

Dennis the Menace



"I HOPE YOU'RE THIS ANXIOUS TO SEE US
RETURN FROM OUR VACATION, MR. WILSON!"

World Would Grind To Halt Without Use of Tin Cans

New York — (UPI) — Before that tin can goes into the garbage bag, take a second look. It has become an inspiration for authors.

"Remove the tin can from today's civilization, and our world would slowly grind to a halt," a booklet said. "Thousands of companies, millions of persons and many countries have come to depend on the tin can as the basis for their lives and livelihoods."

"The tin can is a way of life to fledgling countries on the African continent and along the perimeter of Southeast Asia, as well as in the more advanced nations of Europe, South America and North America."

Before there is a sound of breaking bottles, it should be explained that the "literature" comes from the Can Manufacturers Institute, Inc., Washington, D. C., in a booklet called "The Metal Can—Its Past, Present and Future."

Tinless Cans
The "tin can" is not entirely that any longer, and never was. A can purely of tin would be soft and unmanageable under present — or past — conditions of transportation and storage. The booklet — and by no chance is it called "The Metal Can," etc., for nothing — explains that "when the first can was made it was tinned by dipping the iron sheet into molten tin." But . . .

It even goes so far as to say in small emphasis on page 10 that "there are even some types of cans without tin."

So, it never was a truly "tin" can. Originally, it was tinned, a thin-walled kettle or carrier with a coating of tin to keep its contents from getting rusty or corroded. But in popular speech, saying "tinned" with the full extra sound became lost in a hurry and comes out "tin."

Or eventually just comes out "can." No adjective, everyone knows what is a tin can, even if one used to drive one.

There are, explains the institute, more than 600 sizes, shapes and styles of cans currently in production. Roughly, they are food cans and non-food. About eight of ten of them, if you want to count what goes out for the garbage man or for the trash man separately, are for food, and the others are for things which are better not to eat, like paint, oil, tooth powder, insecticides, shoe polish, gasoline, varnish.

The one which was popular before frozen goods became so prominent in the home generally was cylindrical, unless it held sardines. Like everything else, the once-popular shape has changed. Cans now are not only cylindrical (there are the ones which hold beer, beans, stew, soup), oval (these once were used mostly for sardines) but now are oblong, square and flat.

Evolution in Labels
Most cans that one remembers if he is more than 15 years old had a paper label. But, says the institute, this no longer is so. In enamel finishes alone there now are 24 different kinds of coating available, and if you read from the outside in, there are "at least 2,430 possible combinations of metal alloys, tempers, coatings and enamels which are currently available to devise the ideal metal container for a product . . ."

But since nobody who is anybody looks back at the can that was, what of the future?

"The can of tomorrow," says the institute "will be even more efficient, economical and versatile than a y can in existence today."

"The can manufacturing industry will never be content to stand still."

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

Cause of Beginning Deafness in Children

In a recent article in "Consultant" Professor David Myers of Temple University discussed the problem of the "serious otitis media" of children.

Serious means that there is a little fluid present — something like the serum which forms when blood clots, or like the whey that forms when cheese is made from milk. Otitis means an inflammation of one or both ears, and "media" means that it is the middle ear that is involved.

Our hearing mechanism is divided into the external, the middle and the inner ear. The external ear runs to the ear drum. From the ear drum the sound waves are transmitted through three tiny bones to the stapes window. Beyond this window is the inner ear with its tiny marimba-like mechanism, connected to the brain by many nerve fibers.

As we all know, children often can get a serious inflammation of the mastoid cells — which make up much of the mastoid part of the "temporal" bone — the part which is to be found back of the ear.

Infection Cleared
Until the antibiotics were found, each year thousands of children had to have a mastoidectomy — an operation in which the diseased mastoid cells had to be cleaned out. Of late, ear men have been finding cases in which the antibiotic they gave quickly cleared up the serious infection in the ear and mas-

child's hearing, but with ordinary methods the hearing may seem to be normal.

But it isn't, and the child is inattentive at school because it is too great an effort for him to keep in touch with what is going on. What is sad is that a serious otitis media — if not promptly treated — can go on to produce serious changes in the middle ear and ultimate loss of hearing. What the doctor must remember then is that the child who was saved from a mastoiditis by antibiotics later can have a serious otitis media. He should be sent to be examined by a good ear man who will see that there are several things decidedly wrong with the ear drum, and

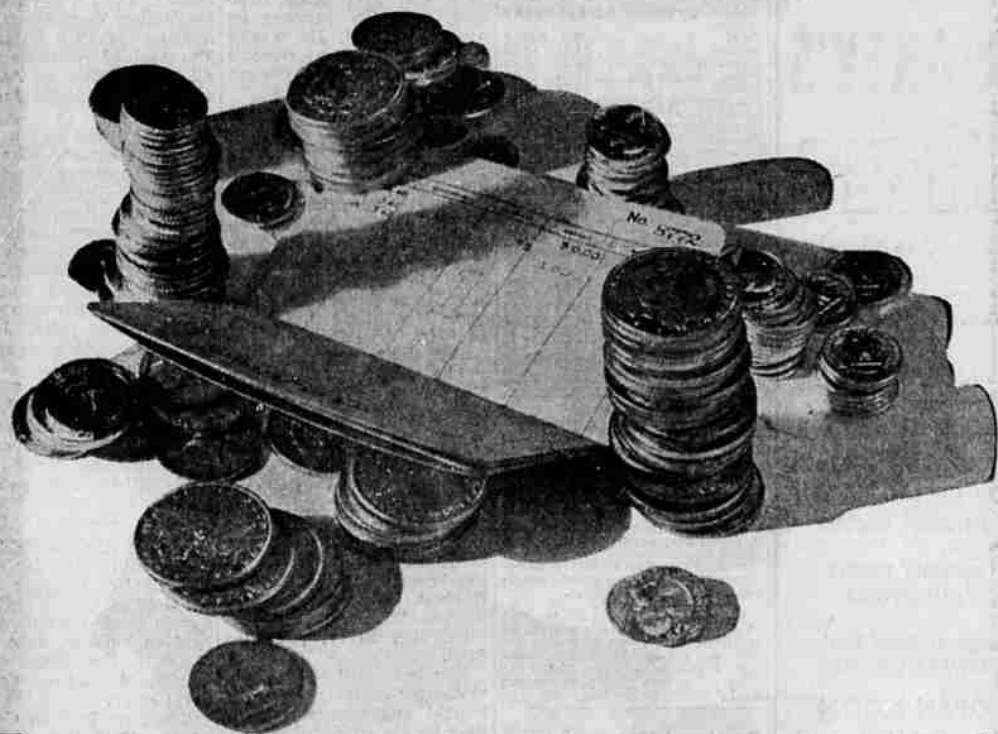
he may be able to see that there is some fluid back of it. **Test Will Show Loss**

A test of the child's hearing with a modern type of electronic machine will show a loss. In such cases striking improvement can result from an early "myringotomy." This means the making of a cut in the ear drum through which the fluid in the middle ear can be drained out. In many cases one such drainage is enough, but in other cases there will have to be several drainages. Dr. Beverly W. Armstrong, Charlotte, N. C., has found that a small plastic tube can be put into the hole in the ear drum and left for six months or more. It allows needed air

to get into the ear. Normally, this air should come up from the throat, through the Eustachian tube, but in some cases of serious otitis the Eustachian tube is not working well.

What is so helpful is that we now know enough to watch out for what is pretty much a new post-penicillin disease. And, as Dr. Myers has pointed out, it is a disease which should be recognized as early as possible, so that the child's hearing can be saved.

One Cocoa Beach, Fla., bar sets up a round on the house for persons at the bar when a rocket goes up at near Cape Canaveral.



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