

Child Need Not be Ill Before Seeking Medical Supervision

By K. H. SUTHERLAND, M.D.
County Health Officer

To wait until a young child is ill before seeking medical supervision is a form of neglect that is costly in money to the parent and exacts its toll on the physical and mental well-being of the youngster as well. All physicians concerned with the care of young children therefore recommend that health supervision of the young child be started in infancy and be continued throughout childhood.

"If a child isn't sick why does he need a physical examination," parents sometimes ask. The answer is that many physical ailments, nutritional deficiencies, certain physical handicaps and emotional difficul-

ties are far from obvious and can usually be discerned only by an individual who has medical training and experience.

MANY PARENTS prefer to take their young children to the family physician or a child specialist for periodic examinations and the immunizations that are needed to protect them against the common childhood diseases, and this is a most desirable practice. For those infants whose parents cannot obtain health supervision from private sources, this service is made available by local health departments in well baby clinics.

More than 70 of these well baby clinics—often called child health or well child confer-

ences—are maintained by the Los Angeles County Health department within its jurisdiction. It is emphasized that sick children are not cared for in these clinics, which are operated by the staff of the department's bureau of maternal and child health. When treatment for some condition is required, the mother is referred to her usual source of medical care or to special facilities in the county.

Well child conferences consist of a conference between the parent and the attending doctor, and an examination of the well child. Although the chief objective of such health supervision is to prevent disease and start action on the part of the parents and others

to correct any existing handicap, the professional guidance that may be needed to ensure good mental and emotional health is also supplied.

MEDICAL examinations are repeated periodically and the infants are given protective immunizations against whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, and smallpox. In order that the child may receive maximum protection against disease, immunizations are started at two months of age. As part of the screening test to discover phenylketonuria—a cause of mental retardation that may be controlled by diet therapy, "wet diaper tests" are also routinely performed.

Parents are taught the various aspects of a child's normal development and behavior at the different age levels, and, in this way, are given an understanding of their child's growth and behavior that they might not otherwise have. Furthermore, normal parental reactions to various problems are discussed.

Funds are presently inadequate to provide a sufficient number of well baby clinics in county health department territory. For this reason, parents who are able to obtain this continuing preventive care through the family physician are requested to do so. Moreover, in most well baby conferences, clinic load necessarily limits the acceptance of babies to those under the age of six months. Health supervision is provided for this particular age group chiefly owing to the fact that this service is particularly important in the early months

of life. IN A HEALTHFUL community like Los Angeles county, about 98 out of every 100 babies born alive survive the first year. The care, love, and understanding that these children receive in the early formative years will determine to a large extent how well equipped they are for life, and parents can best be assured of helping them grow into well-adjusted and healthy adults by providing comprehensive health supervision from birth through the school years.

It is said that the raising of children is the biggest business in the world, and a business that outweighs all others in value. It is possible that early health supervision, whether given by private physicians or at well baby clinics, brings closer to realization than hitherto the ideal of a sound mind in a sound body.

Bus Information Centers Soon City School System to Open

A special bus information center for the convenience of residents in this area whose children will be attending a Los Angeles City school in the fall will be opened starting Sept. 1 according to Raymond Nickerson, city schools' transportation director.

The information center will be located at Narbonne High school. Thomas Waller is the head driver and may be reached at DA 5-1673.

The head driver will be available at the center for a five-day period preceding the Sept. 11 opening date for the Los Angeles City schools. The information center will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, a legal holiday. After school

opens, all bus information will be given at each school, Nickerson said.

INFORMATION which the driver will give will relate to areas to be served, bus routes, time schedules, and other general school transportation problems.

He will be able to give information only on school bus transportation, Nickerson emphasized. Public transit line schedules and routes must be secured from the individual firms, he added.

Under Board of Education regulations, transportation is provided for all children who live two or more miles from their elementary school, two and one-half or more miles from their junior high school, and three or more miles from their senior high school.

HOWEVER, even in these areas, school transportation is not furnished for children in kindergarten classes, Nickerson stressed.

Parents who seek bus transportation information are urged not to call the city schools' central administrative offices for this information, since their calls will merely have to be referred back to the local center.

Schools in this area which will be served by transportation, in accordance with the school system's policy, are:

Elementary schools: Bonita Street, 21929 Bonita St., Torrance; Crestwood Street, 1996 W. Crestwood St., San Pedro; 186th Street, 1581 W. 186th St., Gardena; and White Point, 1410 Silvius Ave., San Pedro.

SPECIAL Training Centers: Meyler Street, 203 N. Meyler St., San Pedro; and 249th Pl., 1965 W. 249th Pl., Lomita.

Junior High schools: Dana, 1501 Cabrillo Ave., San Pedro; Dodson, 28014 Montereina Dr., San Pedro; Fleming, 25425 Walnut St., Lomita; and Wilmington, 1700 Gulf Ave., Wilmington.

Senior High schools: Banning, 1500 Avalon Blvd., Wilmington; Cooper, 2240 Taper Ave., San Pedro; and San Pedro, 1001 W. 15th St., San Pedro.

Participating in Operation Swift Strike in North and South Carolina is A2C William J. Setting, 18706 Faysmith Ave.

School Bonds Purchased by B of A Here

A certificate representing the purchase of \$1,014,484.00 in Torrance Unified School District bonds by the Bank of America, N.T.&S.A., was presented to the Torrance Board of Education this week by Harold Frenz, manager of the Bank of America, N.T.&S.A., Torrance Branch.

The Bank of America for many years has followed a policy originated by A. P. Giannini, founder of the bank, of bidding on every financially sound local bond issue in the state of California. This is done to assure a market for these bonds and to help develop our local and state resources.

The bank has bid on every bond issue of the Torrance city government and school district and is the holder of many of these bonds.

Jaracz Heads Convention

Theodore Jaracz, district supervisor of Jehovah's Witnesses in Southern California, has been appointed chairman of the six-day district assembly the religious group will hold in San Francisco's Candlestick Park beginning Aug. 29. The appointment was announced locally by Leonard Olliff, presiding minister.

Prior to his California assignment, Jaracz served in the Middle West and Rocky Mountain region. From 1951 to 1956 he was branch manager in Sydney, Australia. Since becoming district supervisor in this area, he has ministered to the Torrance congregation at local regional assemblies.

Pentacostal Women Hold Rummage Sale

Ladies Auxiliary of the First Pentacostal Church, 2147 W. 237th St., will have a rummage sale Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. The sale will be held at the church.



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