



PONDERS FUTURE — Jackie Benson, who recently won a brief role in the motion picture "Candy Wed" after calling attention to herself by stowing away on an airplane being used to publicize a film, crosses her fingers on a movie set in Hollywood. Determined to come to Hollywood and become an actress, Miss Benson, of Denver, stowed away on a B17 and landed in San Francisco, where she was turned over to police. Hearing of her plight, Columbia Pictures signed her for the brief role. (UPI)

The Medical Roundup

by

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(Register and Tribune Syndicate,
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Pains of Old People

Each week I get dozens of letters from old people who ask why they have one or more pains. Some have been told they have a neuritis, but this diagnosis has not helped them. Often, all the word neuritis means is that the person has pain. Dr. Norman P. Goldstein, of the Mayo Clinic, mentions nine different types of agents that can injure a person's nerves so as to cause pain and weakness. There can be a mechanical cause, such as the compression of a nerve under a ligament or in the scar of an old fracture or dislocation or laceration. There are thousands of elderly women who, after falling and getting a broken hip, suffer long months with pain.

There are thousands of people with sciatica that may have followed a fall which injured the lower part of the spine or the nerves that come out of it. A number of these nerves join together to form the sciatic nerve which goes down the back of the thigh. There are people who suffer pain after an x-ray treatment for a tumor somewhere.

Rarely one sees a person whose nerves have been poisoned by some chemical, such as arsenic. On the market today are many drugs which can injure nerves and cause pain. Whenever I see a person who is suffering from puzzling pain, or for that matter any peculiar symptom, I ask him immediately to stop taking whatever drugs he is using to see if this will bring relief.

Then there are the infections of the nerves, such as that of shingles, and rarely today old syphilis of the nervous system. Tuberculosis can affect the nerves, also infectious hepatitis or mumps or "catarrhal fever." Many pains called neuritis are really due to arthritis or bursitis or tenosynovitis (an inflammation of sheaths of tendons). Pain can be caused by a rare disease called sarcoidosis which looks like tuberculosis, but isn't. We don't know the cause of it.

Drug Reaction

Some people get pain because of a reaction to some drug like penicillin. In the cases of old men, "itching" and living on little, some pains are thought to be due to poor nutrition and lack of vitamins. There can be numbness and tingling and pain due to pernicious anemia. Common is the neuritis of chronic alcoholism.

Thousands of people get pain because of the neuritis of diabetes. Sometimes a person's diabetes is discovered when he comes with severe pain in a number of his nerves. Some persons who lack thyroid secretion have pains. Other chemical disturbances in the body that cause pain are gout, porphyria, and amyloidosis. Amyloid is a

starch-pudding sort of material which rarely forms in parts of the bodies of persons — usually those who have suffered from a chronic inflammation somewhere. Many pains are due to hardening of the arteries or periarthritis nodosa (a disease in which sections of arteries here and there are badly inflamed), or little strokes.

Other painful diseases are lupus erythematosus (a disease that affects the skin and the internal organs), angitis obliterans (a disease which tends to shut off the blood that goes to the legs).

Better See Neurologists
Often the man with pains here and there had better see a neurologist (nervous specialist) who may perhaps be able to find the cause.

Rarely, people suffer pain because of a little tumor on the spinal cord or on a nerve, such as perhaps one of the nerves that come out of the spine. Hundreds of old people have severe pain due to a cancer that has scattered and perhaps is growing in bones or along the sheaths around nerves. There is a special type of painful cancer of the bones called multiple myeloma.

I hope that this mention of some of the many causes of pain will help my thousands of correspondents to understand why so often I just cannot give them a worthwhile opinion as to the cause of a pain they have. There are too many causes and many are hard to determine. As most of my correspondents say, they have seen a number of physicians who had trouble making a diagnosis.

What I would do if I had a puzzling type of pain would be to go to some large medical center where I could have an expert neurologist check me to try to find out what really is wrong.

Nerves play bad tricks on people and may cause much tenderness and pain. You will understand the workings of your nerves better if you read Dr. Alvarez' 25-cent booklet, "Triumph over Nervousness." You may obtain a copy by sending 25 cents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request for it to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

HODGES IN ATHENS

Athens-478-U S. Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges arrived here Tuesday on the next to last stop of a world tour that started Nov. 6

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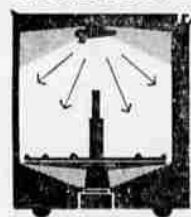
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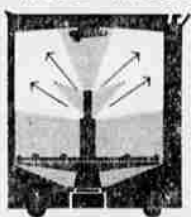
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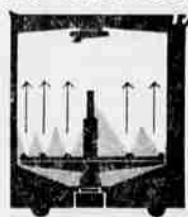
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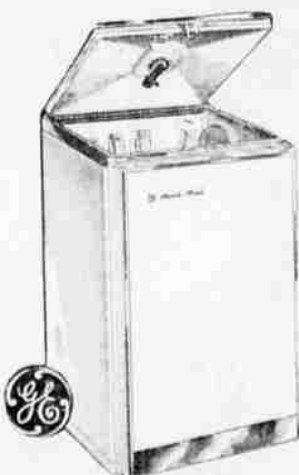
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