

The Guardian

"Over France Edward Island Like the Dew"
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1956

From Hiroshima

There is a touch of sadness in a resolution adopted by the City Council of Hiroshima, Japan, and sent to the governments of the United States, Britain, and Russia. It pleaded for an end to all nuclear tests. Just what happened to the resolution in London and Moscow has not been revealed—at least we have not seen any account of it—but a late dispatch from the Kyodo News Agency says that President Eisenhower acknowledged receipt of the request, and declined it regretfully. In his letter, the agency reports, the President stated that, while the United States would like to see nuclear weapons put under safe international control, the tests are necessary for the self defence and security of the free world.

Perhaps this explanation will mollify the anxiety of the citizens of Hiroshima, and perhaps it will not. Certainly, Mr. Eisenhower is sincere in his views; for he knows as well as any government leader in the world what would happen if, by some error of judgment on his part with respect to nuclear power, the free nations were left naked to the oppressive strength of the Soviet Union. At the same time, his humanitarian instincts, which are well recognized, must make him deeply apprehensive of the danger involved in the piling up of atomic engines of destruction.

Hiroshima, it will be recalled, has had painful experience in atomic horror. While the citizens of other cities fear the unknown, the Hiroshimans have sad and bitter memories of the first dark days of the atomic era. And they know, as people everywhere must know by now, that the bombs which fell on their city in 1945, compared with those which now stand ready for war, were petty and small. It may be that their cry for a halt to the folly that threatens universal destruction is impractical at the present time, and must be rejected. If so, more's the pity. But there is no denying the validity of its appeal for a better and a saner world.

Indian Ocean Eden

World events ironically have exiled an archbishop of Cyprus to an Indian Ocean paradise where a noted British soldier once claimed to have found the Biblical Garden of Eden. Nor is Archbishop Makarios the first political castaway in the coconut islands of the Seychelles. A long succession of African kings, pretenders, and potentates have gone there, as did King Premph of Ashanti in 1900 with top hat and morning coat, three wives, and 55 followers.

Such ripples in the tranquil life of the far-off Seychelles, however, are few and far between. History moves there at a placid pace, and politics are far less a problem than boredom. Surrounded by long reaches of tropical ocean, they are one of the least known of Britain's scattered colonies. A thousand miles from the East Africa coast, and half that far from the northern tip of Madagascar, 92 granite and coral dots lift from the sea. They have happy names: Curieuse, Silhouette, Frigate, Felicite, and Marie Louise among them. The largest and most important is Mahe, 17 miles long and 4 to 7 miles wide. Others are mere points of rock, atolls dotted with palms and ringed with surf and reefs.

When these quiet islands intrude on world awareness, often the news has an exotic, faraway air. A few years ago a treasure-hunting team descended on Mahe with an old pirate map, cryptic smiles, and electronic divining rods. But when the blasting had died away, all that had been unearthed were a few old coins.

Portuguese navigators of the 1500's, and perhaps earlier Arab sailors in dhows, discovered the Seychelles. They remained unclaimed until French ships came from Ile de France (Mauritius) in the mid-1700's.

When war with England broke out soon after, the French governor, one Chevalier de Quincy, found a notable way of avoiding trouble. He flew the flag of France until a British ship would appear, whereupon he'd hoist a big blue banner with the words "Seychelles Capitulation," welcoming his conquerors, and provision them generously. As soon as they departed, back up would go the French flag.

By the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Britain was awarded the islands. Ninety years later, by Letters Patent, it recognized them as a Crown Colony.

In the 1880's, General George ("Chinese") Gordon, then a Colonel, came to the unshakable conclusion on the green island of Praslin that he had found mankind's birthplace. On Praslin grows one of the strangest palm trees on earth, the double-coconut or "coco-de-mer." Gordon held that the tree and its oddly shaped nut lured Adam and Eve to their downfall.

Canadian Memorial

Of special interest to all Canadian veterans who fought in Italy in the Second World War is the announcement that a new memorial to Canada's war dead is being placed in the war cemetery at Cassino, a noted Italian battlefield. The unveiling will be performed on Sunday, Sept. 20, by Canada's former Governor General, Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis.

The memorial has been built in an amphitheatre of hills, overlooked by the Benedictine Monastery in Monte Cassino, and the town of Cassino. On it are the names of 193 Canadian soldiers who died in the Italian campaign and have no known graves. More than 850 Canadians—848 soldiers and seven airmen—are buried in the cemetery. The inscription says, "Around them are the graves of their comrades who died fighting in these parts to open the way to Rome and the North."

It is particularly fitting that Earl Alexander should officiate at the unveiling ceremony. He was commander of the Allied armies in Italy at the time the men being honored gave their lives. It is also fitting that individual invitations to attend the ceremony have been sent to the next-of-kin of each man named in the memorial or buried in the cemetery.

The unveiling of this memorial will be a touching and colorful event at which Canada will be well represented. It is hoped that in the Canadian party, on that day will be many of the next-of-kin of those in whose memory and honor it has been created.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A report says that trout fishermen use more than 10,000 different patterns of flies. Yes, and more often than that there is not one in the lot in which the fish have the slightest interest.

Further evidence that there is much significance in a name is provided in a dispatch from Turiff, Scotland. It says that the first prize for a funny story was won by a soldier named Witty. Nothing could be more fitting.

Are bad weather conditions and wet roads important causes of highway accidents? No, according to official figures covering several countries. They show that three out of four accidents happen in clear weather on dry well kept roads.

Tim Buck, who at the time of Stalin's death referred to "tears flowing in the streets," says now that his admiration for the late dictator was "a mistake." He thus becomes the latest Communist leader to publish the fact that orders still go from Moscow to the dupes abroad.

Among the many strange creatures which have been brought into research into the causes and possible cures of various diseases is the sea cucumber which poisons its enemies by throwing its own internal organs in their direction. There is some hope that a substance in the discharged viscera might be destructive to cancer cells. The scientist in charge of this particular research belongs to the school of thought which believes that an antibiotic for tumours will come from the sea rather than from the soil.

And so the fight goes on. Some day, perhaps before long, it will end in victory.



TRY TO FIX 'ER UP AGAIN SOMEHOW, OR, REPLACE IT WITH A NEW ONE? EITHER WAY IT WILL COST US SOMETHING

The Fluoridation Question

By James M. Mather, M.D., D.P.H.
Head of the Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine
University of British Columbia.

(Continued from yesterday's issue)
As late as 1947 there was no scientifically acceptable evidence of the usefulness of tooth brushing as a caries-preventive measure. Since that time Fosdick in a study of college students, showed that tooth brushing, in itself, might be useful in checking the development of dental caries if practised immediately after eating and drinking. The addition of specific agents to dentifrice preparations has met with equivocal success whether that substance be penicillin, chlorophyll, or the ammonium ion. The difficulty of achieving immediate brushing after every intake of food or drink is too obvious to require any elaboration.

If a child receives early, adequate and continuous dental care he will be spared many of the ravages of dental disease. But, consider for a moment the difficulties that lie in the way. Think of the tremendous educational program that would be necessary to convince the average parent that his child should be under continuous dental care from the age of 3 onwards, an objective we have not even attained for the school age child. Consider the tremendous financial burden that would be placed upon the parent. Even if the parent were willing and able to do this, is the dental profession in a position to give the necessary service?

What have been the results of artificial fluoridation of communal water supplies based upon the experience of ten years? Basically the results have been identical to those already observed in those areas which have had naturally occurring fluoride in their drinking water for many years. For more detailed results we will look at the experience of Brantford. (To be continued)

less than among children who drank water containing no fluoride. It soon became evident that fluoride was a fairly common constituent of natural waters. In the United States, 631 public water supplies, serving 1,486,847 people contain natural fluoride in excess of 1.5 p.p.m. and 1,401 public water supplies serving 4,188,000 consumers contain more than 0.7 p.p.m.

DENTISTS AND POPULATION

In the City of Vancouver and in the Province of British Columbia, we are in the most favorable position in Canada. In the city the dentist-population ratio is 1:1499, and in the province, 1:2205 as contrasted to a national ratio of 1:2790 (1954). It is exceedingly difficult to quote a realistic and desirable dentist population ratio. In World War Two, the Canadian Dental Corps was established on a ratio of 1:650, an ideal that was never attained. The five dental schools in Canada in 1954 graduated 174 students. In the previous year, Canada's population increased by 350,000. If we assume that a dentist could care for 2,000 people, a manifestly absurd figure, 175 additional dentists would be required each year simply to take care of population ratio.

The dental profession, up until the present, has been fully occupied in repairing the ravages of dental disease. There is little or no prospect of this situation changing unless we attempt a preventive approach.

REALISTIC APPROACH

All of these things: dietary control, oral hygiene, and treatment are important and must not be neglected but, in themselves, are completely inadequate to deal with the problem of dental disease. The use of fluoridated communal water supplies is the first realistic approach to the solution of our present difficulties.

Black, of the University of Florida, has called fluorine the "Blessed Inquiry." When the opponents of fluoridation talk about our lack of knowledge they display complete ignorance of the years of research behind us. I know of no public health procedure that has received as long, as complete as thorough and as convincing research as has the subject of fluoridation of communal water supplies.

EARLY TESTS

Attention was first drawn to the presence of naturally occurring fluoridation in water in Colorado in 1908 when MacKay and his co-workers observed mottling of the enamel of the teeth. Fluoride was not definitely proven to be the etiologic factor until 1931 when H.V. Churchill showed that fluoridation was the cause. Shortly, Dean and Elvove (Public Health Report, 1937) reported that concentrations of fluoride of 1 p.p.m. or less would not cause mottling. The same workers showed that tooth decay among children drinking water containing 1 p.p.m. of fluoride was about 40 per cent

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 9, 1931)

The first level crossing accident of the season occurred Wednesday evening, when the Borden express crashed into a car at Albany Crossing, throwing the car about thirty yards, seriously injuring the two passengers. The driver of the car escaped with minor bruises.

Mr. Eric Found, medical student at Dalhousie University, spent the week end in town with his aunt, Mrs. A.I. MacLean and Mr. MacLean, on his way to his home in New London.

The local potato market is at a deadlock at the present time with no demand for the commodity. Large quantities in storage at points of consumption are responsible for the situation. There is a considerable quantity of potatoes in the Province awaiting shipment.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 9, 1946)

The continued stormy weather preventing lobster fishermen of the North Shore getting out their gear, has also compelled Air Lines Incorporated to again cancel the proposed flight will live lobsters from Charlottetown to New York. The flight will not now be made until further instructions are received from the New York office of the air line.

Creamery butter production in Canada in April dropped 6.7 per cent to 19,000,000 pounds from the nearly 21,000,000 pounds in April 1945, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported today. Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec were the only provinces to show increases.

SWEARING-IN TODAY

WASHINGTON (AP)—Livingston T. Merchant, present assistant secretary of state for European affairs, was to be sworn in as U.S. ambassador to Canada this afternoon in a ceremony in the state department's diplomatic reception room.

Most Valuable

(Halifax Chronicle Herald)

The governments of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland have made wise investments of public funds in increasing their grants to the medical and dental schools of Dalhousie University.

There are few institutions in Canadian society today which are more deserving of public assistance than those which serve the educational needs of the nation and among these, medical and dental faculties are in the top echelon.

This country is about to move into a national health insurance program which will require much more extensive medical and dental personnel and facilities than now exist. If that program is to be successful, it will also require a high calibre in doctors and dentists. Neither the proper quantity nor the proper quality can be provided by our training schools without sufficient finances.

For long years, the medical and dental schools of Dalhousie University have been supplying the needs of the Atlantic Provinces as a whole and also helping other Canadian provinces and states of the U.S. It has been able to do this through, in addition to government aid, private endowments. But the latter source of funds has been decreasing because policies make it more difficult for individuals to amass great wealth. This means that our universities must turn to an increasing degree to governments, or they just increase student tuition fees which would keep out of the professions many whose families do not have the means to finance higher education.

It is to be hoped that the other governments of the Atlantic Provinces which have been receiving the benefits of Dalhousie's medical and dental training programs will follow the lead of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

There is room, too, for greater Federal aid toward university training, particularly for faculties which supply graduates for all parts of Canada, instead of merely the region in which the institutions are located.

RACIAL HATE IN BRONX

NEW YORK (AP)—A brick with a threatening note wrapped around it was hurled through a window of a Negro home in a predominantly white neighborhood in the Bronx Monday night. Police said the note warned Percy Hill, 44, and his wife Cora, 53, to leave the neighborhood.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

NEW DRUGS SEEN CAUSING MORE ALLERGIC REACTIONS
With more and more persons using antibiotics and sulfonamides these days, it's natural that we are finding more allergic reactions due to administration of them.

Penicillin, for example, causes allergic reactions in from one to 10 per cent of the persons using it. Probably because it is so widely used now, it results in more reactions than almost all other agents combined.

As in the case of many preparations, intramuscular injections of penicillin cause most reactions. When taken by mouth, statistics show it is less likely to produce side effects.

Generally, allergic reactions to penicillin are inflammation of the skin and itching. Reactions occur in about 10 per cent of the cases treated with streptomycin and between one and two per cent when the tetracyclines are used. Most common reactions are skin rash and fever.

The sulfonamides bring reactions in about five per cent of the patients receiving it. Again, fever and skin rashes are most common.

These reactions are not proportionate with the size of the dose of sulfonamide or antibiotic used, but usually a large dosage produces a greater side effect than a smaller one.

Now you may take an antibiotic or sulfonamide once or several times, before an injection produces a reaction. Even if the first dose brings inflammation, fever, itching or any other side effect, it does not mean subsequent doses will do the same, although they very well might.

It's the first dose of a series which is most likely to give you trouble. For that reason, it's probably best to use an arm for the injection rather than the buttocks where absorption would be much faster.

If there is a reaction, discontinuing the drug will usually halt it. In the case of an allergic fever, however, it might be three days before the temperature returns to normal.

Most doctors feel that one of the best drugs for relieving severe reactions is epinephrine. Application of the injectable to the site of the reaction usually helps.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
Mrs. T. E.: My baby was born without any opening to have bowel movements. An opening had to be made on the side of her abdomen in order for her to live.

Will she ever be normal?
Answer: In many cases of this type, when a child becomes older an operation can be performed to close the opening in the abdomen and a normal rectum can be made surgically.

The Age Old Story

For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens... Look unto me, and be ye saved all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth, in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

PLACE WREATHS

LONDON (Reuters)—Air Commodore A. D. Ross of the RCAF and representatives of other Commonwealth air forces and governments Tuesday placed wreaths at the Runnymede Memorial near London to commemorate the 11th anniversary of VE-Day. The memorial is dedicated to the 20,455 officers and men of the Commonwealth air forces who lost their lives in the Second World War.

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PERPETUAL DISCOVERER

What he enters, though he travels over familiar woods, familiar meadows, often is new country. Under clover he will find a camouflaged, small rover; he will stay as long as it will linger; then let it hop from his unmoving finger. Then longer he will study, know that hands should not disturb the architects, the swift, industrious ants about their ordered labor. Nor will the hands take fruit, the growing gifts. Let he be intruder, not a neighbor, he will listen when the strange birds call, and motionless, wait for the rise and fall of a song that lifts him, for his silent joy is purer than the loud mirth of a boy. He will see no furry thing as wild; he will know that touched by any child, unless approach is made, a friend will go swiftly as a rabbit or a doe. He will watch the chipmunk watching him, yet he will go ahead there, straight and slim, and know a furried friend's curiosity is quite alert as he will ever be; and going home by darkness, foot-fall light, he will watch for ground holes leaved by night.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Russia's vodka may be on the shelves of Ontario liquor stores before long of interest, perhaps to those who found Russian roulette harmless.
—Port Arthur News

This is a fast age. During the past decade or so about the only mechanical device that has been provided with slower speeds is the turntable of a phonograph.
—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

So many prophecies turn out, in the long run, to be absurd. A lot of deep thinkers, for example, thought that the closed motor car would be the doom of the cigar.
—Hamilton Spectator

Members of the Women's Institute (Ugley branch), in Essex, England, are said to be much happier now their organization has a new name. It used to be called the Ugly Women's Institute.—Hamilton Spectator

In Hamilton a 61-year-old man, by his own request was given a penitentiary term because: "I know most of the boys up there." The court might have joined in a few bars of "Auld Lang Syne" to send him off.
—Toronto Star

Bossy mothers produce the kind of men best likely to stand up in emergencies according to Army psychologists. Where the home is run by the mother the offspring tends to prove a poor soldier, they say. We don't suppose there will be any report on the results of having a bossy father around. Most of our recent reading has indicated him to be an extinct species.
—Detroit Free Press.

A type of wheat once grown by the ancient Incas high up in the Andes Mountains is being tried out this spring in Greenland where at present no cereals are cultivated successfully. The wheat, known as quinoa, is said to have a high nutritive value and can withstand the cold climate of polar regions. Canada should be interested in this experiment. Hardier types of wheat which require less time to ripen than those sown presently should enable us to extend the western wheat belt farther north.
—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

It is going to be more expensive to go on a spree in Poland. The Warsaw radio has announced that sobering-up centres are to be established there. In Lodz, Pansan and Fgdansk. Discovery of an intoxicated individual will bring a team of nurses, a doctor and a policeman to the scene to attend the drunk. After the subject of such attention has been restored to a condition of sobriety he will be faced with a bill for transportation costs and medical attention received. Together with the publicity involved, that's almost enough to make a confirmed topper take the pledge.
—St. John Telegraph Journal

Everything some women tell their friends goes right in one ear and out to the whole neighborhood.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

A million young Scottish pine trees are being flown from Scotland to Canada, and the first consignment of 200,000 has already arrived. The young trees, six inches high, had their roots wrapped in polythene bags before being packed in cardboard containers. Most of them come from Fortar. Canadian buyers have a soft spot for Scottish pine trees, doubtless due to the strong kinship links between Scotland and Canada. Still, importing trees into this country seems very much like carrying coals to Newcastle.—Moncton Transcript

The Canadian Medical Association Journal asserts that kissing is dangerous and may be responsible for a marked increase in mononucleosis which may produce sore throats, swollen lymph glands in the neck, and involve other parts of the body. The disease is a most commonly found in young adults. It may be so, but the fact is that young adults have been accumulating for aeons and not until now has mononucleosis smitten the young in this manner. Even if the solons of medicine are correct what do they intend to do about it?—London Free Press



VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY

LOW WEEK-END FARES

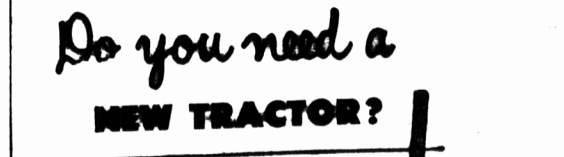
Good going from Noon, Friday, until 2 p.m. Sunday. Return journey to commence not later than Midnight, Monday.

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