

## NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

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**BEEF BONE SCREWS IN FRACTURES.**—A writer in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* says that bone grafting has become firmly established in surgical practice. Some of the failures are due to fixed approximation of the graft to the bone. He has found this is best achieved by the use of screws made of beef bone, which is usually completely absorbed in from six months to a year. Fresh beef bone, usually the tibia, is boiled an hour and a half to remove the tissue and marrow. It is then sawed into strips, filed, turned to the proper size, pointed, and the head rounded in a lathe. The blank screws are placed for half an hour in petrolatum melted in a double boiler, care being taken not to overheat the mixture. They are boiled at the time of use. The one objection to them is that they are brittle, but they have been used most successfully.

**VITAMIN CONTENT OF GREEN PLANTS.**—The *Journal of Biological Chemistry* states that the leaves of a plant are generally richest in the fat soluble vitamin; next come some roots and last are grains. Fat soluble vitamins occur where certain yellow plant pigments are found. Cabbage, containing little pigment, has a small amount, and lettuce is also scantily supplied.

**HEMOPHILIA.**—The *Revue de Medecine* reports a case in which the intravenous injection of a serum obtained from the blood of the mother was effectual in relieving a case of hemophilia in a boy of seventeen. He had been subject to excessive hemorrhage from birth; the serum caused his blood to coagulate normally in the test tube, and after eleven months' treatment his condition is more favorable than at any time in his life.

**WOMEN IN HEALTH WORK.**—It is stated that women form a large majority of the Consultative Council on General Health Questions, established under the British Ministry of Health. They represent a number of trade organizations and deal with such subjects as the main defects in existing provisions for safeguarding the health of the people and the remedies that should be applied to counteract them.

**INFLUENZA PROPHYLACTIC INOCULATION.**—From experiments conducted for the British War Office, it has been found that the occurrence of influenza in those who had received prophylactic injections was 14.1 per thousand in comparison to 47.3 in those who had not been inoculated. Nearly one-half of those treated received only a third of the dose usually considered necessary.

**FEEDING OF BABIES DURING SECOND YEAR.**—In a paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, by the professor of pediatrics in the Harvard Medical School, it is stated that the proper diet for a baby when it is a year old is milk, a simple cereal, broth, beef juice and orange juice. The most digestible cereals are barley jelly, oatmeal jelly and farina. They should be given at the beginning of two feedings daily, with milk, a little salt, but no sugar. The most common cause of indigestion in childhood is sugar and its products. If a baby learns to eat things without sugar, it learns to like them in this way. When the baby has teeth to chew properly, it may have zweiback, toast, stale bread, or plain white crackers. Chicken, lamb or mutton broth is more digestible than beef broth. Four ounces is enough at once. The squeezed beef juice is the best, two teaspoonsful is enough at first, and two ounces by the end of the second year; more makes some babies nervous and sleepless. Half an egg may be given once or twice a week after eighteen months, and meat and green vegetables after the beginning of the third year; care being exercised especially with the latter.

**TEETH INFECTION.**—In an editorial in the same Journal, it is said that Rosenow reports that specific lesions have been produced with bacteria from the various types of dental focal infections, such as gingivitis, pyorrhea, infected pulps, etc. Chronic foci of infection about the teeth are actually or potentially detrimental to the health of persons who harbor them. Pulpless teeth and blind abscesses are considered the most dangerous form of dental sepsis. However, teeth should never be sacrificed unless the indications for removal are clear; there may be other foci of infection.

**RENDERING RIPE OLIVES SAFE.**—It is advised to boil ripe olives for fifteen minutes in the liquid in which they are preserved. It does not materially affect the flavor or texture; the heat destroys the toxin, so the olives can be eaten with safety. It also exaggerates the odor of decomposition and helps to prevent the olives from being served if they are partially spoiled.

**EVIL EFFECTS OF WOOD ALCOHOL.**—Special warnings have been issued against the tragic consequences which may follow the use of wood alcohol, denatured alcohol and medicated alcohol for drinking. These may also be induced by breathing its fumes and by absorption through the mucous membranes of the body. Its effect is usually observed in a very short time after exposure. Within a few hours acute headache is felt, usually accompanied by violent attacks of vomiting, body pains extending over the region of the kidneys, and excessive dizziness. Vision may become impaired, total blindness occur and death result.