service says that although influenza may not be more likely to attack persons in these groups than others, it is more likely to threaten their lives. Bacterial complications are more frequent in patients with cardiovascular, kidney and pulmonary disease, and influenza virus causes severe stress on heart and lung functions.

The adult dosage recommended by PHS of the commercial influenza vaccine is a single injection into the arm, which is a killed virus preparation made up of different strains, is one cubic centimeter injected under the skin on two occasions two or three months apart.

Early Vaccination

Since the typical flu "season" begins in November, extending through February or March, the Public Health Service advises early vaccination. Each fall prior to Nov. 1, booster shots should be given.

There is only one word of warning on the allergy reactions to be expected. The vaccine is produced in eggs, so the Advisory Committee has advised against vaccination for persons unable to eat eggs or chicken because of food allergy, or for those who have had a definite allergic reaction on previous inoculation of an egg vaccine.

Plastic Chamber Found To Reduce Germ Infection

San Francisco (Science Service)—A germ-free plastic chamber, called "islator," has proved effective in reducing number of wound infections that occur in operations.

Surgeons from Walter Reed Army Medical Center have performed surgery on animals placed in the islator in such a way that the wound and underlying tissues are completely sealed off from the surgical environment. Even the surgeon and the patient are isolated by this new method.

Contains Instruments

Long-sleeved plastic gloves enable the surgeon to reach into the islator, which also contains both instruments and supplies.

The islator may be sterilized with ethylene oxide or by steam under pressure. "Depending upon the type of plastic used," the Walter Reed center reported to the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons meeting here.

Another feature of the chamber is that it is disposable.

The surgeon's incision is made through the flexible plastic, glued firmly to the skin. All germs are thereby excluded since only the wound and underlying tissues come into contact with the islator's interior sterile environment.

Ready for Trial

Dr. Stanley M. Levenson, P. C. Trexler, Dr. Ole J. Malm, Dr. Richard E. Horowitz and Dr. William H. Moeckel of Walter Reed, who reported on the surgical technique here, said that it is ready for trial on patients.

It will be particularly useful for the isolation of patients particularly susceptible to infections, such as patients exposed to serious whole body irradiation, and for patients who have serious infections.

Protects Children

Rosnoke, Va.—"There's only one trouble with Smokey," says Carlton Coleman, a blind veteran, who was furnished with his leader dog by the Veterans Administration. "I have to tie him up before I can spank one of my four children."

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Stanford Opens American College Campus in France

Tours, France—(AP)—California's Stanford University opened the first American college campus in France with 80 students who will realize an ambition "to travel and study abroad."

Dr. J. E. Wallace Sterling, president of the Palo Alto, Calif., university, said the opportunity for a foreign sojourn to learning "has long been a part... of liberal education."

"Stanford's overseas study program is, therefore, in accord with a noble tradition," Sterling said in an address at the opening ceremonies.

The students, selected from 600 prospective American students who applied for the program, joined some 200 other Stanford undergraduates who will spend six months of study on similar campuses in Stuttgart, Germany, and Florence, Italy. The emphasis in their education here will be on culture and languages.

Will Remove Prejudices

Sterling was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Emory Houghton on the ceremonial visit. Houghton told the students that "these personal contacts will contribute to removing the prejudices which are too often found on the two sides of the Atlantic."

He also said it would aid in gradually increasing understanding between Frenchman and American.

The students who will study here, both men and women, arrived two weeks ago. They are housed in modern, newly built buildings which serve as dormitories and quarters. Specifically, they will take courses in 18th Century European thought, Franco-American history, politics and French.

A French newsmagazine said Dr. Sterling had planned to institute a course in wine tasting, this being one of the major centers of the French wine industry.

"We'll have no wine faculty," Sterling said. "The students will be left to their own resources."

Cease Fire in Bickering Over Missile Asked

Washington—(AP)—A member of the House Space committee has called for a cease fire in the Air Force-Army "bickering" over the Nike Zeus anti-missile missile.

Rep. Victor L. Antuso, D-N.Y., told Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates Jr. to stop the "bickering and rivalries among the military departments" and to get going on the anti-missile missile program.

"Our missiles," Antuso said in a letter to Gates, "are today vulnerable to an inter-continental ballistic missile attack."

He said that judging from Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's "antics in the United Nations I have come to the conclusion we are dealing with a mad man."

Antuso asked Gates to "stop the bickering and rivalries among the military departments" and to get going on the anti-missile missile program.

"We must have the necessary defense against them—and we must have it soon," he said.

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"In a second development, Chairman Overton Brooks of the House Space committee said he was concerned over reports that both the defense Department and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have proposed "quite similar" plans to take man into space.

The Louisiana Democrat said the Space committee would keep a "close watch" on these programs to insure that there is no unnecessary duplication.

Grange News

Roxy Ann Grange

The Roxy Ann Grange degree team will give the third and fourth degrees at the Fruittide Grange in Grania Falls, Oct. 22.

At the last meeting, the Grange elected Mrs. Charles D. Slater to fill an officer vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Cecil Hall. Mrs. Hall is moving from the area.

Plans were made to have an open house Nov. 2. Pictures painted by Mrs. Charles Wilcher were on display at the meeting.

RIVER IN CITY

There are eight miles of the Seine river in Paris.