

# Weekly LOS ANGELES TRANSIT LINES SAFETY COURTESY SERVICE Topics

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## FOR BETTER HEALTH

This week Los Angeles school children will bring home a consent slip for their parents to sign. This slip will authorize immunization of the children at school. It is extremely important that the parents return these slips without delay so that their children will receive the treatment when it is given in their locality. This treatment is given free if it is not convenient to have it done by the family physician.

Last year in Los Angeles diphtheria took 23 lives, the average age of the victims being just under 10 years. This loss of life was unnecessary, for modern medical science, with its preventive immunizations, has given us the weapons with which we can fight, control and eliminate some of our most lethal and communicable diseases. One of the most vulnerable of these diseases is diphtheria. By immunization we can stamp it out.

There were 319 cases that occurred in this city last year.

These, too, were unnecessary since diphtheria is a 100% preventable disease. And every child who suffered this sickness was a victim of negligence, for every one could have been immunized.

Dr. George M. Uhl, city health officer, in his plea to protect our children, states that there would be no cases of diphtheria in Los Angeles if every child was properly safeguarded by inoculation. He points out that the number of

cases was steadily declining during pre-war times, and that in 1941 the disease almost disappeared in this area; however, the large influx of newcomers and the subsequent crowded living conditions provided a fertile medium for the germs to spread, last year's peak being the outcome.

Infants are old enough to be immunized against diphtheria when they reach the age of six months. When they are five years old, they should be given another inoculation. "Booster" doses are advisable every three years, or more frequently, if the family physician deems it necessary. The physician can judge from the results of the Schick test which he gives the youngsters. The inoculation is simple and painless, and children need this protection against diphtheria until they reach the age of 12 years.

Under the direction of Dr. Uhl, the city health department

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intends to wipe out diphtheria completely, but they need your help. They ask that you make sure your own children are protected, that you make arrangements right now to see your family physician, or sign your children's consent slips. Should you desire to visit your health department clinic, do so at once. For information, call MI-5211, Station 416.

### Polio Increases

The dreaded disease, poliomyelitis, better known as infantile paralysis, has been on a distinct increase in Los Angeles since last June. In August alone, there were 14 cases in the city against 11 cases for the seven preceding months. Sixteen more

city cases appeared during the first week of September, making a total of 41 for the year. Of this number, 22 were males and 19 were females. More than 50% of the patients were ten years of age or over.

While the incidence of this disease is not alarming at the present time, its deviation upward from the consistently low level is somewhat disquieting. In view of the fact that some years polio chooses the month of October to achieve its peak incidence, it is recommended that everyone be on the alert to prevent this disease during the next six weeks.

The most prevalent symptoms and signs to look for are irritability, headache, stiff neck,

backache, stiff back, fever, hypersensitivity, muscle pain, muscle tenderness, muscle paresis or paralysis, and unequal, exaggerated, diminished or absent reflexes. If your child has these symptoms, call your doctor immediately, as early spinal puncture is essential for diagnosis.

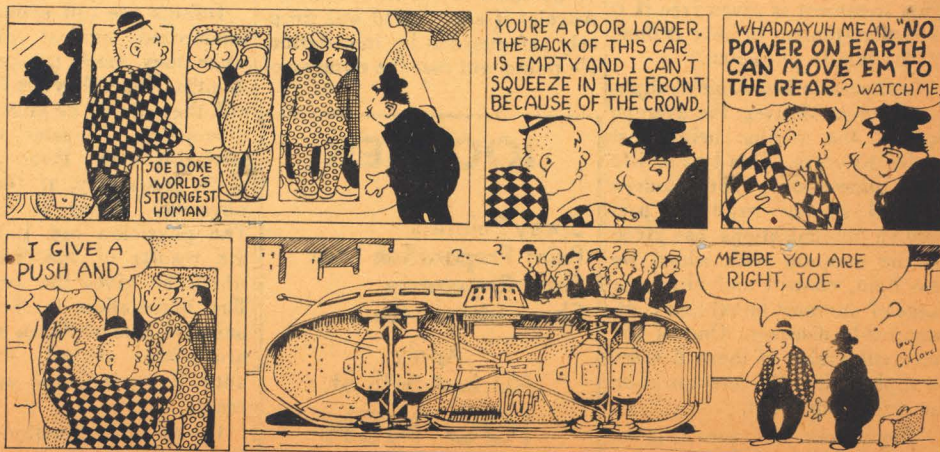
*Good bodily vigor and resistance are important in prevention.*

### IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened by the sudden death of Polly Patterson, noted home economist, radio personality, writer, teacher and regular contributor to "Weekly Topics." Mrs. Patterson passed away on Friday, October 5, 1945.

We offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved ones.

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