

# Accidental Poisoning Accounts For Many Deaths of Youngsters

ROY O. GILBERT, M.D.  
Los Angeles County  
Health Officer

The lives of many small children are lost each year as a result of accidental poisoning. Still other children must undergo the sometimes painful treatment necessary to their recovery from swallowing some poisonous material.

The greatest number of cases of accidental poisoning occur in the home, and the ma-

majority of the cases are children. Many parents who do everything possible to protect their children against the common diseases of childhood, nevertheless expose them to the greater danger of poisoning.

The results of a statistical investigation covering several countries was published by the World Health Organization in 1957 and reveals that accidental poisoning was most

common in the one to four years' group. In a recent Minnesota survey it was found that most young victims were under five years of age, and the greatest number was in the one to three year group. It is generally agreed that curiosity is high from the time a child begins to toddle until around four years of age, and within this period children lead what is sometimes called a "hand-to-mouth" existence.

### Prevent Deaths

Truly, not all of the accidental deaths among children can be prevented. Falls, burns, motor vehicle accidents, and the like are all difficult to anticipate and often impossible to prevent. This is not the case in accidental poisoning, for parents can remove the means of its occurrence in most instances.

Among many common household items reported as the

cause of death among young children are aspirin, sedatives and sleeping pills, cosmetics (including perfumes, benzine, kerosene, turpentine, corrosives (such as lye and ammonia), pesticides, arsenic compounds and certain antiseptics.

In some households many of these or similar items are kept in an easily accessible medicine cabinet, on low shelves, in kitchen cupboards, or places that are equally as accessible to children.

Aspirin, which is found in nearly all home medicine cabinets, is one of the chief causes

of poisoning in children. The colored, sweet flavored aspirin tablets made especially for youngsters are particularly dangerous to have around since the sugar coating makes them palatable and increases the risk that the child will take a lethal dose.

### Accident-free

Physicians are agreed that it is up to the parents or other responsible adults to provide an accident-free environment until a child is old enough to understand the reasons for precautionary measures. With the proper vigilance, however,

accidental deaths from poisoning in childhood can be sharply reduced.

But even with rigid safeguards, accidents will sometimes occur. That is why every parent or adult caring for children should know first aid measures for poisoning. Such first aid procedures were recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Assn. and a reprint of the recommendations will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles Coun-

### Resident on Crew of Award-Winning Film

Additional industrial motion picture honors have been won by the Ramo-Wooldrige Corp., Los Angeles, for its security indoctrination film, "Security Is Your Responsibility," it was announced in Columbus, Ohio, this week.

William Trott, 21917 Marjorie Ave., was assistant film editor for the movie honored at the Sixth Annual Columbus Film Festival.

Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

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