

Mumps Usually Only Temporary Bother if Properly Cared for

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

Every spring, for some inexplicable reason, there is an increase in the number of individuals stricken with infectious parotitis or mumps.

This year will not be any exception. Already, 1888 cases have been recorded in Los Angeles County, which is 682 more than the number that were reported during the same period last year. Generally mild, this contagious disease may nevertheless be followed by grave complications. Particularly is this true in the case of adults.

Unlike such highly contagious diseases as measles and chickenpox, mumps is only moderately communicable and is spread by tiny organisms known as filtrable viruses that are present in the saliva of an infected person. Coughing, sneezing and spitting are some of the ways in which these germs may be transmitted to other individuals, and the touching of articles recently soiled by the infectious saliva is another.

Most cases of mumps occur in children between the ages of five to 15 and, when properly cared for, are of little consequence in this age group. The

disease is seldom seen during infancy and is also uncommon in adult life.

Mumps, especially after adolescence, may produce complications that include such disorders as pneumonia, meningitis, and middle ear infections. Due to inflammation of the sex glands, sterility may also occur in either sex although it is noted more frequently in the male. All of which serves to emphasize the fact that this apparently simple malady is not one to be neglected.

Because of the serious nature of these complications in adults, many physicians make no attempt to prevent children from having the disease, figuring, no doubt, that it is best to get it over with when the chances of permanent damage are the least.

The most common sign of mumps is painful and swollen glands at the side of the neck and in the throat and mouth, accompanied by a rise in temperature. One side only is affected at first but is generally followed by the other in a couple of days. These swellings are usually evident in from 12 to 18 days after exposure to the disease.

The individual is infectious to others about two or three days



KEEP YOUR GUARD UP

before the glands begin to swell and remain so until they return to normal size. In uncomplicated cases, the visible swelling may subside in a week or a little more.

Probably about 40 per cent of all cases of mumps are so mild, according to medical reports, that no glandular swelling is evident although the virus is carried in the secretions and may be the cause of infection in other individuals. These so-called inapparent infections, of which the person may be unaware, generally confer a life-long immunity just as do the more serious attacks.

But whenever mumps is suspected, the individual may save himself a lot of trouble by getting in prompt touch with his family doctor.

Pamphlets, giving additional information on mumps and on the nursing care of the disease in the home, may be obtained by sending a card of request to the Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles 12.

Hospital Log

PATIENTS ADMITTED MARCH 12, 1955
 Lloyd Moore, 183 W. 234th Pl., Wilmington.
 Vera Cramer, 2442 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita.
 Rhonda Headley, 1465 W. 218th St., Torrance.
PATIENTS ADMITTED MARCH 14, 1955
 Tyrone Babayo, 1052-220th St., Torrance.
 Tom Stevens, 222 W. 223rd St., Torrance.
MARCH 15, 1955
 Lane Mason, 1720 W. 242nd St., Lomita.
 Millicent Bergon, 2292 Petroleum Ave., Torrance.
BABIES BORN MARCH 15
 Girl, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Babayo, 1052 W. 220th St. 6 lbs., 1 oz.
 Girl, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mason, 1720 W. 242nd St., Lomita, 8 lbs., 15½ oz.
PATIENTS ADMITTED MARCH 17, 1955
 Willie Kathryn Anderson, 1627 255th St., Harbor City.
 Patricia Kathryn Bloom, 3223 Crickwood St., Wallerly.
BABIES BORN SAN PEDRO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL MARCH 17, 1955
 Baby Boy Anderson, 7 lbs. 5¼ oz. To Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Anderson, 1627 — 255th St., Harbor City.
 Baby Boy Roberts, 8 lbs. 15 oz. To Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Roberts, 1788 Haynes Lane, Redondo Beach.

REYNOLDS KNIGHT

Car Business Booming, But Sales Expected to Slow Up by July 4

"BEHIND THE SCENES IN AMERICAN BUSINESS" by REYNOLDS KNIGHT

When this month has ended, 2,100,000 passenger automobiles will have been produced in the United States in this first quarter of 1955. What's more, just about that number will have been sold—or dealers will have a good idea where they can sell them without too much delay.

This second statement can't be directly proved, naturally. Registration figures must lag behind deliveries to dealers. However, if automobile dealers felt they were being loaded up with cars, we would all have heard some wails from them by now.

A 2.1-million-car first quarter is being viewed with alarm in some quarters, where it is multiplied by four to get the impossible figure of 8.4 million cars in a year. It may actually mean a 4.2 million-car half-year, since sales rise in the second quarter, but by June or July there will be a slowdown.

Dealers' profits on each car are said to be smaller, but volume offsets this. Manufacturers' representatives are swarming over the dealers' floors, offering their assistance in keeping the dealer in good shape for the real competitive battle, which will set in about July 4 and last until new-model shut-downs after Labor Day.

BOUNTIFUL BOARD—This Lenten season, according to one principal supplier, Americans can choose among more than 190 varieties of fish for fast-day delicacies. That's in startling contrast to the days many older folks lived inland can remember—when the standby for Lent was salt mackerel or salt codfish (in small, flat wooden boxes).

This year, says Joseph C. O'Brien, head of A & P Food Stores' national fish department, a total fish and other seafood consumption in the United States will amount to 1.7 billion

pounds, or nearly 11 pounds per American.

Modern facilities of processing and freezing fish are responsible for the great gain in recent years in use of fish, O'Brien believes. In the 1880's, when coastal fishermen had to round up the elusive mackerel in the April-to-November season when this favored fish appears off the North Atlantic coast, total catch was a fraction of today's amount, and fresh fish were strictly seasonal treats.

THINGS TO COME—An oil can shaped like a fountain pen clips to the pocket of your overalls. No leaks, say the makers. . . In Minnesota, the Blue Cross gives reflective stickers, shaped like its emblem, to motorists. . . A camera the size of a penny box of matches makes pictures which develop into 2½-inch-square prints. . . A do-it-yourself windshield washer, installed by drilling six holes in the hood of your car, squirts enough fluid to clean the windshield at the touch of a foot.

CLEAR SKIES AHEAD—One of the darkest smudges on the bright record of U.S. ingenuity is failure to cope with the growing problem of air pollution. Private industry and public authority have struggled to get smoke, haze and smog out of the atmosphere, with uniform lack of success.

A robot control with electronic eyes has just entered the Philadelphia. In a \$6.5-million waste-removal program there, 15 incinerators, of capacities ranging from 100 to 150 tons of waste daily, will get electronic units to keep them from filling the air with smoke and fly-ash.

Designed by Minneapolis - Honeywell's industrial division, the robots will keep the incinerators' flames at ideal heat to assure perfect combustion.

OMEN FOR PEACE—Observers who have been following New York's and Chicago's big commodity exchanges for a number of years contend that the war clouds in the Far East are ready to blow over. The augury on which they depend is that nearly every commodity has begun dropping in price.



DESERT DUTY . . . Capt. Burt C. Simms, husband of the former Mary Miller of 1624 W. 220th St., in Torrance, is participating in the latest series of atomic tests at Camp Desert Rock, Nev. Capt. Simms, who entered the service in 1942, is a member of the 3rd Marine Provisional Atomic Exercise Brigade.

The connection with the Oriental commodities—rubber, pepper, tea, burlap and cocoa—is of course obvious. These would be immediately and dramatically affected by an outbreak of war.

Declines in domestic commodities—wheat, corn, rye, barley, linsed oil, pork, lard, sugar, cotton and hides—are tied to peace by a chain one link longer. Wartime is when everybody has a job and demands more goods, and when so many commodity production into the workers have been drawn from armed forces or defense industry that supply is curtailed.

Commodity prices have pointed in the wrong direction just before major shifts in the economic climate, but the old timers claim that much more often they have predicted a rise when no one else did. The rise in cotton and lumber in 1914, for example, forecast World War I when all the prophets were saying the Serajevo incident would blow over.

BITS O' BUSINESS—Rhodesian miners have returned to work, promising an end of the copper shortage by July. . . Corporate cash dividends in January totaled \$721 million, the Department of Commerce reported. . . Bituminous coal production for the week ended February 26 was 8,765,000 net tons. . . Steel production last week, at 2,198,000 tons of ingots and castings, was a little below the week earlier.

HOUSING CHECKUP—Albert M. Cole, Federal Housing administrator, is keeping an eye on the continuing housing boom. Latest report: Perfectly healthy.

Cole made a study of the unusual amount of building activity which took place in the normally slack winter months. He reported to the government

economic units concerned that he found no saturation of the market, apart from a few scattered apartment vacancies. Credit was not excessive.

The other groups making their independent surveys are the Council of Economic Advisors, the Department of Commerce, the Treasury Department, and the Federal Reserve Board. The permanent federal units think the boom is a healthy one; the Economic Advisors feel some restrictions on lending might be in order about May.

BITS O' BUSINESS—Steel scrap prices advanced, generally a dollar a ton—Tourists in Western Europe will spend \$50 million this year, says a report to the United Nations. . . Three soybean processing plants shut down in a day because bean prices were too high—Crude rubber, which rose on Ike's Formosa statement, has lost all that gain and a cent a pound besides.

TRAIN TRAVEL
 An average railway passenger's journey in the U. S. is about 72 miles, according to current tabulations.



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