

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a woman's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, accompanied by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Deany. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Harry S.—I want to trade in the expensive Bible they gave me. Mrs. B. G.—He'll find it his best friend when he's far from home.

Harry S.—When I asked my aunt where she bought the elaborate Bible she gave me last June for my graduation from college, she learned I don't want it and would rather use the \$60 she spent on it for a few volumes of good poetry. She's upset, but I bet she never read that so-called Good Book. It's full of horror stories, cruelty, bloodshed, and primitive superstitions.

Mrs. B. G.—Yes, I gave Harry an ivory-bound Bible with a solid gold clasp. I knew he'd be leaving to do graduate work in Greece and I wanted him to have something inspiring to travel with. Of course I've read my Bible. I'm 73 and it's been my rock and guide and comfort all my life. Harry is still too young and cocksure to know its true value. When trouble comes he'll be glad he has it.

The Council: It may surprise Harry to learn that many Bible owners and Bible lovers have reservations like his as to the Bible's merits. That doesn't

The Medical Roundup

By

Walter Alvarez

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(Register and Tribune Syndicate,
1953)



Kindness to Hospitalized Children

Several times in this column I have protested against the heartless regulations in most hospitals which restrict the hours when a mother can call on her sick child. Also, I am outraged when I hear that a much frightened child is sent up to the operating room alone. It would be a wonderful help to such a frightened child if his mother could spend at least the first night in the hospital with him, but so far as I can learn, few hospital authorities will permit this.

They say they fear that a mother in a hospital will be a nuisance, but actually in the few hospitals in which a mother has been allowed to go in with her child, the nurses have found that not only is the youngster much easier to handle, but because the mother takes over much of his care, her help is appreciated. Some few mothers, of course, can at first get in the way, but with a little advice from the nurses, they will quickly calm down and behave well. I have read that in some hospitals in which mothers have been invited to come in, the plan has worked so well that the nurses would never want to go back to the old ways.

Shown in Article
That an effort is being made in some hospitals to be kinder to frightened children is shown by an article by Dr. Morris A. Messel and Nissa Simon in the August number of the "Red-book." Dr. Wessel is a pediatri-

cian in New Haven, Conn., and a professor of pediatrics at Yale. As he says, the hospital rules that prevent a mother from staying with her child are based on the sort of ancient tradition to which most of us human beings love to cling like grim death, long after the practice has been shown to be not only foolish and inexcusable, but actually harmful.

Months ago, after I protested against the cruel isolation of children in hospitals, I received letters from several lay people and some physicians who said that they knew of children whose mind had been left damaged by their hours of terror when their parents disappeared and left them with strangers. For months or years afterwards, the child had horrible nightmares; he screamed in his sleep, and he did not want ever to let his mother out of his sight.

As Dr. Wessel says, as long ago as 1927, there were mother-child units in English hospitals. In 1950, the British Ministry of Health recommended that the visiting hours for all children in hospitals be restricted, and that a provision be made for mothers of children less than 5 to stay with them in order to help in their care and to prevent the distress of separation.

And here is a remarkable fact: the British National Health Service now feels that the mother's presence is so important in the care of her child that she is not asked to pay anything for her accommodations, or her food, while she is in the hospital!

But, as Dr. Wessel now says, progress is slow. A recent article in "Pediatrics" reports that only 28 of the 233 hospitals approved for pediatric residency training provide facilities for parents to remain overnight with a child. Dr. Wessel says that this is as disturbing to him as if only 28 of these hospitals had facilities for blood transfusions or treatment with oxygen.

Would Have No Memory
When a child needs an operation, it would be easy to put him to sleep in his bedroom, with his mother holding his hand. Or he could be given a good sized dose of some barbiturate, and when asleep taken to the operating room. This would mean that the child would have no memory of his operation. That this procedure is easily possible is evident to me from just one fact. When I was operated on three years ago, my good friend and surgeon, Dr. Charles W. Mayo, had me given in my room some sedative, so strong that I have no memory of going up to the operating room, or of going under the anesthesia. Since I have known several children and adults who died of fright in an operating room before they were touched, or the anesthetic started I am sure that the practice of putting people to sleep in their rooms would be an excellent one for all apprehensive persons. It would save lives.

Many years ago, Dr. George Crile saw so clearly the great need for this type of thoughtfulness that he put his gopher patients to sleep in their bed, and then took them up to the operating room floor.

Changes often are so mild that for a while diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease or Shaking Palsy are missed. If you would like information about the disease, send for Dr. Alvarez's booklet about it. Send 25 cents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 857, Des Moines, Iowa 50304.

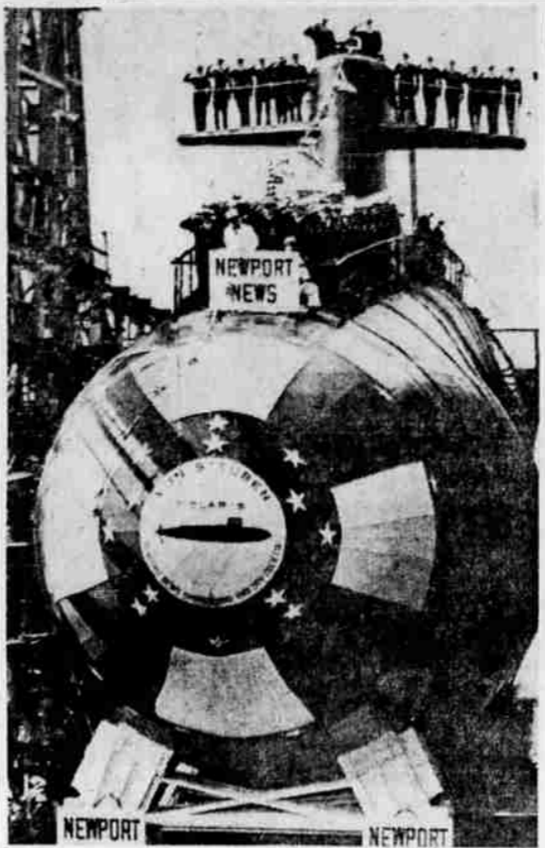
Mistrial Declared in Condemnation Case

A condemnation suit regarding property south of Ashland for construction of Interstate 5 ended in a mistrial in Jackson County Circuit Court recently.

The suit, filed by the State Highway Commission against David and Aneta Curtis of Ashland, sought property five miles south of Ashland near Neil Creek Road and U.S. 99.

A mistrial was granted by Judge James M. Main after comments in the opening statement made by the state's lawyer were declared to be inadmissible.

LONDON (UPI)—Sir William Carron, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, began his career as a six-shilling (84 cents) a week apprentice. Thursday night, he was appointed a director of the Bank of England.



SUBMARINE LAUNCHED—The fleet ballistic missile submarine USS Von Steuben goes down the ways at Newport News, Va., after being christened. (UPI)

Deadline Monday For Filing for District Director

GRANTS PASS — With the deadline for filing set Monday at midnight, only one candidate has been nominated thus far for each of three director posts to be filled on the Grants Pass Irrigation District board, district manager Charles Dillon said Thursday.

Candidates for whom petitions have been submitted are Roy Halcomb of Rogue River, Division 1, three-year term; Lyle Douglas, Division 2, two-year term; and Paul Brandon, Division 5, three-year term. Brandon and Douglas are currently on the board as appointees, serving out unexpired terms made vacant by earlier resignations.

Division 1 is a new division resulting from an earlier partitioning of the district. It includes the town of Rogue River and other Jackson County acreages which lie within the District boundaries east of Savage Rapids Dam.

Division 2 includes all land north of the Rogue River between central Grants Pass and the Savage Rapids Dam; and Division 5 includes lands south of the river between Grants Pass and the dam and lands south of U.S. 199 west of Grants Pass.

Election for the new directors is scheduled Nov. 12. The next regular board meeting, Nov. 5, will be held in conjunction with the district's Board of Equalization, Dillon said.

A Tribute to The Moose Lodge of Medford!

The Medford Moose Lodge and the City of Medford Parks and Recreation department deserve praise for their continuing program in the interest of boys and girls of this community during the Halloween season. Young folks, in order to participate in the annual window painting contest and the costume parade and theatre party, must sign the "Youth Honor Day Pledge Card" and must live up to that pledge. Older boys and girls enjoy a Halloween night dancing. Congratulations upon a fine, wholesome and needed youth program!

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