

Health Officer Studies Steady Rise of Syphilis

Some 646 cases of primary and secondary syphilis have been reported in Los Angeles County so far this year, or 111 more cases than were reported up to this time last year.

For a 10-year period previous to 1958, there was a steady decline in the number of cases of syphilis reported, but since then the situation has reversed itself. Newly reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis in the United States climbed from 8,178 in 1959 to 20,084 cases in 1962. This year the number of new cases will undoubtedly be higher still.

On the basis of reported cases the trend is clearly up, and health authorities generally attribute this to the decreased availability of Federal, State, and local funds for the control of syphilis. This seems to be substantiated in reverse by the experience of Los Angeles County and Chicago, where, unlike most of the rest of the nation, active and well-supported VD programs were continued through the year.

THE MONEY spent in Chicago paid off handsomely, for new cases of infectious syphilis reported there fell 11 per cent last year, and the 20 per cent increase in Los Angeles County is minimal compared with reports from most other large urban centers.

Despite the apparent increase in incidence generally,

nobody knows too much about the actual prevalence of syphilis. It is suspected on fairly good evidence that in some parts of the United States at least 50 per cent of the cases handled by private physicians are not reported to the official agencies.

If this is true, any effort to encourage better reporting would naturally increase the official figures without a rise in the real number of cases. And, to some extent — especially during the last two years — syphilis statistics reflect better reporting on the part of private physicians.

MOST HEALTH officials are convinced that the actual number of cases of syphilis are in a sharp upswing. Yet convincing arguments exist to contradict theories advanced to explain why such an increase exists. Some officials contend that what is occurring is an epidemic of reports rather than of disease, and that the reported incidence of syphilis always varies directly with the moneys appropriated for its control. These experts point to the annual incidence rates of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps — where controls have remained about constant, and, unlike civilian rates, have not increased above those in the early fifties.

One authority on syphilis has suggested that the widespread

use of penicillin for other diseases in the early fifties also cured many cases of syphilis of which neither the doctor nor the patient were aware of. This "happencence" control may have occurred on a large scale, it is suggested. But as the other diseases developed resistance to penicillin, and its dangers to some patients were recognized, many physicians turned to other antibiotics — which were less effective

against syphilis. And the "happencence" control ended.

PERHAPS related to the efficacy of "happencence" control is the suspicion that the resistance to penicillin of the treponema, the germ of syphilis, has increased, and that this plays a part in the recent climb in reported cases of the disease.

Even the charge that sexual promiscuity among juveniles has increased and is causing an

upward swing in the number of cases of syphilis in this age group is challenged by some authorities. While it is true that there has been an increase in the incidence of syphilis among teenagers, the incidence expressed in total cases is far from impressive.

In the Los Angeles County Health Department jurisdiction in 1962, for example, only 23 cases of primary and secondary syphilis occurred in the 15-19-year age group, and consider-

ing the socio-economic and ethnic factors, this is not a very significant number of cases.

LOCAL HEALTH authorities are convinced that the low figures in the County reflect the good long-term control and educational efforts supported by the County Health Department and local school districts. Most experts agree that the incidence of syphilis is in a strong upward trend generally in the United States, and the disagreements primarily relate to the causative factors. But, regardless of all other considerations, the very serious con-

Kansas Society Slates Reunion

Former residents of Kansas are invited to attend the Kansas Society's annual reunion at 648 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Wednesday, Sept. 4. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

sequences that may result from syphilis when it is undetected and untreated make the problem of this disease one of major concern to health officials and the community.

My Neighbors



Harbor Continues Classics Course

For the second semester Harbor College will offer a course in Shakespeare in the evening division, according to Dwight Garner, chairman of the humanities division.

Instructor for the course, English 15, will be Reuben G. Plaskoff, Theater Arts and English instructor in the day program, who has directed Harbor's Starboard Theater productions.

"We are continuing to offer the Shakespeare course in this Evening Division," says Plaskoff, "in response to a great upsurge of interest in Shakespearean plays brought about through recent performances on television, on film, and in theaters."

"The scheduling makes it possible for many people employed during the daytime to become familiar with this great cultural heritage in a college level course," he added.

The survey course, which

carries three units of transferable credit, will stress understanding of Shakespeare's plays ranging through the famous histories, tragedies and comedies.

Records and films will be employed to acquaint the students with Shakespearean dialogue performed by the best actors.

Deadline for requesting a permit to register at the Harbor College admissions office is Sept. 6. Further information may be obtained by phoning TE 510162 or SP 5-1678.

Emergency First Aid Class Set

The fifth lecture in a series on "Immediate Care of the Sick and Injured" is slated to begin at South Bay Hospital Sept. 3 and 4. The series is for persons who require advanced first-aid ability.

A letter of invitation for the 13-lecture series has been sent to police, fire, lifeguard, and recreation departments in cities throughout the South-west area.

Dr. Albert E. Ackroyd, a Rolling Hills physician and staff member at South Bay Hospital is in charge of the course. He will conduct the general course.

MORE THAN 200 persons have completed the classes in four prior series of lectures and demonstrations. Included among the former students are many police officers and ambulance drivers.

The series of lectures and demonstrations is being sponsored by the South Bay Hospital Emergency Room Committee and the Emergency and Disaster Committee of District 9, Los Angeles County Medical Assn. The training committee of Area G is also assisting with the courses.

Lectures will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the lecture hall at South Bay Hospital, 514 N. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach. The classes will meet Tuesday and Wednesday.

Surfin' Fun Subject of Friday Film

"Once Upon A Wave," a movie about surfing in Hawaii, will be shown at the Pier Avenue Auditorium in Hermosa Beach tomorrow and Saturday evening. The film is being sponsored by the Los Angeles County Lifeguard Assn.

Directed by top surfer and photographer Walt Phillips, the movie takes in the best surfing fun in Hawaii, Mexico, California. Featured in the film are some of the best of the big wave riders, including Peter Cole, Ricky Grigg, Fred Van Dyke, Butch Van Arsdale, Midget Farrelly, Greg Noll, Jose Angel, and Henry Ford.

Phillips, himself a top surfer and publisher of "Surfing Illustrated," edited several thousand feet of film to produce the one-and-a-half-hour movie. Admission to the film is \$1.50, and all proceeds will go to the Lifeguard Assn. for youth work and the junior lifeguard program. Show time is 8:30 p.m. both evenings.

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NEW HAAS **AVOCADOS 2 FOR 25¢**

ROMAINE LETTUCE 2 FOR 9¢ FRESH CRISP

ASSORTED FRUIT FLAVORS **JELL-O 6 3-OZ. PKGS. 45¢**

KRAFT OR MIRACLE **French Dressing 8-OZ. BOT. 25¢**

REGINA PLAIN OR GARLIC **Wine Vinegar 13-OZ. BOT. 29¢**

SGW **KIDNEY BEANS 2 15 1/2-OZ. CANS 29¢**

DOLE **PINEAPPLE 5 CANS \$1.00** SLICED, 14 1/2-OZ. CAN OR CHUNK, 13 1/2-OZ. CAN YOUR CHOICE

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KRAFT **Miniature Marshmallows 19¢** 6-1/2-OZ. BAG

JERSEYMAID **Cottage Cheese 25¢** QT. CTN., 4% FT. CTN.

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U.S.D.A. GRADED CHOICE BEEF

SWISS STEAK 59¢ LB.

THICK CUTS OF ROUND OR ROUND BONE SHOULDER

LEAN CUTS **BEEF SHORTRIBS 35¢** LB.

ROUND STEAK 69¢ LB.

REGULAR CUT **RUMP ROAST 69¢** LB.

LEAN, MEATY, FOR THE BARBECUE **CHUCK STEAK 39¢** LB.

BONELESS **TOP SIRLOIN STEAK 1.39** LB.

WELL TRIMMED **T-BONE STEAK 1.09** LB.

WELL TRIMMED **PORTERHOUSE STEAK 1.19** LB.

OVEN READY **RIB ROAST 79¢** LARGE END LB.

BAKERY

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SMUCKER'S **Strawberry Preserves 35¢** 12-OZ. JAR

20-OZ. JAR, 49¢

SUNSHINE **Hi Ho Crackers 25¢** 10-OZ. PKG.

KRAFT REGULAR OR SMOKE **Bar-B-Que Sauce 39¢** 18-OZ. BOT.

COOK IT OR KEEP IT IN **Reynolds Wrap 69¢** ECONOMY 75-FT. ROLL

NORTHERN **Toilet Tissue 29¢** 4 ROLL PKG.

Frozen Foods

BANQUET ASSORTED VARIETIES **DINNERS 39¢** YOUR CHOICE EACH

MINUTE MAID PINK OR REGULAR **LEMONADE or LIMEADE 1.00** 9 6-OZ. CANS

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SHRIMP CHOW MEIN 49¢ PKG.

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HYGRADE **SLICED SMOKED HAM OR SLICED SMOKED BEEF 59¢** 3-OZ. PKGS.

MARKET BASKET SLICED **PICKLE & PIMIENTO, COTTO SALAMI or SPICED LUNCHEON MEAT 89¢** 3 6-OZ. PKGS.

MIX OR MATCH **BLUE CHEESE DRESSING 49¢** 16-OZ. BOT.

MARKET BASKET **CHEDDAR CHEESE 59¢** LB.

OREGON MILD **SALADS 29¢** 16-OZ. CTN.

Sundries

FRESH **GROUND BEEF 39¢** LB.

FRESH **GROUND SHOULDER 59¢** LB.

FRESH **GROUND ROUND 69¢** LB.

SWIFT EVERWEET **SLICED BACON 49¢** 1-LB. PKG.

OSCAR MAYER SARAN WRAPPED (VACUUM PACKED) **SLICED BACON 69¢** 1-LB. PKG.

THICK SLICED BACON, 2-LB. PKG., \$1.39 FEATURED ON KTTV CHANNEL 11

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