

**WET CEREMONY**—Bride and bridegroom dive into a pool after they were wed in a Shinto poolside ceremony in Tokyo. The groom is Toshihiro Taguchi, 27, university swimming coach, in the water at background. The bride, foreground, is Mizuho Atarashi, one of Taguchi's students for the past eight years. After the couple reached the opposite side of the pool, wedding guests, all wearing swimming suits, jumped into the water to offer congratulations. (UPI)

**The Medical Roundup**

by *Walter Alvarez*

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(Register and Tribune Syndicate,  
1963)

**Cures For Hiccups**

All my life I have been subject to spells of hiccups, and so I am much interested in the subject. I have virtually always been able quickly to stop my hiccups simply by sipping water. By swallowing repeatedly, one can reverse the waves of muscle contractions that are coming up the gullet, and can drive them down again through the digestive tube. Sometimes slowly eating some dry toast will work well.

When I was a small child, I can remember that I often got the hiccups after laughing too heartily at something. When we children got to laughing uproariously, Mother would say, "You had better stop that, or first thing you know, you will have the hiccups."

Once in my childhood I got an attack of hiccups that no amount of sipping water would stop. Then my old Scotch nurse said she felt she ought to warn me that she had caught me in some mischief or other, and when my mother came home from a trip, it would be her unpleasant duty to tell what I had been up to. This puzzled me greatly, and I began asking Mrs. Black just what she had found out. Finally, she laughed and said, "You've lost your hiccups," and I had - she had scared them out of me.

I am reminded of a time during World War I when a certain Bill Smith, a soldier on the Argonne Front, got an attack of the sort of hiccups which keeps a man in torture day and night for a week. About the time that the poor fellow was nearly frantic with loss of rest and sleep, a huge bomb exploded nearby and threw dirt all over him. When they dug him out they found that his hiccups were gone. After that whenever a big bomb came over, the soldiers would say, "There goes Bill Smith's hiccup cure!"

**Nerve Irritated**

In the worse cases of hiccups, I suspect that a virus has irritated the "phrenic nerve" which runs from the neck down to supply the muscle of the diaphragm (midriff), or perhaps it affects the muscle of the diaphragm. We doctors know that after some operations there is enough irritation of the lower surface of

the diaphragm so that the poor patient suffers much from hiccups.

I know that after my big abdominal operation three years ago, my greatest suffering was due to hiccups which lasted two or three days. Fortunately Dr. Mayo gave me several big doses of a barbiturate, so that I could sleep and rest, and when I finally woke, the hiccups were gone. I know that several times in the past, when I saw a man with the type of hiccups that are likely to keep going for a week or 10 days, I have been able quickly to stop his torture with a big dose of a strong barbiturate.

Sometimes a person will get hiccups when he has become constipated. What has happened is that the distended part of the lower bowel is sending off waves of muscle contractions which were running up even as far as the back of his throat, thus causing the hiccups. The minute the person's constipation is relieved, he will have no more hiccups.

Blame your overweight on heredity if you wish—chances are you are right. Dr. Alvarez has some other suggestions for overweight in his 25-cent booklet, "Weight Control," which you may order by sending 25 cents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

**Barton Accused of Backroom Tactics**

Salem —(UP)—Senators have accused House Speaker Clarence Barton of backroom tactics over the controversial "three-way" workmen's compensation bill.

The Senate-passed bill was reported out of the House Labor and Industries Committee a few days ago after a stormy career during which it was completely rewritten. Barton Tuesday sent it to the Ways and Means Committee. Wednesday, Ways and Means tried to meet on the bill, but lacked a quorum of House members.

Sen. Walter Leth (R-Salem) and Walter Pearson (D-Portland) protested on the Senate floor following the meeting.

Leth said if Barton is "trying to manipulate the end of the session, I oppose it."

"I want the people of the state to know the responsibility for a lack of quorum rests with one man," Pearson said. Barton killed bills in committee and ordered the committee members not to attend the meeting.

**Spray Plane Crashes Near Harrisburg**

Harrisburg —(UP)—A spray plane crashed near the U.S. 5 Freeway near here about 6 a.m. today, but the pilot was uninjured.

Officials said George W. Drury, Coburg, escaped injury although the plane was demolished. Cause of the crash was not immediately known.

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson were ardent fox hunters

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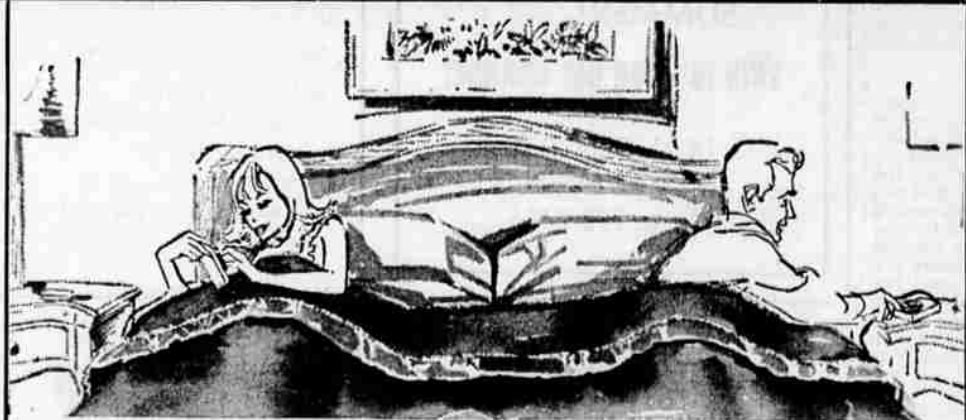
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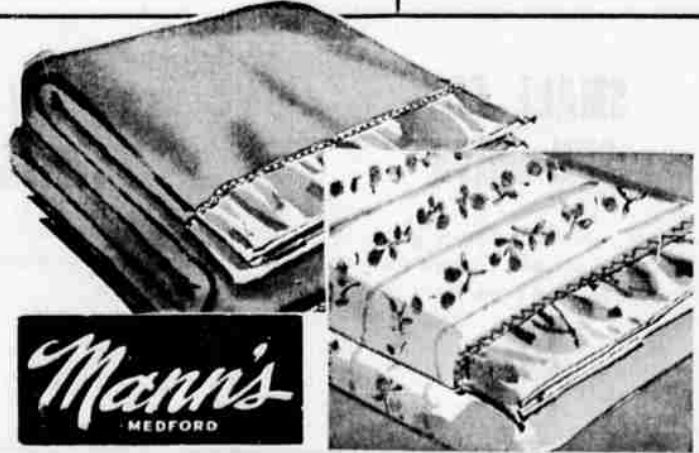
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