


THE FOLLOWING REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED


A SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHY WITH ANNOTATIONS

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There Are about 148,000,000 of Us —Our population increased 2½ millions last year thanks to a near-record of births and the lowest death rate ever plus a little immigration. Unless something unforeseen happens we should exceed the 150 million mark in the 1950 census.

Anon. Population Increase Large in 1948.


Required Reading—Pseudo-scientific and plain nostrums cunningly foisted on credulous doctors and desperate try-anything cancer victims are told off one by one. Then come the treatments based upon theories of ques-
tionable promise. In somebody’s eyes you may appear as an expert. So be prepared.


Tracer Atom’s Anniversary—Professional curiosity will drive you to this symposium on atomic energy and its relations to medical research and human welfare generally. In it we’re promised a lot more information about these subjects through scientific papers and books now in the throes of composition.


Mental Vitamins—This is a plea—and a delightfully presented plea—that clinicians and nurses in children’s clinics give attention to relieving emotional difficulties as well as bodily ailments. Modern drugs and modern parent-training give more time to think about minds, says the writer. The urge to quote most of the paper is strong.


Note for Your Notebook—Epidemiologic studies suggest three ways by which Q fever may have been spread in a recent outbreak: working in a dairy, living close to a dairy or stockyards, drinking raw milk.


New-borns Will Respond to Antigens—At the first, fifth, and ninth week of life 200 babies were given a triple antigen of diphtheria and tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine. A month later all infants showed a “protective level” titre against tetanus, 84 per cent were found safe against diphtheria, and 60 per cent were considered to be protected against whooping cough. A booster dose later raised the percentage of immunes in the latter categories.


Social Security—Public medical care, and health and welfare services already established, plus extensions and supplements reasonably to be expected, plus growing coverage of voluntary prepayment schemes are all added up into a comprehensive picture to preface a measured statement of the A.M.A.’s reasons for opposing compulsory sickness insurance.


Good, Solid Words Are These—If a person eats more than he needs he grows fat; if less, he gets thin. The causes are conjectural, but one can be certain that emotions, training, and habit are influential. Endocrine disorders rarely are responsible. Can you resist reading the rest?


After Careful Examination—In the wake of the 1947 New York City smallpox epidemic, 5 million were vaccinated in a hurry. Following wholesale immunization, there occurred 45 cases of encephalitis that may have been postvaccinal. Most made a complete and prompt recovery. The 4 who died showed, post-mortem, no characteristic signs.


Their Goal Remains the Same—As everyone but the office janitor must know by now, revised “dietary allowances” appeared in 1948. This excellent discussion of the changes—which
are essentially of a minor nature—will prove useful for you as a reminder of what the allowances are, and are not, supposed to be.


We Could Tell Him a Few Things—England has abandoned compulsory smallpox vaccination—which hasn’t been very compulsory for many years. In the course of time the population will be largely unprotected. What will happen? In view of the long experience of one unvaccinated town there is no real cause for alarm, says this M.O.H.


Young Old People—Inspired words are these! “Life ends for many old people as naturally as it began, with little distress, in the midst of full, forward-looking participation in society, with no period of custodial care or sitting on the side-line benches. The geriatrician believes that this happy ending can be achieved by many more.”


“New Profession . . . Health Physicist”—If your digestive capacity is equal to the job, you’ll get a lot of nourishment from the capsule doses of scientific findings in a great variety of subjects ranging from genes to cosmic rays and not neglecting nuclear energy’s effect on public health.


Productive Field—Prevalence rates of 8 per cent + of unsuspected pulmonary tuberculosis among the inmates and 2.7 per cent among the attendants in 7 state mental hospitals are statistics worth remembering.


Intellectual Adventure—Can you write genially and intelligibly about your own particular job in words so clear that an educated layman will respond, “Well, I’m glad to get that straight, at last.”? For an outstanding example of what you ought to be able to do, hunt out this dedicatory address.


Dental Health Goals—Mostly this paper is about the dental research projects and dental health field demonstrations now underway by the U. S. Public Health Service. There is a lot more in it which should be known by any health worker.


Widely Variable, They Pronounce It—In case you’d like to know what the mumps virus looks like, there are some excellent electron micrographs accompanying this article. What else you will get from it, I cannot predict, for the discussion was way over my head.