

Whooping Cough Vaccine Questioned

London (Science Service)—Universal vaccination for whooping cough is questioned by Dr. Justus Strom, Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Stockholm, Sweden, on the basis of severe after-effects among a small percentage of children.

Dr. Strom reported in the British Medical Journal that a nationwide investigation in Sweden showed neurological complications in 36 cases in about 215,000 vaccinated children, or one in 6,000, during a three-year period. Most of the cases consisted of convulsions, coma or collapse, and the children recovered; but there were four deaths and nine cases indicating brain disease.

The increasingly mild nature of whooping cough and the very low death rate from the disease in Sweden, Dr. Strom said, make it questionable whether universal vaccination is justified. Only one in a million Swedish children die from whooping cough (pertussis) per year, contrasted with 18 per million a year in 28 countries reported by the World Health Organization.



HISTORIC CEREMONY—In a unique and historic ceremony in Washington, D. C., the four Cardinals of the Catholic church in the United States blessed individually four new buildings erected on the campus of the Catholic University of America. Shown following the ceremony are, from left, J. Francis

Cardinal McIntyre of Los Angeles; Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston; Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York, and Albert Cardinal Meyer of Chicago. In the background is the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

(UPI Telephoto)

March of Dimes Poster Girl Active in Spite of Handicaps

Columbus, Ohio (UPI)—Blonde, blue-eyed Linda Gail Breese is the 1961 March of Dimes national poster child.

The four-year-old Columbus girl is the victim of the birth defects of an open spine and excess fluid on the brain, hydrocephalus.

But, the defects, which left her with weak ankles, have not slowed her down very much. Her mother, Dorothy, said the child has determination and vitality to spare.

Linda has spent months posing for pictures and films without knowing why. Mrs. Breese said, however, she had been very cooperative in spite of the strain of constant posing and traveling.

Mrs. Breese said Linda enjoyed her posing with the "cowboys" of the movies last summer in California. But, she said, the stars were a little taken aback when Linda's first question was, "Where's your horse?"

Loves To Wear Dresses

The mother said Linda dearly loves to wear dresses. Mrs. Breese confided that this has been one of her ways of

reconciling Linda to the ordeal of facing more photographers — "you haven't posed in this dress before."

But in spite of her femininity with clothes, she is always ready for a tough game with her brothers. Mrs. Breese said Linda likes any game that will keep her moving.

Linda's brother, Ronnie, is a victim of cerebral palsy, but his general condition is described as good.

Mrs. Breese said Linda's primary weakness is in her ankles. Linda moves around best "on all fours" or on her tricycle. She once told some friends that the reason she couldn't walk was "cause I'm too small."

Wants To Be Mother

Mrs. Breese said last summer, however, she had told another child in the neighborhood quite matter-of-factly that she was crippled.

Linda said she thought she would like to be a nurse, but her greatest ambition was to "be a mother." Mrs. Breese said Linda had been wanting a nurse's kit for quite some time.

Mrs. Breese said that a couple of times while Linda was helping with the housework, she took a few steps. But her ankles are too weak to walk without some kind of support.

She said Linda's orthopedist hopes that soon she can walk with the aid of some light-weight supports on her ankles. Although Linda has crutches, she seldom uses them.

Linda loves to fly and has become quite a veteran since she has had to travel so much. Mrs. Breese said the passengers usually get a detailed account of the take-off procedures.

Mrs. Breese said Linda has never been shy in spite of her being confined at home so much.

"She just seems to bloom around people," she said.

In Good Health
Mrs. Breese said Linda has been in very good health, but she said she is "a miserable eater."

Linda's favorite foods are all kinds of meats, but absolutely "no vegetables."

The couple estimated that they had spent about \$3,000 on Linda's medical care; the insurance covered about \$2,000. The March of Dimes program did not cover Linda's defect until the new program was established under the national foundation.

Mrs. Breese said she and her husband, Dean, were "very happy" that they went into this field because of other couples' with the same problem.

Linda has had two operations, one when she was one day old to close an opening in her spine and the last nine months later to insert a "shunt" tube to control the excess liquid on her brain.

How Can Manned Space Craft Be Safely Landed?

Washington (Science Service)—How can a manned space craft be landed without turning it into a coffin? How did the U. S. and Russia land animals after a trip in orbit? How will the U. S. land our manned space craft?

The National Aeronautics and Space administration is investigating several strange ways to cushion landing shock. NASA scientists say interior "cushions" of a combination of semirigid plastic and aluminum honeycomb can absorb some of the jolt — but not all of it.

Therefore, the scientists are studying landing bags, bending legs, braking rockets and water.

Floatable Capsule
They will use the easy water technique — water is softer than land so a floatable capsule is directed to drop into water — with the Mercury man-in-space project.

The bags studied for later use on land are of several types. One kind, a flattened round bag, has eight compartments each with a blowout patch so that air can escape from the bag, thus cushioning the space craft without bouncing it.

A vertical cylinder bag and a spherical bag have also been tested. The bags could be carried at the base of the space craft but not blown up until needed for landing.

Bending Legs
NASA has also tested metal legs that would bend more during impact and thus ease the craft's landing. The metal legs would be fixed between the craft itself and its heel shield. This method has been tested in simulated landings on concrete.

A few tests also have been made on a braking rocket. The results so far have been good, NASA reports.

Crater Debaters Finish Among Top

Central Point-Crater High school debaters finished high among competitors at last Saturday's tournament at Marshfield.

The varsity team of Al Kroon and Ruth Ellis won three and lost two debates; the winning team won four and lost one. The topic for all teams was "Resolved: That the United Nations should be transformed into a federal government."

Crater's junior team, composed of Allison Pinkham, Bob Kuest, David Force and Carol Foote, won three and lost two events. The freshman component of the junior team, David Force and Carol Foote, won both of their matches. The junior team had been debating for only 10 days before the meet.

The teams will participate in the annual debate tournament at Pacific university Dec. 2 and 3.

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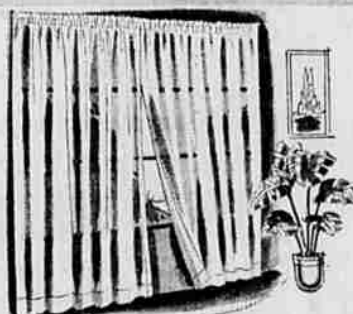
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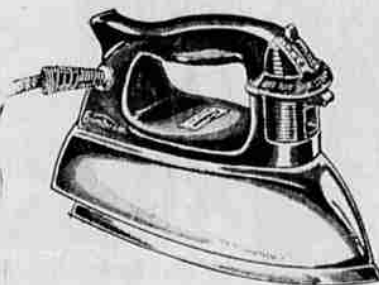
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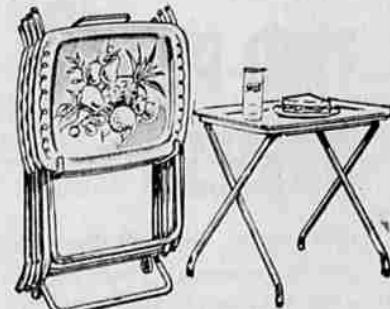
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