

Meningitis

Crowded Areas Epidemic Prone

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

Meningococcal meningitis, sometimes called epidemic meningitis or cerebrospinal fever, is not considered a common contagious disease, though some 2,121 cases were reported in the United States during 1962. Of this number, some 334 occurred in California and 102 in Los Angeles County. Thus far in 1963, a total of 69 cases of meningococcal meningitis have been reported in Los Angeles County as against 48 for the same period in 1962, a rise in occurrence of approximately 43 per cent that is a matter of concern to health officials.

The number of fatalities that have occurred in California since 1948 represents about 20 per cent of the cases—approximately 10 per cent lower than the figure for the rest of the nation. However, at times the fatality figure may run as high as 40-50 per cent.

CASES OF meningococcal meningitis occur sporadically in the general population, especially among children of preschool age, but as a rule, epidemics of the disease are confined to institutional situations, including military installations, where crowding tends to exist. Under these particular conditions, an outbreak of the disease involves persons of all ages.

Back in 1928-29, a civilian epidemic of the disease occurred among steerage passengers arriving from the Orient, and another developed in the migratory labor camps in Imperial County in 1947-48.

MORE RECENTLY, an outbreak of the infection occurred in Fort Ord and 11 cases were reported in this incident. Then in February of 1963, cases of meningococcal meningitis were reported from the Naval Training Center in San Diego. Through May the Training Center reported 24 cases, which resulted in three deaths, but there have been no new cases reported in June and July.

The term "meningitis" refers to an inflammation of the membranes which envelop the brain or spinal cord or both.

The disease may be caused by bacteria, viruses, protozoa, or fungi. Meningococcal meningitis is a purulent form of meningitis due to infection with certain bacteria (Neisseria intracellularis).

IT IS estimated that from 5 to 30 per cent of the population may harbor meningococci in the nasal or throat passages. These persons may appear perfectly healthy or be slightly ill with what seems like an upper respiratory infection. Yet, as is the case in a number of other diseases, these individuals are carriers of the infective organisms and may spread them to others by way of droplets expelled from the mouth or nose. During epidemics of the disease, the percentage of carriers may increase as much as 70 per cent.

It is not known why the meningococcus causes the spinal or brain disease in some persons and not in others, or, for that matter, why the disease generally occurs in the spring.

Susceptibility to the organism causing meningococcal meningitis is fortunately low. Despite the high carrier rate, only about two out of every 100,000 persons infected develop the disease.

THERE IS no vaccine that affords protection against meningococcal meningitis, nor is it known whether one attack of the disease confers protection against later attacks. Luckily the sulfa drugs are useful prophylactics for those persons exposed to the infection, and the protection afforded seems to last several weeks. Even the carrier rate among persons in institutions is reduced by the administration of one of the sulfa drugs.

Meningococcal meningitis is always considered a dangerous infection, which, in its most acute and violent form, is sometimes fatal.

A pamphlet giving additional information will be mailed to anyone sending a card of request to the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

Opening Night Set Sept. 13 for Musical

"Finian's Rainbow" will open at the Mira Costa High School auditorium on Sept. 13, the Bay Cities Theater Assn. has announced. The production will be presented for two week ends, Sept. 13 and 14, and Sept. 20 and 21.

The musical comedy has been in rehearsal for the past three weeks. Charles Rothlein, resident director of the Chapel Theatre, is the director.

Featured players in the production include Bill Engle, JoAnn McLean, Robert Bailiff, and Linda Slama. Also performing in top roles are Royce

Derby, Bert Milligan, Don Larson, and a chorus of 16 men and 28 women. Dancing is under the supervision of Carl Whitmer, who will direct a line of 16 dancers.

Tickets for the show will go on sale on Aug. 9 at locations throughout the area. Advance telephone reservations are encouraged, and may be made between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. by calling 323-5296. Exact sales locations will be announced before ticket sales begin.

Photo Studio Participates In Contest

May Co.'s annual Children's Photograph Contest is now under way at all May Co. stores. The contest is open to children 14 and under, and will continue through Sept. 7.

To enter, the child must be photographed at a May Co. Photo Reflex Studio. A duplicate of the pose selected by the parents will be sent to the judges without any additional charge.

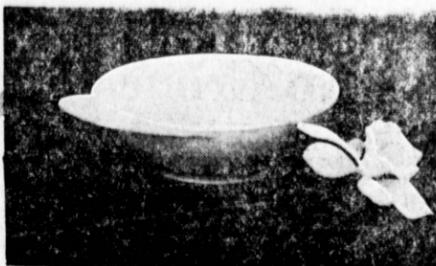
All entries will be judged on the basis of personality and character as portrayed in the photograph.

First prize in the contest is a Caribbean cruise. Other prizes include a swimming pool, a Renault "R-8" sedan, pianos, ranges, sewing machines, bicycles, movie cameras, and transistor radios. A total of 273 prizes will be given to winners.

Director Will Lecture Today

F. Cowles Strickland, director of the Arena Stage in Washington, D. C., will deliver a free public lecture at noon today in the Little Theater at Long Beach State College.

Strickland, a visiting professor of drama at the college, is a veteran of 25 years in the theater. His lecture is entitled, "Faces, Farces, and Facts in the Theater."



Dish-of-the-week Soup Plate

Aug. 1-7 39c

Every week a different piece of elegant, break-resistant, child-proof Melmac will be offered at sensational savings! Two designs, with the touch and the tone of real china... Shelley, a contemporary aqua and gold design, or Gold Shield, in gold and beige with traditional floral spray. Dishwasher safe! Two year guarantee! Each \$5 purchase allows you to buy the item of the week at an amazingly low price!

Melmac Dinnerware Dish-of-the-Week Plan!

- Aug. 1-7 Soup Plate Reg. 95c Val. 29c
- Aug. 8-14 Bread and Butter Plate Reg. \$1.00 Val. 39c
- Aug. 15-21 Coffee Cup Reg. 90c Val. 29c
- Aug. 22-28 Saucer Reg. \$1.00 Val. 29c
- Aug. 29-Sept. 4 Fruit Dish Reg. 75c Val. 29c
- Sept. 5-11 Salad Plate Reg. \$1.25 Val. 39c

- Completer Pieces. Only 99c (No purchase required)
- Steak Platter \$4.49 VALUE
- Vegetable Bowl \$2.95 VALUE
- Sugar & Creamer \$3.50 VALUE
- 3 Qt. Mixing Bowl \$3.50 VALUE
- Divided Serving Bowl \$3.00 VALUE
- 2 TV Snack Trays \$2.50 VALUE

U.S.D.A. "CHOICE" BEEF

CHUCK STEAK 39c lb.



FRESH, LEAN

GROUND BEEF 33c lb.

U.S.D.A. "Choice" Beef. A treat for your family! Tender, tasty and guaranteed to please!

CUBED STEAK 98c lb.

U.S.D.A. "Choice" Beef. Cooking out tonight? Try your favorite barbecue recipe on these!

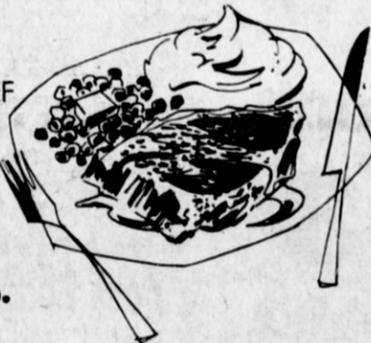
BARBECUE STEAK 98c lb.

U.S.D.A. "Choice" Beef. Save money with steak, expertly trimmed to give full food value!

BONELESS ROUND STEAK 79c lb.

U.S.D.A. "CHOICE" BEEF

RIB STEAK 79c lb.



U.S.D.A. "CHOICE" BEEF

CLUB STEAK 89c lb.

Good, lean, tender beef for your favorite stew!
Boneless Stew Beef lb. 79c
Sugar-cured, hickory smoked. 1 lb. pkg. sliced
Luer Iowa Farm Bacon 55c

USDA "Choice" Beef. A Tender, juicy menu-maker!
Boneless Rump Roast lb. 79c
Skinless. Tasty and economical, too. 8 oz. package
Luer Veal Sausage 4 for \$1

USDA Grade "A" Fresh, California Grown.
Fresh Roasting Chickens lb. 49c

U.S.D.A. "CHOICE" BEEF
T-BONE STEAK \$1.05 lb.

U.S.D.A. "CHOICE" BEEF
TOP SIRLOIN STEAK \$1.29 lb.

U.S.D.A. "CHOICE" BEEF
PORTERHOUSE STEAK \$1.15 lb.

Armour Star. Tender and tasty for good eating!
Pork Tenderloins lb. 98c
Lightly breaded and ready to fry! 1 lb. pkg. frozen
Superior Breaded Shrimp 98c

Lean and fresh for your favorite beef recipes!
Fresh Ground Round lb. 65c
Delicately-flavored, tender and juicy! frozen
Eastern Veal Cutlets lb. 79c

DEL AMO SHOPPING CENTER CORNER OF HAWTHORNE & SEPULVEDA

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ASSORTED **SUNNY POP 5c**

FROZEN **FLAV R PAC ORANGE JUICE 23c**

Tidbits 4 for \$1
Brain Beer 79c
French Fries 25c
Purple Plums 29c



RED PEPPERMELON 21c
CRISP CELERY 10c stalk

Fresh, Tender **CRISP CELERY 10c stalk**



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