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on a complex problem...*

Cannon et al.: PROCEEDINGS OF A SYMPOSIUM ON IMMUNIZA- TION IN CHILDHOOD

"A number of diseases resulting from bacterial or viral infection can now be prevented by means of vaccines and toxoids, and the problem of administering these to the best advantage, and with the least inconvenience to the recipients, has become complex and difficult. The time has come to assess all the evidence which has accumulated, and to attempt to reach agreement on certain basic principles which must be observed in all inoculation schedules. The Symposium was organized with this object in view.

"Taking part in the Symposium were representatives of all sections of the profession interested in the subject—medical officers of health, school medical officers, general practitioners, pediatricians, epidemiologists, statisticians, representatives from infectious diseases hospitals, from the laboratories, from interested departments overseas. . . .

"The first session was devoted to consideration of the complications and side-effects which occasionally result from one or other of the immunization processes, such as provocation poliomyelitis, encephalopathy occurring after the administration of pertussis vaccine, and generalized vaccinia and encephalitis resulting from smallpox vaccination. . . .

"In subsequent sessions, dealing with the different procedures which are now recommended and commonly practiced, opening and supporting papers were presented by those having special and in many cases unique experience.

"In the end . . . it was unanimously agreed to recommend the modified schedules (of immunization), a recommendation which, in view of the status of those who took part in the Symposium, must be regarded as giving authoritative guidance to those concerned.

"A final recommendation, well worthy of implementation, was that a representative body be set up to keep the problems of immunization under review and to make from time to time such recommendations as might be rendered necessary by advancing knowledge."—*From the Foreword by Brigadier Sir John Boyd, O.B.E., F.R.S.*

CONTENTS . . . First Session—The Risks of Immunization: Provocation poliomyelitis; Hazards of pertussis vaccination; Faults in the sterilization of syringes and needles. Second Session—Poliomyelitis Vaccination. Pertussis Vaccination. Third Session—Diphtheria Immunization. Tetanus Immunization. Combined Prophylactics. Personal Records of Inoculations. Fourth Session—Immunization Programs: Pros and Cons. Fifth Session—Discussion and Adoption of Recommendations. Appendix: Recommendations of the Symposium

Edited by D. A. CANNON, Medical Adviser, Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, Kent; W. C. COCKBURN, Director, Epidemiological Research Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, London; D. G. EVANS, Director, Department of Biological Standards, National Institute for Medical Research, London; and H. J. PARISH, Clinical Research Director, Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, Kent.

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Preface

*By J. M. Watson, D.Sc. (Lond.), A.R.C.S.,
Director, Commonwealth Bureau of
Helminthology, St. Albans; Member, Expert
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