

FIGHT 1956 POLIO EPIDEMICS NOW

By HART E. VAN RIPER, M.D.
Medical Director National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis

Almost all of us are infected by the polio virus at one time or another. Generally, we don't even know we have the infection. We may feel perfectly well, or we may have a sore throat or an upset stomach.

Sometimes, however, the polio virus does serious damage. It attacks the central nervous system, destroying nerve cells and causing paralysis.

If almost everyone is attacked by the virus, there must be an important reason why some people succumb and some do not. There is.

The critical battle in the fight against polio takes place, as it always has, in the bodies of human beings. It is a battle between the polio virus and tiny particles, called antibodies, which can destroy the virus in the blood stream.

When an individual is infected by the polio virus, the virus enters his system and begins to multiply. At the same time, the human system begins to produce defensive antibodies.

A race ensues. If the human antibody factory works speedily enough, the antibodies destroy the polio virus in the blood and keep it from attacking nerve cells.

If the virus multiplies faster than antibodies can be produced to fight it, the virus overwhelms the body's defenses, attacks the nervous system and may cause paralysis.

For nearly all of recorded history men knew no way to influence the critical battle of polio within the human body. Then, in 1951 and 1952, research supported by the March of Dimes revealed that antibodies from other people's blood—contained in gamma globulin—could be "loaned" to an individual by injection and would give some protection against paralytic polio.

But the loaned antibodies would last only a few weeks. And to be effective, they had to be injected

before or at most within a few days after a person was exposed to polio, and it is not generally possible to tell when this is.

Obviously, gamma globulin, while of value in epidemic situations, was no final answer to the control of polio. Among other things, they could never be enough to go around (since it comes from human blood and it is extremely expensive).

Now—for the first time—we have an effective means for controlling polio. The Salk vaccine, in the most extensive and careful field trial ever given a vaccine, was shown to be 60 to 90 per cent effective in preventing paralytic polio. The vaccine now being manufactured is even more effective.

In most parts of the country we are now at the tapering-off part of the 1955 polio season. We have the fall and winter months and the early spring to prepare for 1956. There is no doubt that we have it in our power greatly to reduce polio incidence next year. How well we succeed will depend largely on how many children receive vaccine.

First, of course, the vaccine must be manufactured and distributed. During the fall and winter large supplies will be made available for use.

It is too much to hope that all of the 165,000,000 people in the United States can be vaccinated before next summer, but many millions of children will surely be inoculated, including almost all in the highly susceptible five-through-nine-year age group.

Since polio attacks more children than adults, it is by vaccinating children that the greatest effect can be achieved, in terms of preventing cases of paralytic polio.

Every parent naturally has questions about the vaccine. Foremost is the question: Is the vaccine safe? The answer to this is yes.

Last spring, according to a U. S. Public Health Service report, live virus was found in a small amount

of vaccine that had been released. More stringent government safety standards were promptly established to prevent a recurrence of this incident.

The difficulties of a single manufacturer do not, of course, reflect on the safety of all commercially produced vaccine, any more than the existence of one contaminated source of water suggests that water itself is unsafe.

During the summer there have been suggestions that a single shot of the vaccine might give some protection against paralytic polio, and so parents may wonder if such an injection is not enough. The answer is that it is not enough for full and lasting protection.

Here is what happens when a child is given vaccine. Some seven to 10 days after the first shot he begins to develop polio-fighting antibodies. These help strengthen his defenses against paralytic polio. When he receives his second shot, the number of antibodies again rises. Then, approximately seven months later, when he receives his third shot, there is a further rise in antibodies, and he then has the full protection of the vaccine.

Thus, the child with one shot has some help in defending himself against paralytic polio. The child with two has even more help. The child with three, properly spaced, has the full protection of the vaccine.

The body tries to defend itself against paralytic polio even without vaccine. What the vaccine does is bolster natural defenses.

Everyone would like to know how long the effect of vaccine lasts. And no one can give a hard and fast answer, because we have not had the vaccine very long. A number of children who have received it will be followed through the years until we do know how long it protects.

However, because the level of protection after the third shot is so high, there is reason to hope that it will last for many years.

The third shot is in a sense the real key to the effectiveness of the vaccine. This is why we will look with growing interest toward the 1956 polio season. By that time enough youngsters should have received their complete series of injections to make a substantial difference in the nationwide polio rate. Then we will be able to look forward to final control of polio within a few years.

This fall the vaccine program of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis will be concluded in school clinics in all states. In these clinics youngsters from the first and second grades will receive their second shots of vaccine, and so will third and fourth graders in schools that participated in the 1954 field trials. No first shots will be given.

The United States Congress has

Symbol of \$10,000 Colonial Williamsburg Award



Colonial Williamsburg silversmith puts final touches on the hand forged Town Crier's Bell which will be presented to Sir Winston Churchill, first recipient of the newly established Williamsburg Award. Sir Winston will receive the bell, replica of an 18th century Town Crier's Bell used in Williamsburg, Virginia, and the award's \$10,000 honorarium at a ceremony in London. The distinguished award will be made by the trustees of Colonial Williamsburg "as the occasion warrants, to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the historic struggle of men to live free and self-respecting in a just society."

appropriated \$30,000,000 for the purchase of polio vaccine during the coming few months. Supplies of vaccine are allocated to states on the basis of the number of unvaccinated children five through nine years of age. Each state is responsible for the distribution of the vaccine within its borders. Your local health officer or person-

al physical will be able to tell you what arrangements have been made in your state.

The battle against polio in the summer of 1956, so far as prevention is concerned, will be won or lost this fall and winter. Success will depend on how many children are vaccinated. If you vaccinate every youngster for whom we have

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vaccine, next year should begin to show a significant decrease in the number of paralyzed children.

John J. Bond Reenlists In United States Army

M-Sgt. Sherman D. Owen, Army recruiter for the Albemarle area, has announced that John J. Bond of Edenton, has reenlisted for six years in the Infantry, U. S. Army. Bond was discharged from the Army October 27th and was reenlisted on November 2. He held

for processing and assignment.

M-Sgt. Owen also announced that under a new program any applicant enlisting or reenlisting during the period December 16 to December 31 may request leave at the time of enlistment so as to enable them to be at home for Christmas. For example, a man enlists on December 18. He can get 15 days leave and report to the reception center on January 3. For more information about this program contact M-Sgt. Owen at the Edenton Post Office on Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

OLDEST BUILDING IN WORLD

The oldest building in the world still in use is the Hagia Sophia museum in Istanbul, Turkey. The 1400-year old edifice was built as a church, was later converted into a mosque and is now a museum of Byzantine art. It is considered the supreme masterpiece of Byzantine architecture.

Ahem!

"Man can do no wrong."
"Right" if there's a...

Good News Coming

Watch This Paper For The Grand Opening Of The New Store Of The Edenton Furniture Co.

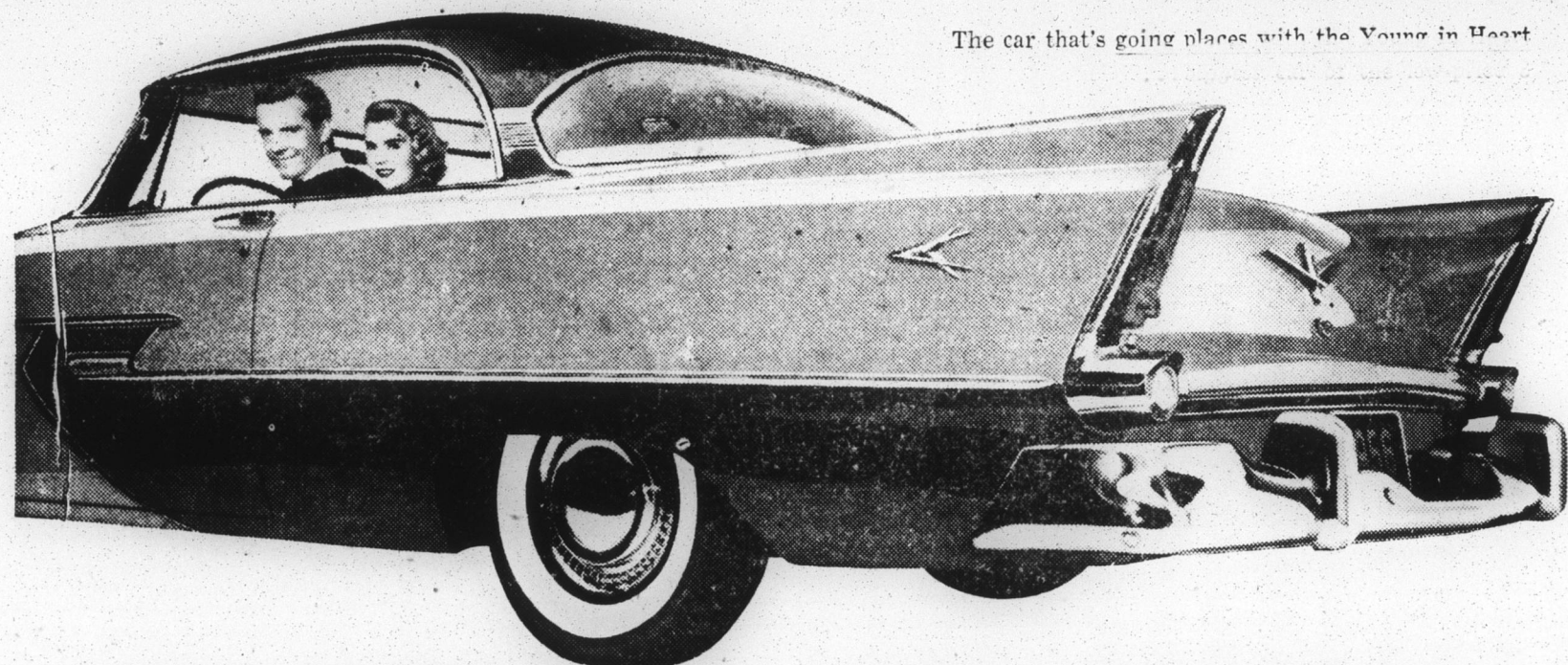
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