

Doctor Recommends Health Supervision for Infants

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 difficulties 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.

MAINTAINED

More than 70 of these well baby clinics — often called child health or well child conferences — 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.

EXAMINATIONS

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.

Aircraft Engine History Traced

The historical development of the aircraft engine is traced in "Early Powered Flight," an exhibit of famous engines, which opens Thursday, August 10 at the California Museum of Science and Industry in Exposition Park. It will continue through November 5.

The exhibit illustrates the basic problem faced by the pioneers of powered flight in the famous "early bird" era of aviation. That problem was to develop an engine that was powerful enough to lift the aircraft and yet light enough to fly.

Among the engines on display are the Wright Brothers Type "B," Hansen - Snow, Curtis 1905 and 1906, Anzani fan type, Viale, 1910 rotary, Le Rhone, Hispano-Suiza V-8, Liberty V-12, Wright "Whirlwind" J-4, Rolls Royce V-12, Regnier, Douglas Twin, Renault, Franklin 4AC-150, and the Allison T-63.

Two pioneer airplanes, the Borel-Morane and the Maurice Farman "Shorthorn," are also on exhibit. The Borel-Morane was built in France in 1911 and flown by the Long Beach aviator Earl S. Dougherty. The "Shorthorn" was the only airplane to be used throughout the first World War and was the first airplane to carry a mounted machine gun. It has never been seen by the American public.

Another unique feature is a full-scale replica of the Langley steam-powered model plane.

The Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge and ample parking is available.



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