

Christmas Seals Versus Tuberculosis

Each year the annual sale of Christmas seals comes around and everyone is asked to buy these seals to help combat tuberculosis. It is necessary for the public to know what an important part these seals play in the fight against tuberculosis.

Here is a short story in which the cause, symptoms, cures and many other facts concerning tuberculosis are discussed.

Ann, Pat, and Jeannette, three girls of high school age, were seated at their table in study hall, discussing their recent chest x-rays.

"I certainly hope my chest x-ray shows up negative," Ann said. "I

doubt if I have tuberculosis but I just can't help worrying. Tuberculosis kills more people between the ages of fifteen and thirty-four than any other disease."

"Yes, I know," replied Pat. "Although it dropped from first to seventh place as a death cause, it still ranks first in suffering involved."

"I'd rather spend my money for Christmas seals than anything else. Approximately 500,000 people have tuberculosis and only one-half of these cases are known to the public health authorities," Jeannette chimed in. "And the bad thing about it is that tuberculosis has no symptoms in its early stages. That's why regular chest x-rays are necessary. And without the money given to the local Tuberculosis Association through the sale of Christmas seals, these free x-rays could not be given."

"Did you know that tuberculosis is caused by a germ called tubercle bacillus?" asked Ann. "Long ago, people believed that tuberculosis was hereditary and incurable, but now with the modern research made possible by the Christmas seals it has been proved contrary to that. If I had tuberculosis I'd want to know it immediately because it can be cured if caught in its early stage."

"A large number of cases is found among special population groups such as Negroes, Indians, and Eskimos, and also among medical and nursing students, doctors, nurses, and hospital attendants, employed women and young mothers, older men in poorly paid occupations, and among people who have lived or worked with someone who has active tuberculosis," Pat contributed.

Jeannette spoke again, "Tuberculosis is communicable and can be caught by breathing air with

tuberculosis germs in it. People may spread tuberculosis by coughing, sneezing, or spitting carelessly. It is also spread by handling things which have been used by someone with tuberculosis, using the same eating utensils, or kissing someone with tuberculosis. It is more likely to develop in someone who is overtired, undernourished, or poorly housed."

Suddenly the conversation was interrupted by an announcement over the communication system.

"Will the following girls report to the clinic after school for another chest x-ray: Jeannette Foster and Ann Curtis."

Jeannette looked at Ann with terror in her eyes and Ann said grimly, "I guess our x-rays showed up positive."

"But that doesn't necessarily mean you have tuberculosis," Pat said, trying to sound cheerful. "And besides, if you do have the disease, you can be cured in due time by complete rest under medical direction, good food, properly selected and prepared, or, if necessary, chest surgery."

After school, when the two girls paid their visit to the clinic, Jeannette found out that she had tuberculosis in its early stage and she was immediately admitted to a hospital where she began her treatment hopefully, due to her thorough knowledge of the disease. Ann found out that her x-ray film was defective and it was only necessary to have another x-ray to know that she did not have tuberculosis.

As this story proves, the best ways to fight tuberculosis are to learn the facts about it and to contribute generously to the Christmas Seal campaign.

Sign on a Kentucky church: "Come in and have your faith lifted."



AS I HEARD IT

—By—
JEAN COOPER

What's happening today? Why, I thought everybody knew that! We get out two whole blissful weeks for Christmas Holidays, that's what! Just think! No school!

My, time does fly, doesn't it? It seems only a year ago that we were starting in on our free days. What? You say it was a year ago? Pardon me, my mistake. Anyway, Christmas is in the air and Santa is on his way. Everybody is happy and busy, worrying about whom they'll give what, especially the girls.

When asked what they are planning to do during holidays, the students gave different answers. Blanche Wilkins plans to work. R. G. Capps intends to sleep, and Jimmy Cavello is smart. He's "not gonna do nothing." There were various other answers but the majority are planning to work.

Congratulations are in store for Margaret Moore Eason and Hazel Rawls on their winning essays on the Community Chest; and Ann Bailey for winning the title of "Miss Community Chest."

Gene Williams, Preston Bradshaw, Jimmy Bishop, Newsome Maples, and Morland Reid attended the Hi-Y conference in Charlotte.

I hear Elva Griffin is planning

to have a pajama party on New Years Eve. Don't have too much fun, girls.

I'm very sorry to hear about Eleanor Peele and I hope she will soon be back among us again.

What do you want for Christmas? Well, there were many answers to that question. Miss Parker said she had a great long list, but a diamond ring, a fur coat, and a stick of candy would go. Patricia Harris wants a cadillac and a pair of white shoe strings, Vivian Williams desires a convertible, and Bobby Carpenter wants anything. I've heard of one boy who wants Santa to fill his stocking with a girl of some description.

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