

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Day... Member Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association...

We Can All Help

We are hearing a lot about the problem of mental retardation these days, and for good reason. Most startling are the facts that there are half a million mentally retarded persons in Canada alone...

From coast to coast, the associations for retarded children are facing up to this challenge. It is much more serious than most of us have ever realized. Within the next decade, however—through rehabilitation, research and better childhood programs for retarded youngsters—we may see the problem greatly diminished.

Here in Prince Edward Island, the Retarded Children's Association has been organized for several years and is actively engaged in coping with the needs of the mentally retarded among our population.

During the week of May 9-16, the provincial association is joining in a nationwide observance of Canadian Retarded Children's Week, and is conducting in conjunction therewith the Retarded Children's Flowers of Hope Fund.

Reassuring Report

Representing nine months of work by a congressional subcommittee, a report on pesticides has been released at Washington which should prove of interest to our farmers and all concerned in a problem which knows no national boundary lines and about which so much controversy has been waged.

The report is part of the hearings on the U.S. department of agriculture appropriations for 1966. It is hailed as the most concise, authoritative, and complete view of the subject that has been made available, and is particularly valuable for its finding on the effect of pesticides on human beings.

There is, for example, an extensive review of the late Rachel Carson's best seller, "Silent Spring," which gives Miss Carson credit for touching off public concern and alarm over pesticides. But it also gives examples in her work which the staff was "advised by scientists and by physicians" made the book only "superficially scientific."

ing to the use of pesticides that are still highly controversial in the United States, the cranberry incident, milk contamination in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the cauliflower situation in Long Island, the fish kills in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, the fire ant menace and the gypsy moth danger. Each of these cases is reviewed historically.

With regard to the effect of long-term ingestion of minute particles of pesticides present in raw and processed food, it is conceded that certain of these pesticides, notably the chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as DDT, do accumulate in the body; but "no harmful effects have yet been noted in the population, even after the usage of DDT for about 20 years."

Citing Hodgkin's disease and leukemia, the report says: "There was no significant change in the rate of the increase between 1930 and 1950 and, most important, there has been no augmentation of the increase associated with the introduction of DDT or other pesticides." It adds: "The cancer problem has changed little since the advent of synthetic pesticides."

The report does not profess to be final, but there is no reason to doubt that it was made with as much thoroughness as possible. It will be for those who maintain that it is too optimistic to disprove the evidence it sets forth.

The Monsoons

In Viet Nam another Communist ally is preparing to move in—the weather. There is already the scent of rain in the air. Thunder clouds are building up. In the distance lightning zigzags across the leaden tropical skies. Parched river beds like that of the mighty Mekong are beginning to gurgle with the first upcountry rains which soon will come down in chocolate flood. The monsoons are about to set in. For the peasant farmer this means relief. But for the soldier waging war against Communists this is a time of anxiety and crisis.

Both in Laos and in Viet Nam this is traditionally the occasion for a new Communist assault—Objectives are seized, then held while the opposing forces become bogged down in mud. This year the advent of the rains is particularly meaningful for the United States is relying heavily on air power to harass the enemy. But the rains and mist and poor visibility will certainly curtail air activity and probably ground some planes altogether.

Soon, by the vigor and scope of any Communist attacks that come in Laos and Viet Nam, observers will know just how badly the American air strikes have hurt the Communists. At best, there is the prospect of the coming months developing into a holding operation, proving decisive for neither side.

Meanwhile, it is to be hoped that diplomatic efforts will be pursued on the wide front now available—directly or through the United States, or using the mechanism that still exists from the Geneva conferences of 1954 and 1962. The United States sensibly proposes to go ahead with its plans for a Southeast Asian development program, and this may prove a strong incentive in reaching a peaceful settlement. But the signs, at present, are that the monsoons will get there first, leaving a big question mark as to what they will bring in their wake.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is expected that the report of the Doron judicial inquiry will be submitted to the federal government next month; in which case, when published, we may expect it to be the most popular best-seller of the year.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has ruled that fees paid by Navajo Indians to "medicine men" in Arizona and New Mexico for "healing ceremonies" are deductible medical expenses. Well, why not?

A nice tribute to our junior member for Queens was paid by Prime Minister Pearson in his recent address at the honors day convocation at the University of Vermont. Speaking of the university's Canadian Studies course, Mr. Pearson said he was impressed by the roster of lecturers who have participated. He was, in a sense, concluding the number "And I can assure you," he added, "I am as proud to do my turn after Les Grands Ballets Canadiens as I am to follow Mr. Heath Macquarrie, M.P. and the others who have tried, like me, to convey something of the quality of Canada by mere words."



THE TORY HEALTH CLUB

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

To Attend World Health Assembly

Dr. Harry Harley, Liberal M.P. for Halton, has been selected to represent Canada at the 18th annual meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. This is the first time Dr. Harley has been so honoured. He told me before leaving Ottawa that he is looking forward to interesting and profitable discussions at the three-week meeting. Controlling the birth of mosquitoes and of humans will be among the chief topics reviewed.

As the ranking authority on drugs in the House of Commons, Dr. Harley is very happy to note on the agenda a survey of steps to control the quality and safety of drugs. Last year, as chairman of the House of Commons committee on pesticides and drugs, he steered an enquiry into this very problem.

Other important items, he told me, include a review of the world-wide program for the eradication of malaria, which is spread by mosquitoes; and a study of the problem caused by the world's population explosion. Here again, drug expert Harley will be interested in the study of possible dangers emerging as side-effects from the use of certain birth-control pills. Authorities are now suggesting that a preferable weapon in the campaign against pregnancy appears to be the new plastic spirals and prezel-shaped gadgets, costing only a few cents each and offering lifetime efficacy.

When Dr. Harley returns to Ottawa late in May, he will resume his role as chairman of the committee on pesticides and drugs. This session it faces the lengthy task of reviewing the price of drugs to the patient, and making recommendations which might lower that cost. The prime factor, which this committee has been directed by Finance Minister Walter Gordon to explore, is the impact of the 11 per cent federal sales tax. This is levied at the factory price, and its impact is in effect doubled by wholesale and retail mark-ups.

Other factors to be considered by the committee, Dr. Harley told me, include the recommendation by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission that Canada should abolish patents on drugs—an act of international piracy which lawyers especially regard with horror.

Many witnesses have already announced their wish to present briefs before my committee; it looks like a long and interesting program for us," Dr. Harley said. Will the committee start work without you, while you are in Switzerland? I asked him. "It could, and in that case Rodger Mitchell, Liberal M.P. for Sudbury, who has served as deputy chairman of the committee would chair its proceedings, but it is unlikely to be ready to start hearings before I return."

The greatest danger facing the patient taking drugs today is not the normally light blow to his pocket book—the average prescription costs \$3.20. It is the risk that his doctor, or more probably a hospital, may treat him with "cheap" drugs imported from, say, Italy, where they have been manufactured in some basement without the government supervision and scientific skill obligatory in Canada.

This danger has recently been headlined in England, where parliament has been told that a sample of the life-saving drug Tetracycline, bought from cut-rate Italian suppliers, were found to be as much as 73 per cent deficient in stated strength. A patient treated with such weak doses of the antibiotic will probably not be cured of the acute bacterial infection from which he is suffering, worse, such sub-effective doses would breed bacteria resistant to all antibiotics. The deficiency in those Italian drugs was attributed to "unsatisfactory mode of formulation," suggesting that the low price of the drug was made possible by cheap labour and cheap equipment, not up to the required standards of competence.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

DRAMA COMPETITION

Sir—As the activities of the past week point out, rural high school students are now taking a very active part in a field of the arts, which in past years has been practically "closed doors" in most Island schools. By setting up a provincial competition, the P.E.I. Drama Festival Association has stimulated a keen interest in acting among students, a long unrequited and much needed part of our school agenda. For this we are truly grateful.

But just as keen as our new interest is our ever-constant desire for fair play. Schools entering this year's competition did so believing that only ONE ACT play were to be presented. Most students were surprised and disappointed however, when St. Dunstan's High School, the winner in the central zone, presented a THREE ACT play.

Heart Attacks Among Women

By Dr. Theodore B. Van Dellen The frequency of heart attacks among women has tended to obscure the importance of this condition among women. According to the Statistical Bulletin, 212,000 females died of coronary heart disease in 1963. One-fourth of all women die of this disorder.

Most heart attacks are secondary to hardening of the coronary arteries. It is well known that arteriosclerosis is a problem for women approximately 10 years after it becomes a troublemaker for men. The death rate for females under age 35 is one-fifth that for males in the same age group. Neither is immortal and in time the death rates for both sexes gets closer and closer. At ages 35 and older the ratio is reduced to seven-eighths, but in the interim many more men than women have died.

What protects the female from developing arteriosclerosis for those 10 extra years? It is due in part to her sex hormones (estrogens). These hormones have been used with some success in the long-term therapy of middle-aged women who survived a heart attack. The majority discontinue the product when they develop bosoms. Some physicians prescribe estrogens after the menopause, hoping to further delay arteriosclerosis. Ovaries are less active. If this were the only cause of hardening of the arteries, the plan might gain wider acceptance among the medical profession.

Overweight increases the risk of developing coronary heart disease. The same can be said of high blood pressure and diabetes. Women are subject to less stress and have that famous safety valve to reduce tension—tears and back-fence or bridge discussions. Coronary artery disease symptoms are the same in both sexes. Chest pain or a feeling of pressure beneath the breastbone should not be neglected by a woman just because heart trouble is more common in men.

WEAK OLDEST R B writes: Is there any way to build up strength in a weak 81-year-old man?

REPLY Yes, he should be examined for evidence of infections, anemia, and glandular or circulatory disorders. Correctable defects should be attended to, especially if they are sapping his strength. If no abnormalities can be found, a physical fitness program will help, particularly the use of an adequate diet.

MENOPAUSAL SYMPTOMS Mrs. A. writes: Would a person who had a hysterectomy 12 years ago still have symptoms of the menopause?

REPLY Yes, but you neglected to mention the specific symptoms. As a result, it is possible to blame them on the menopause, nervousness, or both.

COSMETIC DEFECT P. S. writes: What can be done about those little blood vessels in my legs and thighs?

REPLY These tiny venules usually are dilations of pre-existing vessels. They are a cosmetic defect and of no health importance. They can be destroyed by electrolysis or injection treatment, but the results are not always satisfactory.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT— Medications should not be kept on night tables.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 8, 1940) The House of Commons in London, England, voted confidence in the Chamberlain administration by a narrow margin of 81 votes at the end of two days of bitter uncompromising debate on the Government's conduct of the war.

Great Britain was reported in diplomatic quarters to have offered Hungary support of the British army and air force if the Hungarians chose to resist any move of Nazi legions through their territory.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 8, 1955) Three Charlottetown girls, Miss Norah deBlois, Miss Katherine Hutcheson and Miss Helen Massey, were among the graduating class of the Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing in Montreal.

The countries of Western Europe, many of them still recovering from the years of bombing and German occupation, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the German surrender in a schoolroom at Rheims, May 7, 1945.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Sir, my wife said I was to ask for a raise." "Good. I'll ask my wife if I may give you one." —Montreal Star.

Want to be sure of saying the right thing at the right time? Speak softly and seldom. —Wall Street Journal.

A Minnesota dog with a quill in its beak knocked at a veterinary hospital's door for help. Evidently it knew that veterinarians seldom make house calls. —Hamilton Spectator.

It's still possible to buy a jack-knife, and if you shop around a little you can find one with the traditional tool for taking stones out of horses' hooves. But every jack-knife used to have a tool for such purposes, and it's reassuring that you can still be ready for emergencies, even in this horseless age. —Windsor Star.

"So you want another day off," snorted the office chief to his small office boy. "I'm anxious to hear what excuse you have this time. You've been off for your grandfather's funeral four times this year already." "Today my grandma's getting married again," said the youngster. —Montreal Star.

Signs Of A SEATO Split

By Doug Marshall Canadian Press Staff Writer

The eight-nation southeast Asia Treaty Organization, backed up President Johnson's "hard line" over South Viet Nam at the end of the 10th SEATO council meeting in London Wednesday.

But all the tough-sounding words in the six-page final communiqué couldn't disguise the fact SEATO is showing signs of coming apart at the seams. The French government, represented only by an observer, declined to take any part in the proceedings and Pakistan, in a carefully ambiguous paragraph, made clear its reservations about the way the Vietnam war is being fought without actually coming out with a contrary view.

As one member of the Pakistani delegation is quoted as saying: "We showed we could have disagreement without being disagreeable."

WILL NOT JOIN Neither the French nor the Pakistani navies will join the forces of the other SEATO countries for Exercise Seahorse in the South China Sea next week.

That leaves Britain, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand united in their determination, as the communiqué puts it, "to continue and, consistent with their commitments elsewhere, to increase their assistance to South Viet Nam."

The communiqué expresses "warm support" for the U.S. policy on South Viet Nam and condemns "aggression organized, directed, supplied and supported by the Communist regime in North Viet Nam" in contravention of the Geneva agreements.

Under the terms of its original charter SEATO could hardly do otherwise than give the Americans unequivocal diplomatic backing. It was founded in 1954 specifically to fight armed aggression in vulnerable Southeast Asia, although at the time the U.S. added a rider saying the aggression must be Communist inspired before intervention could take place.

VITAL ROLE In these terms the war in South Viet Nam is virtually a perfect example of the situation SEATO was designed for and proof the organization still has a vital role to play.

Why, then, is SEATO showing signs of a split when it should be stronger than ever? Clearly the Communist threat has not changed in the last 11 years but rather a growing disagreement has developed among Western allies about how that threat should be met.

France and now Pakistan, are searching for middle paths to peace, through the Southeast Asian jungles and other SEATO powers may soon follow them. Meanwhile observers are not discounting the possibility the time has come for SEATO to regroup, perhaps bringing in Malaysia in order to reaffirm its original purpose.

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