

Nearly Everyone Gets At Least One Case of Measles During Life

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

Measles is one of the most easily caught of all the contagious diseases; so much so, in fact, that about 95 per cent of the American population eventually gets the disorder. Many parents look upon the disease as nothing more than a light and tiresome childhood illness and therefore neglect to obtain medical supervision. Yet in 1958, the latest year for which complete figures are available, 552 deaths in this county were officially listed as caused by measles.

The disease is caused by the

measles virus that gains entry into the body by way of the nose and throat. It is transmitted from one person to another very readily as the virus-laden spray of the measles patient is expelled into the air by coughs and sneezes. The disease may also be spread by direct contact with the sick person or indirectly from articles freshly soiled with his nasal and throat secretions.

FIRST SIGNS of measles are suggestive of the common cold, almost invariably accompanied by persistent cough and inflamed, watery eyes. In addition,

a slight headache and nausea and vomiting may be experienced. Fever and symptoms gradually grow worse, and about the second day Koplik spots (small bright-red spots in the center of which tiny bluish or bluish-white specks may be seen) appear on the inside of the mouth opposite the molars. On the third or fourth day a dusky-red, blotchy rash is noticeable on the face and rest of the body.

The patient is extremely uncomfortable during the eruptive stage but, in the uncomplicated case, fever and other symptoms gradually subside

and convalescence usually begins in the second week of illness.

THE ACUTE secondary infections that most often occur in measles may result in inflammation of the eyes and middle ear, heart impairment, and kidney complications.

Encephalitis (brain inflammation) is certainly one of the gravest complications that may be caused by measles. Some patients recover completely, but damage to the brain tissue in others is so severe at times that intelligence may be permanently impaired.

THE SEVERE complications of measles are commonest in children under 3 years of age, so, gamma globulin, a blood serum fraction that affords protection against measles in most cases, is generally administered to children in this age group who have been exposed to the disease. This usually prevents the illness if given within the first 3 days after exposure to the infection. If given between 4 and 6 days after exposure, it will lessen the severity of the attack.

Gamma globulin is not generally given to healthy older children since many physicians are of the opinion that it is better to get the disease over with when young. One attack usually confers permanent immunity even though second or

Relevant Gospel Topic Sunday at Calvary Church

The Relevant Gospel is the topic of the sermon to be delivered at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. duplicate Sunday worship services at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2818 Manhattan Beach Blvd.

Pastor H. Earl Kuester stated that the message is designed to be particularly helpful to laymen in making more effective their witness for Christ in the workaday world.

"Too often," he continued, "the pastor is out of touch with the world while being well versed in the gospel. On the other hand, too often the layman is in close touch with the world, but is not well educated in the Bible." The sermon will point up ways in which pastor and layman together may make the gospel applicable to the need of men in the world.

Concrete illustrations of how lay people have given effective witness for Christ on

the job will be a very practical aspect of the sermon. Marty Lacy, soprano soloist, will furnish the message in song preceding the sermon.

At 7 p.m. the pastor will preach from the Book of Job on the theme "Miserable Comforters." The theme will be brought into daily life as the pastor will give guidance on being helpful to people who have suffered tragedies. He will point to common failures at visitation efforts which often add to the sense of tragedy, rather than to the sense of comfort. Ted Bishop will lead the song service, and Simon Melendez will also sing a tenor solo.

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