

Gamma Globulin May Have Prevented Some Folks From Developing Polio At All

By FRANK E. CAREY

ATLANTA (U-P)—Gamma globulin, used widely last summer in an attempt to ward off the crippling effects of polio, may actually have prevented some persons from developing paralytic polio at all.

Some scientists at work on a nationwide survey to measure the effectiveness of GG think as many as 80 cases may have been prevented—but they don't expect to be able to prove it.

However, said Dr. Alexander D. Langmuir, one of the key specialists in the survey:

"We confidently expect that the survey will give the first conclusive answer to the question whether or not gamma globulin, if given the week just before a person came down with a paralytic attack of polio, actually modifies the paralysis."

If it were established that GG does prevent crippling, he said, it would be extremely important to the public health standpoint, almost as important, in fact, as actually preventing paralytic polio.

The Public Health Service's communicable disease center in Atlanta, headquarters of the evaluation work, hopes for other important findings also when information is collected about GG injections given 165,000 children in epidemic areas.

Langmuir said the survey is expected to:

1. Point to leads that might suggest improved methods for preventing polio epidemics in specific areas.

2. Provide some indication whether it is possible "to set up a program of mass immunization with gamma globulin in a given epidemic area in time to be effective."

3. Determine the value of giving GG to household and other contacts of established polio cases.

4. Provide guidance in allocating and distributing GG for various uses.

5. Furnish the largest body of consistently collected, standardized records ever obtained on polio.

Some of the handicaps scientists face in drawing conclusions about GG's performance during this year's polio season, Langmuir said in an interview, are:

1. Necessarily, the blood derivative was used under field circumstances rather than the previous carefully controlled laboratory conditions.

2. The disease itself behaves so unpredictably it is hard to tell whether a dip in the number of cases, recorded during the season, might not have occurred anyway.

Last April and May, at the beginning of the polio season, weekly totals were running ahead of comparable weeks in 1952—and because 1952 was a record year, some health officials voiced concern. But, during June and July, the weekly totals were running about equal to last year's, and thereafter they rapidly fell below.

The peak of this year's outbreak was reached in mid-August, about a month earlier than in 1952.

At the time of the peak this year, there had been a total of 15,978 cases, compared with 19,830 through mid-August in 1952. Latest available figures show a total of 30,730 cases as of Oct. 31, compared with 50,249 for that span in 1952.

The pattern of epidemics in which GG was used will be compared with those of earlier years in the same areas, Langmuir said.

He cited another possible indication—in general, where mass shots of GG were administered to children, subsequent cases developed in greater proportion among older persons. But, he said, such a shift had occasionally been observed during epidemics before the days of GG.

Here's how the researchers expect to get conclusive evidence on whether GG actually lessens a paralytic attack:

Experts on evaluating the power and functions of muscles are studying a number of people who came down with a paralytic attack within a week after receiving GG in mass injection programs. These same people are being examined 60 days later to see if the paralysis lessened in the meantime.

These cases are then being compared under similar circumstances of study with people who came down with paralytic polio just before GG was administered.

The polio detectives are also doing a special study of the possible paralysis-modifying powers of GG among people who had received it, not in mass programs, but because they had been in close contact with a patient.

This study will bear on an important, practical question: Do mass injections or concentrating on household and similar contacts constitute the best use of GG?

Langmuir offered the personal opinion that inoculating such contacts will prove to be of value and that also there will be "some need for mass immunization programs in concentrated epidemics," especially in smaller communities where polio is not always present in some degree.

"One thing is certain," he said. "Gamma globulin is not the answer to the polio problem, it is at best only an interim measure."

Explanations Look Hopeless

PANMUNJOM (U-P)—The Indian command today all but abandoned hope of getting the stalled prisoner-of-war explanation program under way again and told the Communists that any solution is up to them.

"It seems better to face the situation as it is rather than to go on with these interminable stoppages," said Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, Indian chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission.

"I can see no use in carrying on with these demoralizing interruptions," Thimayya met for four hours with the Communist high command at Kaesong Monday night. He told a news conference he would see the Red generals again in two or three days.

It appeared likely that the Communist explanation program would collapse unless the Reds abandon slowdown tactics and agree to new rules laid down by Thimayya.

Observers said there was little chance they will agree.

There have been growing indications that the Communists want to escape from the explanation program which has cost them a humiliating propaganda defeat. So far 97 per cent of the Chinese and North Koreans interviewed have refused to return to their Communist homelands.

There have been no explanations since Thursday.

Thimayya reiterated Tuesday that if the present system collapses he will use Indian troops to screen prisoners who have not been interviewed.



MIDWEST'S "GRANDMA MOSES"—Mrs. Eda Sadler, 73-year-old artist, displays one of her paintings for her grandson, Roger Wilson, 9, in the picture gallery of a Chicago department store. Mrs. Sadler's successful one-woman show displays her "primitive" style, much like that of the famed Grandma Moses. Until three years ago "Grandma Sadler" used buildings on her farm as subjects for most of her paintings.

Pleasant Fall Day For Most

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pleasant fall day—with sunny skies and comparatively mild temperatures—was the outlook for most of the nation Tuesday.

Only wet areas were along the Southeast Atlantic states and in the Pacific Northwest. Both sections reported light rain.

Temperatures generally were around normal levels during the night. Lowest readings were in the central Rockies with a low of 5 above at Fraser, Colo.

Readings were in the 20s and low 30s over the Plains states and the Great Lakes region; in the 40s along the East Coast and the Gulf Coast regions and at a few points along the eastern slope of the Rockies. The Pacific Coast was generally in the 50s and 60s.

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Harvard President 'Not Aware' Of Red On Faculty

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (U-P)—President Nathan M. Pusey of Harvard University told Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) Monday that "I am not aware that there is any person among the Harvard faculty who is a member of the Communist Party."

Pusey, conducting a news conference unprecedented for a president of Harvard, made public the text of a telegram sent to the senator in reply to one last week in which McCarthy asked his attitude toward retaining teachers who refuse to state whether they are Communists.

McCarthy's telegram specifically referred to testimony in secret session of Prof. Wendell Furry, who, he said, had refused to answer questions concerning Communist affiliation prior to March 1, 1951.

Furry was placed on three years' probation last May by the Harvard Corp., which found that in giving false information to a government investigator in 1944 he had been guilty of "grave misconduct," a finding that is prerequisite for removal from the faculty.

In his wire to McCarthy, Pusey said:

"Harvard is unalterably opposed to Communism. It is dedicated to free inquiry by free men. I am in full agreement with the opinion publicly stated by my predecessor (James B. Conant) and the Harvard Corp., that a member of the Communist Party is not fit to be on the faculty because he has not the necessary independence of thought and judgment."

"I am not aware that there is any person among the 3,000 members of the Harvard faculty who is a member of the Communist Party. We deplore the use of the fifth amendment for the reason set forth in the corporation's statement of May 23, 1953, but we do not regard the use of this constitutional safeguard as a confession of guilt."

"My information is that Dr. Furry has not been connected with the Communist Party in recent years. My information is also that Dr. Furry has never given secret material to unauthorized persons or sought to indoctrinate his students."



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