

Decrease In Crippling Is Only Major Gain Scored Against Polio In America

(Editor's Note: This is the first of three articles by AP Science Editor Howard W. Blakeslee, explaining what is known about infantile paralysis, how you can take precautions against catching the disease, and what to do if it strikes your family.)

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE
Associated Press Science Editor
NEW YORK, Aug. 3 (AP)—Children have had polio—infantile paralysis—since ancient times. Today a higher proportion recover without crippling. This is the only gain, and all in the present century. The gain comes from better nursing, and not from anything else.

Almost everyone has had polio, but only a few ever become sick. How the disease works in most of us who don't get ill is entirely unknown.

But what happens in the sick is well known. It is in your spinal cord. This cord is the cable carry-

ing nerves from the brain to branch out, like switchboard wires, to all parts of your body.

One set of nerves in this cord governs muscles. Polio chooses, for some mysterious reason, to attack these particular nerves and no other. These nerves are made of horn-shaped cells.

Polio damages or destroys horn cells. Among all nerves, these horn cells alone are unable to regenerate themselves. Once gone, they break the muscle-nerve cable for life.

Without these nerves in the spine, muscles shrink. No other part of your body is damaged.

Polio can strike at any one point along the spinal cable. If it hits high up, it paralyzes arms and hands. If in the mid-spine, polio hits the muscles of breathing. If low down, it paralyzes leg muscles.

There is an additional point of attack, in the "bulb," a rounded thing, half the size of a thumb, at the top of your spine. This location of polio brings most of the deaths.

The cause of polio is a virus, a very tiny particle made of protein. How this particle does its destruction is unknown.

Two kinds of polio virus are known. More are suspected. You can have polio more than once, one attack for each kind of virus.

In epidemics, those who recover without any bad effects, range from 40 to 70 per cent. Sometimes there will be 70 per cent complete recoveries without any medical care whatever. Sometimes the death rates, and crippling are high, despite care.

This contradiction is due to the virus being different from year to year, sometimes virulent and sometimes mild.

In epidemics, hardly more than one child in 300 gets visible polio. The highest susceptibility is from ages four to nine. But polio can hit adults, and recently in the United States the adult victims have been increasing.

Nursing care, to help the body fight its own battle, is all that can be done in polio. There are two special aids. One is heat. The other, movement of stricken muscles. Both are Sister Elizabeth Kenny's contributions and have done more than anything else to reduce crippling. Others than Sister Kenny knew the merits of these two treatments, but she was the person who did most to convince doctors. Both treat the paralyzed muscles and not the horn cells. Nothing now known does any good for the stricken cells in spinal cords.

Early diagnosis—detecting the disease—is the most important single thing to be done. And the most difficult. The only scientific proof is to use spinal cord fluid to make a monkey sick. This test takes weeks and hundreds of dollars. A recent French test promises to do something similar with mice in two weeks. Both are too slow to help your child.

Keen doctors and nurses have to make the decision with the eyes of experience.

Virginians Still Back Byrd Party

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 2 (AP)—Quiet, conservative John Stewart Battle, a state senator with 20 years of legislative experience, captured yesterday's four-way democratic primary election for governor and proved again the potency of the Virginia political organization headed by Senator Harry Byrd.

The 59-year-old Charlottesville lawyer won the party nomination that means election in November with 23,000 votes to spare on the basis of near-complete returns from the state's 1768 precincts.

He swept the field—capturing seven of the state's nine congressional districts. And in so doing he beat back his nearest competitor, Francis Pickens Miller, the anti-organization candidate and former army colonel, who posed the first serious threat to the organization's supremacy in the last 25 years.

Miller, second in the record primary that ran around 300,000 votes, captured the two remaining districts. Horace H. Edwards, former Richmond mayor and ex-chairman of the state democratic party, ran far behind in third place. Remmie L. Arnold, Petersburg manufacturer, was last—far down the line.

Unofficial returns compiled by the Associated Press from 1636 precincts gave:

Battle 127,549; Miller 104,178; Edwards 44,601; and Arnold 21,022.

Organization-backed candidates also swept to victory in the two other offices on the short ballot. Attorney General J. Lindsay Almond Jr. ran away at better than two to one from Moss Plunkett, Roanoke lawyer. Lieutenant Governor L. Preston Collins had similar success against Martinville's Mayor Nick Prillaman.

In the only republican primary contest, E. Thomas McGuire of Petersburg led Berkeley Williams of Richmond in the race for nomination for lieutenant governor by a narrow margin.

CHICAGO, Aug. 3 (AP)—James Morell, who is scheduled to die in the electric chair August 12, is occupying a cell in death row at the Cook county jail—at his own request—so his final nights of sleep will not be disturbed.

The 22-year-old "mad dog" killer was removed to one of the four cells adjoining the death chamber after he had complained of too much noise by other prisoners.

"The guys in the cells around me snore like rusty bus saws with the teeth missing," Morell told Warden Chester Fordney. "How about giving me some quiet for the time I've got left?"

Fordney suggested the death cell, where doomed men customarily are held for only about eight hours before their death.

"Fine, fine," Morell said. "I'm not the scary kind, and I'll bet it'll be quiet down there in the basement."

Fordney agreed it is quiet as Morell is the only prisoner waiting to be executed. Taken to his death cell—within 10 steps of the electric chair—Morell said: "This is great. Nice and clean, a soft mattress, fresh sheets, a feather pillow and everything."

Morell was sentenced to death for the slaying of Emil Schmeichel, 30, one of three men killed in a bloody gangland ride on December 12, 1947.

Tasmanians Hunt Strange "Monster"

SYDNEY (AP)—The Loch Ness Monster—or something—is terrorizing the unimaginative folks of Mountain river, on the fringe of Tasmania's "Unknown Corner," which is the uninhabited extreme south-west of Australia's island state. Except for a posse of 20 men scouring the hills, Mountain river people keep indoors at night because of a "phantom" animal which makes no tracks yet neighs like a low-throated horse.

Dogs turn and run. Experienced bushman Jack Oates no doubt did likewise when the creature jumped up five feet ahead of him. He said, "It had a big head and a broad white chest. Place where it had bedded down, showed that it was bigger than a dog but smaller than a horse. One theory: the creature is a Tasmanian "tiger" (thylacynus cynocephalus)—thought by most to be extinct. The tiger was, or is, a carnivorous marsupial like a zebra-striped dog.

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'Polio Baby' Dies In Hospital
EVERETT, Aug. 3 (AP)—A baby born to a polio-stricken woman Monday died in a hospital here yesterday afternoon, less than 24 hours later.

Mrs. Jacklyn Lee, 19, was removed from an iron lung for delivery of the premature three-pound girl Monday. She had been admitted to the hospital only two days previously. She was stricken suddenly with polio in the seventh month of pregnancy.

Dr. John P. Florino had raced against time in the 20 minutes the young mother was out of the me-

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Assessed Value Of County Up
The taxation value of Klamath county for the current fiscal year approaches fifty millions of dollars, up seven millions over the 1948-49 assessed valuation.

According to figures compiled by the assessor's office, the taxable value of the county now is \$49,249,252, and on that figure will be based millage rates for this year's property taxation.

The rates will be announced in a week or 10 days, and probably will be lower than those of last year because the property tax base has increased so heavily. Re-appraisal of farm and timber lands, pressure exerted by Assessor Otis Meteker for personal property assessments, new construction and improvements are combined to bring about the increase.

Assessment values of real property, not including utilities, has increased 3.7 per cent, or almost four millions of dollars, while personal property assessments are up 37.55 per cent, a little over three millions of dollars.

Utilities valuation, figured by

chemical breathing device. An attendant gave Mrs. Lee artificial respiration and pumped oxygen into her lungs by hand.

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the state tax commission, is \$18,804,517 for this tax year, compared to something over \$14,000,000 last year. The total for real and personal property outside of utilities is \$32,444,735.

Real property is figured for taxation value at 45 per cent of market value, while personal property is figured on an average ratio of 47.9 per cent.

INSTRUCTION
TOLEDO, O., Aug. 3 (AP)—An ex-convict picked up yesterday by Toledo police for routine questioning wants to go back to prison—but not just yet.

Inside a pocket of Charles A. Rutledge's trousers, police found this note:

"My name is Charles Aloysius Rutledge. They call me Walking Charlie. I served two years at Angola, La., and my number is 33289. Should I be found dead, please ship my remains to the penitentiary."

QUEEN
DETROIT, Aug. 3 (AP)—Pretty, blonde Jeanne Bray of Detroit, a 17-year-old high school senior, was chosen last night as queen of the dedication of the new North Sault highway project.

The ceremonies for opening the new road are scheduled for August 14, although the state highway commission and federal bureau of public roads haven't agreed on the opening date.

New Russian Books Rare Find Now
LOS ANGELES (AP)—New Russian books are rarer than old ones, says Dmitry Krassovsky, Slavic consultant for the University of California at Los Angeles library.

Complete bibliographies of Russian publications may not be exported from Russia and finding new Russian books is a hit or miss proposition, he says. One kind of Russian publication is plentiful, he finds—that is propaganda pamphlets.

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