

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF **DECEMBER, 1972**

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

R A P E !

Many frustrated advertisers have resorted to the "shock technique" in an effort to gain the attention of a generally apathetic public for the few begrudging moments it takes to introduce their invariably dull product.

Measles eradication is a dull product state health departments have been trying to sell for years. The advent of an effective live measles vaccine in 1963, for many people, relieved this disease of any luster it might have had. These same people have been quick to forget the regular cases of measles encephalitis and death that preceded the advent of this vaccine. Since that time the national incidence of this once troublesome disease has been dropping steadily. Nonetheless, after 9 years of experience with measles vaccine in the United States, this same dull disease is not only with us, but showing signs of increasing its activity in certain areas of the country. In these areas measles appears to be preparing to reassert itself through its own "shock

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED January 12, 1973	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHTHERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	RUBELLA *	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	MEASLES	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 1971	194	28	16	9	806	763	70	82	0	61	10	298	38	6	153	3	1717	14506	769
TOTAL TO DATE 1972	94	6	15	9	740	589	52	44	0	48	16	101	305	7	216	6	113	17307	854
TOTAL THIS MONTH	6	1	2	0	62	36	6	1	0	1	3	0	17	0	13	0	8	1266	49
ACADIA						1												1	
ALLEN								1										4	
ASCENSION															1				
ASSUMPTION																		2	
AVOUELLES																		1	
BEAUREGARD															1			1	
BIENVILLE																			
BOSSIER			1		1													33	
CADDO					4	3							2					125	2
CALCASIEU					2										2			63	
CALDWELL																			
CAMERON																		1	
CATAHOULA					1	1													
CLAIBORNE																		1	
CONCORDIA					1	1													
DESOTO													1					8	
EAST BATON ROUGE					6	3									1		4	56	5
EAST CARROLL																		4	
EAST FELICIANA																		1	
EVANGELINE						1												1	
FRANKLIN							1												5
GRANT																			
IBERIA																		3	2
IBERVILLE					1		1											1	

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome.

Louisiana Department
Louisiana State Library
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

technique" - a new measles epidemic. Hopefully, this will not be necessary to stimulate a generally apathetic American public to complete the work of measles eradication.

Louisiana has the capacity to eliminate measles. It has an effective vaccine and it has the facilities to deliver this vaccine to susceptible children. Why then does this unnecessary disease persist? The answer to this question is almost too much a platitude to utter! . . . Measles continues to exist in Louisiana because susceptible children have not been properly immunized against this disease. Either through ignorance, apathy or negligence, children in Louisiana are being denied measles vaccine and are thus being denied protection from the possible otitis, encephalitis, irreversible brain damage or death that may accompany this illness.

Louisiana's measles eradication program is primarily a Parish Health Unit operation. Approximately 70% of those children who do receive vaccine do so through the Parish Health Units. The remainder are vaccinated by private practitioners. According to available State Department of Health data, approximately 70% of Louisiana's children have been protected against measles. Thus, in spite of earlier mass immunization campaigns, in spite of subsequent statewide maintenance programs, in spite of repeated pleas from the state office to increase surveillance and in spite of a state law prohibiting children from entering school prior to immunization against measles, 30% of Louisiana's children have not been properly immunized against measles! Louisiana health authorities therefore, must ask themselves: How long can this apathy to measles exist before epidemics recur? Those who consider the "shock introduction" to our present plea absurd, must, likewise, ask themselves: Are not the children of Louisiana being molested needlessly by this inexcusable disease?

SALMONELLA ANATUM GASTROENTERITIS OUTBREAK IN A LOUISIANA STATE SCHOOL

On November 15, the Epidemiology Section of the Louisiana State Department of Health received word of an outbreak of gastroenteritis at one of the state's schools for retarded children. According to the health authorities at this school, the outbreak had begun suddenly on November 14. At that time, large numbers of residents as well as employees noted onset of fever, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. During the 3 day period, November 14 - November 16, 122 residents and 46 employees at the school experienced this illness (these cases are not reflected in the table above).

As a result of the epidemiologic investigation of this outbreak, it was discovered that all of the individuals affected had eaten the afternoon meal served at the school the day prior to the outbreak. In contrast to these individuals, no one who had not eaten this meal had developed symptoms.

The meal in question had been prepared at the school in two separate kitchens, each operated independently of the other. Both kitchens had prepared an identical menu: roast pork shoulder, cornbread dressing, salad, peas and cherry jubilee. All ill individuals had eaten the meal prepared by one particular kitchen. No one who had eaten the meal prepared by the other kitchen became ill.

Subsequent laboratory investigation revealed *S. anatum* as the etiologic agent responsible for this outbreak. This organism was isolated from 8 of 25 rectal swabs from affected individuals and was also isolated from roast pork that had been prepared by the kitchen previously indicated on epidemiologic grounds as the common denominator of the cases of gastroenteritis.

A review of the practices within this kitchen exposed a number of flaws in its operation. The pork had been placed into ovens prior to complete thawing. These ovens lacked functioning thermostats. Since meat thermometers were not employed, the kitchen staff had no reliable means of monitoring the process of cooking of this meat. Hence, many of the pork shoulders appear to have been insufficiently cooked. Finally, the partially cooked pork shoulders had been refrigerated overnight prior to slicing, giving any viable organisms in the well insulated central areas of these roasts, ample time to multiply, prior to consumption the next day.

(To be continued)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -		- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH																	
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JACKSON									1									3	
JEFFERSON		1			6	2							2		1		2	113	7
JEFFERSON DAVIS																		2	
LAFAYETTE	1				3	1												17	
LAFOURCHE					2													13	
LASALLE							1												
LINCOLN																		44	
LIVINGSTON						1	1											1	
MADISON						1												4	
MOREHOUSE																		7	1
NATCHITOCHE																		3	
ORLEANS	3				14	9	1					11		5		2	451	18	
OUACHITA					5	5								1			88	4	
PLAQUEMINES																		2	
POINTE COUPEE																			
RAPIDES						1												46	
RED RIVER																			
RICHLAND					2													4	
SABINE																		3	
ST. BERNARD					2							1						3	
ST. CHARLES										1					1				1
ST. HELENA																			
ST. JAMES			1			1													
ST. JOHN					1	1												1	
ST. LANDRY					3	1												13	
ST. MARTIN																			
ST. MARY																		4	1
ST. TAMMANY					2													15	
TANGIPAHOA										1								26	1
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE	2				2	2												15	2
UNION																		2	
VERMILION					1					1								1	
VERNON					3		1											43	
WASHINGTON																		5	
WEBSTER																		13	
WEST BATON ROUGE																		2	
WEST CARROLL																		1	
WEST FELICIANA						1												13	
WINN																		2	
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through December 31, the following cases were also reported: 1- Actinomycosis; 3- Brucellosis; 7- Malaria (contracted outside the U.S.A.)