Gamma Globulin Helps to Lessen Effects of Attacks of Measles

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D.
L.A. County Health Officer

More than 6800 cases of measles have been reported in Los Angeles County since the first of the year. This is five times the number recorded during the same period in 1956, but the current increase follows a normal cycle. In metropolitan areas the disease attains epidemic proportions about every second or third year.

Fortunately, measles is rarely fatal. Death occurs in less than one in 1000 cases, and patients ordinarily recover without serious consequences. However, the disease should not be taken too lightly, for some of the complications that can occur are highly dangerous.

Infections Possible

Acute secondary infections which sometimes develop during measles, generally when the sick child or adult seems to be getting well, may result in permanent hearing or vision damage, heart impairment, a chronic kidney disorder, or bronchopneumonia. The last named condition, incidentally, is the most common cause of death resulting from measles.

The complications of measles are more likely to occur in children under 5 years of age. It is estimated that 70 per cent of all deaths from the disease happen to children under 3 years, and 90 per cent among those under 5.

Infants and young children usually catch the disease from older children who have been exposed to measles at school, in the family or the neighborhood. If such contact is suspected, especially in children under 3 years of age, a physician should be consulted for the administration of gamma globulin.

Safe Serum

Gamma globulin is a safe, protective serum which, if given within three days after the first exposure to a known case of measles, will, according to the dosage used, avert the attack in most cases or almost certainly modify its severity should it occur. The immunity of three or four weeks provided in such cases is of relatively short duration, but is sometimes desirable for a very young or delicate child.

If the serum is given four to six days after first exposure, although there is no likelihood of preventing the disease, there is still a reasonable chance of reducing the severity of the attack. In the normally healthy child this effect is preferred by most physicians, since it permits the development of life-long immunity.

One-Time Disease

As far as is known, it is extremely rare for anyone to have measles more than once. Usually those persons who claim they have had it a couple of times probably experienced a mild and entirely separate disease known as German measles or rubella.

All the early symptoms of measles are suggestive of the common cold. These signs include the usual runny nose, watery eyes, elevated temperature, and a cough.

It is practically impossible to avoid measles throughout an entire lifetime. The problem, rather, is for parents to be alerted to the potential dangers of measles and to obtain the advice and care of a physician when exposure to the disease is suspected or known.

A pamphlet on measles may be obtained without cost by sending a card of request to the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

Easter Week Services Set At St. James

A full schedule of Holy Week activities is planned at St. James Catholic Church, 415 Vincent St., Redondo Beach.

In Palm Sunday rites today, the palms will be blessed at 7:30 a.m. and will be distributed at all Masses.

Confessions will be heard Wednesday from 10 to 12, 3:30 to 5:30, and 7:30 to 9.

Low Masses will be held at 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Holy Thursday, with a Solemn High Mass and procession at 8 p.m.

A liturgical service, including instruction, petition, adoration of the Cross, Mass of the Pre-Consecreated, and distribution of Holy Communion, will be held on Good Friday from 12 to 3 p.m., as well as a Calvary Service, including meditations of the Passion, veneration of the Cross, and the Way of the Cross.

On Holy Saturday, confessions again will be heard from 10 to 12, 3:30 to 5:30, and 7:30 to 8:30. Easter Vigil services start at 10:30 p.m., followed by the Easter Vigil Midnight Mass at 12.

Easter Sunday services include a High Mass at 9 a.m. and a Solemn High Mass at 12:15. Low Masses are at 6, 7, 8, 10, 10:45, and 11:30.

Outbreak of Spots Raises Total Number of Diseases in County

Although the number of reported communicable diseases is up about 25 per cent this year, the increase is due to a heavy outbreak of the measles, according to Dr. Mary B. Dale, chief of the division of acute communicable diseases for County Health Department.

The total number of diseases this year is 14,637, about 3250 greater than in 1956. However, the total number of cases of measles is 6876, or 5800 more than last year, accounting for the difference. Last week 760 cases were reported. Doctors are not particularly worried by this, since measles seem to come in cycles.

Polio, Rabies Down

Polio and animal rabies, which caused considerable excitement last year, have dropped to practically nothing. Polio, which had claimed 109 victims at this time last year, struck only 31 persons so far in 1957. Only five rabid dogs have been reported, compared with 74 at this time a year ago.

Mumps, the leading disease a year ago, has dropped off by nearly three-quarters, claiming only 902 victims this year. Down also is whooping cough, which only struck 168 this year.

Scarlet fever is striking harder this year, claiming a third more victims than last year.

Diseases which showed an increase included epilepsy, gonorrhea, salmonella, streptococcal infections, syphilis, and tuberculosis. On the downward way are amebiasis, brucellosis, diarrhea of the newborn, infectious hepatitis, meningitis, rheumatic fever, and typhus fever. Remaining about the same are diphtheria, food poisoning, and typhoid fever.

Leading diseases for the year include:

Disease	1957	1956
Measles	6876	1070
Gonorrhea	2358	2217
Scarlet fever	897	621
Mumps	902	3768
Tuberculosis	908	817
Syphilis	716	678
Epilepsy	705	700
Hepatitis	311	356
Salmonella	176	50
Whooping cough	168	301
Shigella	159	325
Streptococcal infections	81	65
Food poisoning	65	66
Poliomyelitis	31	109

Measles Still Top Disease

Measles continued to lead the list of diseases in the Torrance Health Area during the week ending April 6, according to the County Health Department.

Six cases, nine of them in Torrance, were reported during the week. In Los Angeles County, 760 cases were reported during the week in one of the worst outbreaks in several years.

Other diseases reported in this area included four cases of scarlet fever; hepatitis and mumps, three each; tuberulosis and syphilis, two each, and polio and tetanus, each one.

Varied Doings Planned at McMaster Park This Week

A full week of activities for children at McMaster Park is planned during Easter vacation, according to the Torrance Recreation Department.

The park will be open from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. all five days of Easter vacation and there will be a different schedule for each day.

Monday's schedule, for example, consists of a special boys' tournament for ping-pong, checkers, dominoes and board games; boys' model racer crafts; cartoon movies, boys' 10-inch softball, and folk dancing and singing for the tiny toys.

Nature Hike Set

On Tuesday, a nature hike and study is planned for children of all ages. All boys and girls are requested to bring their lunch. A girls' scout tournament, boys' model racer crafts, cartoon movies, and sandbox play for the younger children are also on Tuesday's schedule.

Wednesday there will be more boys' tournaments, boys' 10-inch softball and a game of boys' suicide ball. An Easter Parade for all girls and boys will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

The week's boys' tournament finals will be held on Thursday along with an introduction to a boys' sacket game. A mother-daughter doll show is scheduled for Thursday afternoon at 3 p.m. All mothers and daughters are invited to attend; cookies and punch will be served.

Track Meet Set

A boys' track meet has also been scheduled Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. There will be three divisions: Class A (high-school age boys); Class B (seventh and eighth grades); and Class C (fifth and sixth grade boys).

On Friday morning there will be Easter craft and an Easter egg coloring contest. All boys and girls are requested to bring two hard-boiled eggs to color. After lunch there will be an Easter egg hunt followed by Easter storytelling and Easter games. Friday is the big day of the week for the boys, for the Race Car Derby will be held from 11 to 12 a.m.

For further information contact the park at 3624 W. 174th St. or by calling DA 4-9257.

Fiesta Plans Under Way As Committeemen Named

Plans for the 11th annual San Pedro Fishermen's Fiesta were well under way today with the appointment of 23 harbor area business and civic leaders as members of a general steering committee which will supervise the presentation of the traditional event.

Mason Case, general chairman of the Fiesta committee, said the spectacular pageant will again include such highlights as the blessing of the fishing fleet and the colorful parade of decorated fishing boats through the harbor.

Members Named

Committee members include LaRue Thomas, William C. Bullock, George Bradbeer, Clancy Dayhoff, Charles Donetti, Troy Garrison, Jack Calise, Mrs. Jean Haley, Stanley Brummel, Don Loker, Howard Miller, Bynner Martin, Anthony Nizetich, Robert Price, Ted Rafalovich, Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Scott, Nick Trani, Dr. Elton C. Spires, Doug Mainers, Charles Carry, Frank Masse, Tony Barcott, and John Zankich.

Case said that the theme "Legends of the Sea" has been officially approved for the 1957 Fiesta. Already a competition is under way among San Pedro High School art students to design the Skipperette's boat which traditionally leads the parade.

Designs Sought

The student submitting the best design will be awarded a $50 U. S. savings bond. The other sketches entered by students may be used as the basis for decorating other boats in the parade.

More than a quarter of a million visitors annually attend the brilliant pageant which symbolizes the seafaring heritage of San Pedro. Cooperating with the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce in sponsorship of the event are the City and County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Harbor Department, and the California Fish Canners' Assn.

HOME ACCIDENTS

Statistics show that in the home almost 50 percent of all accidental deaths are the result of falls.

'Paint Your Wagon' Cast Announced by Opera Group

The South Bay Civic Light Opera Assn., directed by Melville H. Tully Friday annouced the cast of their next production, "Paint Your Wagon", to be presented May 31, June 1 and 8 at the Redondo Union High School Auditorium.

Ben Rumson, who finds a nugget which starts a gold rush to Rumson, will be portrayed by Ed Knowlton. His daughter, Jennifer, will be played by Helene Seaton and Julio Valveras, her lover, will be Dean Peters of Hollywood.

Lonely Men

Cherry, who brings her Fandango Girls to relieve the men of their loneliness will be Miss Nadine Nickol of Torrance. Her group of girls will include Evelyn Moore, and Phyllis Foss, Beverley Dyer, Ronnie Ruch, and Phyllis Kelsey all of Torrance

Barbara Goodyear of Torrance will play Sarah Woodling, with Pat Leonetti as Elizabeth Woodling, the other wife of Jacob Woodling (Pete DeCamp).

Players Told

Other supporting players include Salem Trumbull, Harry Johanson; Jake, Gino Leonetti; Sandy, John Sanchez; Jasper, Jerry Roy; Walt, Paul Marki; Reuben, Douglas McClay; Steve, Pat Myers; and Yvonne, Adoree Thom.

Optimists Clubs to Dedicate New Inter-Faith Chapel April 28th

Dedication of the hilltop inter-faith chapel now being completed at Optimist Home for Boys has been set for 3 p.m., Sunday, April 28, according to Charles E. Bader, president of the institution at 6957 North Figueroa St.

District Governor Robert W. Young and other Optimist leaders will make the pilgrimage from all parts of Southern California and Southwest Nevada to inaugurate the newest character-building facility for troubled boys placed under care of the 51-year old but ultra-modern agency. A Torrance delegation headed by President Clyde Anderson will attend the ceremonies.

"Our invitation goes not only to our own members and friends who have financed the building," Bader emphasizes. "We also invite youth leaders, clergymen, teachers and others interested to see what we have accomplished. They may be more than a little bit surprised."

Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish chaplains participated in groundbreaking and planning, and the nave of the church is neutral, suited for all. Only ornaments are the Ten Commandments in modern wording, engraved in large gold letters on white marble plaques.

The rotating chancel is turned that only one third is facing the congregation at any time. The portion in view is the one designed specifically for whichever of the three major faiths is holding services or instructions at that time.

Work Nearly None

"Work on the building is about done," states President Bader. "Landscaping is begun. We are constructing an easy ramp up the hillside."

Architect is David O. Patterson, contractor Vern Huck. Site of the chapel, overlooking all other buildings of the home for 57 boys on the five acre Highland Park tract was chosen by Raymond Johnston, supervisor architect.

Handy Jim's FIXIN'-UP TIPS For the Home

How to Punch Holes In Steel Spring

HOLES may be punched rather easily in spring steel without annealing by following the procedure outlined by *Popular Mechanics*. Center-punch the spring just hard enough to cause a bump at the point where the hole is wanted. Then grind off the protrusion. The operation must be repeated until the hole is the diameter desired. The method may be used on metal up to about 1/16" thick. Be careful, the magazine points out, not to strike the punch too hard. That might cause the steel to break or crack.

1306 SARTORI OPEN MONDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS 'TIL 8:30 P.M. FA 8-1252