

**PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS**  
(By Dr. Ben H. Day)

I am indebted to the National Health Council for the following statistics:

- 1—200,000 infants die before reaching the age of one year in the United States of America.
- 2—Fully one-third of the school children of the U. S. A. are under-nourished.
- 3—Over one thousand die annually of tuberculosis.
- 4—Thousands of our population have venereal disease.
- 5—At least 50 per cent of our population need medical care for minor ailments.
- 6—1,400,000 die annually; 40 per cent is preventable.
- 7—Cancer claims 90,000 annually. This can be reduced by early diagnosis and scientific treatment.
- 8—250,000 cases in U. S. A. suffering from mental diseases.

These statistics are startling, but a large per cent can be overcome and life prolonged. The high infant mortality has been reduced in recent years and can be reduced much lower by educating the mothers regarding food and feeding, inspecting and analyzing the quality of milk, and biological examination to determine the number of germs per cubic M. M., and education and instruction regarding contagion.

Even a slightly infected throat or a slight "cold" in a parent or older child, may transmit to an infant a fatal disease.

Fully one-third of our school children are under-nourished. There is a reason for this in every case, and a large per cent can be overcome by proper inspection of homes, regarding ventilation and food, both quantity and quality. Examination and removal of all sources of focal infection, such as repair or extraction of bad teeth, removal of tonsils and adenoids.

These under-nourished children are more susceptible to contagion or infectious diseases. A large per cent live in unhygienic surroundings and this also tends to lessen their resistance to infection and many of them perish annually by preventable diseases, and not being immunized (vaccination) against some of our most dreaded diseases.

Tuberculosis or white plague claim many of our members of society at or about puberty. This disease is

communicated by association with afflicted persons or in places where tuberculosis patients frequent. Our great source of infection is absorption of the tubercular germ through bad teeth and tonsils or may be inhaled into the lungs directly, or gain admission through infected milk.

Thousands of our citizens suffer from "social" diseases, which are preventable by proper inspection and legislation. We see very few "blind born" since we have learned the cause, and the use of prophylactic treatment.

50 per cent of our population need medical or surgical advice, and mortality and suffering can both be greatly reduced by proper diagnosis and treatment before the stage of incurability has been reached. Of the 1,400,000 that die annually in the U. S., 40 per cent can be prevented.

Sickness and death are like war. There is everything to lose and nothing to be gained except heaven. Ignoring the humane side of both sickness and death, we cannot afford either from an economical standpoint. Every case of sickness is expensive, from loss of time of course, lessening of production, doctor bills, nurse's services. Death is expensive for the same reasons. The state claims that each citizen is worth \$5,000 to it. Therefore, we cannot afford disease.

**The Remedy**

Of course instructions along health lines, and proper means of detecting disease is in its initial stage. To this end some one must be employed; one who knows how to instruct, to recognize and care for the afflicted, to supervise disinfection and fumigation, and to look after all those thousand other sources of danger which threaten us continually. Such a person will be found in a public nurse. A nurse who has had special instruction for this particular work. A public health nurse can go into all kinds of homes and give advice and instruction, and point out the sources of danger where no other person may do it. If the danger is found in the home environment she can suggest the remedy. If she finds a defect in a child either physical or mental, she can advise with much more diplomacy what course to pursue than could a physician or layman.

The civic bodies are at present trying to work out a plan whereby the Red Cross and city officials,

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At 7:30 to 8:30 o'clock

This sale will be held one hour only Friday night, December 16, and every afternoon and night thereafter from 2:30 to 3:30 and from 7:30 to 8:30 o'clock.

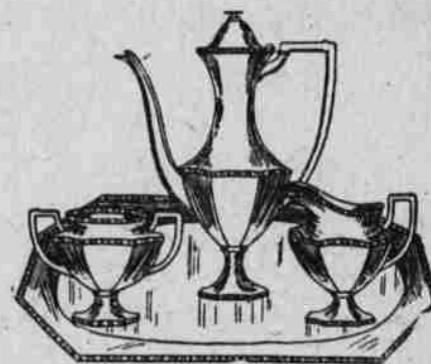
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The Little Movie Star

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Jack Hoxie

in

"CYCLONE BLISS"

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Big Matinee Saturday at 2:30. Prices 15c and 25c

MONDAY AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 and 20

Hobart Bosworth

in

"A THOUSAND TO ONE"

An Associated Producers Production released through First National. The story of a man who whipped himself

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Jack Hoxie

in

"THUNDERBOLT JACK"

A great comedy—"Betty's Green-Eyed Monster" and "Knights of Western Land"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Gloria Swanson

in

"STATION CONTENT"

Comedy—"A Straight Crook"

with the assistance of the school board, can secure the services of an especially trained nurse. I feel sure that the community as a whole, is behind this proposition, or will be when they see it function. When once established, everyone becomes a booster for the project. With the community giving its moral and a slight financial aid, an inestimable work can be accomplished in our city. LET'S GET BEHIND IT!

**AN APOLOGY**

In my article last week where I used Wm. Rucker's name without his consent, I beg his pardon, and regret that I caused him annoyance.

T. J. McDERMOTT.

How can a rich business man like Mellon afford to take a cabinet job at a miserable salary of ten thousand dollars a year? Andrew's operation on the sartz brackets is reported to be saving him around two million dollars a year. And a million saved is a million earned, these tight days.—Wichita Eagle.

Mrs. J. L. Still was shopping in the city Saturday.

**ACTORS HAVE ODD BELIEFS**

Superstitions of People of the Stage Are Always Interesting and Sometimes Extremely Amusing.

Stage superstitions are sometimes amusing as well as interesting, writes Frederick Bowyer in the London Mail. For instance the singing of "I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Hall," or even Tosti's "Good-By," is supposed to bring bad luck to the theater. And anyone found whistling in a dressing room must turn around three times, exit and knock at the door before re-entering.

Another well-known superstition is the spilling of champagne at a convivial meeting. When this happens a dish is made of the spilled portion and everybody (ladies not excepted) dips a finger into it and touches the back of his or her ear with the wine.

Should a piece of cotton be found on a man's coat, it is gently removed—kissed and blown away. This is to bring good luck, as the piece of cotton or fluff is regarded as a contract from a manager.

Speaking what is known theatrically as the "tag"—that is, the last lines in a play—is looked upon as a bad omen—in fact, a tragedy to all concerned.

Every conceivable mascot is encouraged in the dressing room of actresses. Indian gods, Chinese idols, quaint dolls from all over the world and sometimes even champagne corks are ranged along the shelves as mementos of glorious evenings.

Everyone, if possible, avoids dressing in room No. 13, and other accommodation is usually sought.

Should an actor complain of a sting in the head a brother actor will ask him to think of a number. The sufferer mentions one and whatever it be it is taken alphabetically. Thus No. 3 would be the equivalent of C. The next thing is to think of a manager whose name begins with that letter, and if the actor is "out of a shop" he writes to this manager for an engagement.

The luck of having a black cat walk on the stage is, of course, known to most people—before or behind the curtain.

**Dignity of "Colonel" Ruined.**

Digger's ideal has been shattered and like many another ideal, it went floey because of the war. Digger is middle aged and probably a little more. He harks back to that halcyon period when, to have a colonel among one's friends was to acquire an added dignity. In those days, all the colonels

were of the Civil war period. They had the dignity of years and white hairs to carry them along the path of life and were looked up to as just a little better than common folk. Everybody of middle age will recognize the colonel that Digger has always had in mind.

Therefore the shock; Digger answered the office telephone and a voice asked for Bidad. Unfortunately Bidad was not in.

"Can I take a message for him?" Digger inquired.

"Tell him to call Colonel Whangdale, 0078 Rector," said the voice, and then what followed was what ruined Digger's ideal as to the dignity of colonels. "And tell Bidad for me," Colonel Whangdale added, "that if he doesn't call me within the next half hour I'll beat the tar out of him the next time I see him."

A little later Digger delivered the message with tears in his voice.—New York Times.

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