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FREE TAY-SACHS TESTS FOR JEWISH MONTREALERS

Now, for the first time, it is medically possible to eradicate Tay-Sachs, a fatal childhood disease. Tay-Sachs is an inherited condition produced by two particular genes which come together in a child. This can happen when each parent has one of the Tay-Sachs genes. Fetuses in pregnant Jewish women may carry one of these genes, too... or even have the disease. One out of every 30 Ashkenazi Jews carries one of the genes.

For these reasons, it is important that the blood of every Jew -- and particularly that of young ones -- be tested to find whether or not he/she carries a Tay-Sachs gene. Pregnant Jewish women should also be treated -- or rather, the amniotic fluid around their developing fetus should be. If, in the case of a fetus, the disease is present, the parents will be advised so that an elective abortion may become possible.

To help with this city-wide program, the JGH's Diagnostic Clinic, ground floor main, will take, free of charge, blood samples of any Jewish Montrealers who come to the Clinic on Mondays (only) from 7 am to 2 pm. No appointments are necessary. The samples so obtained will be sent immediately to the Montreal Children's Hospital for processing. In due course, that Hospital will advise patients of individual results.

DENTISTRY DEPARTMENT STRESSES PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

Periodontal disease, i.e., diseases of the gums and supporting structures of the teeth, is probably the most prevalent disease of mankind. No area, nor race, nor socio-economic strata, nor populace of the world is free from or immune to its destructive effects.

In most populations, 50% of all children are affected. It has been estimated that 95% of all adults over age 35 are afflicted with periodontal disease, in one form or another -- and with varying severity.

Among the many "old wives' tales" is that bleeding gums, receding gums, and the loosening of teeth with their eventual loss, are all part of the normal aging process. A myth exists that attributes gingival bleeding and loss of teeth to pregnancy, and this is accepted by many as a normal condition.

Gingival bleeding is related to the ulceration of the epithelial surface adjacent to the tooth; it is no more "normal" than is ulceration and bleeding from any other part of the gastro-intestinal tract!

Collectively, dental caries (tooth decay) and periodontal disease comprise 99% of all oral disease. The unfortunate paradox to all of this is that dental (tooth decay) and periodontal disease are, to a large degree, preventable.

The major causative factor in both dental and periodontal disease is known as "dental plaque". Dental plaque is essentially bacterial in nature. In the case of periodontal (gum) tissues, there is the release of toxic products -- all the clinical signs and symptoms of periodontal disease (bleeding and/or receding gums, etc.).

On the other hand, plaque forming on tooth surface subjected to certain types of carbohydrates (sugars), will result in the formation of lactic acid and tooth decay. The question to be posed, at this point, is if plaque is the major etiological in dental and periodontal disease, what is being done about it?

Recent investigations have produced some startling results: (1) Plaque requires approximately 24 hours to develop; therefore the removal of plaque once in a 24-hour period is sufficient to maintain a healthy mouth; (2) studies have shown that patients who have brushed their teeth all their lives, have roughly the same incidence of periodontal and dental disease as those who have never brushed. In fact, brushing between meals does not lower the incidence.

The justification for these findings is actually based on a very obvious premise: 80 to 85% of all dental and periodontal disease occurs between the teeth, and it is physically

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Martinique est magnifique

Before my two weeks holiday I knew only that the Caribbean island of Martinique was a French Government Department, the birthplace of the Empress Josephine, and the home of a volcano which had last erupted in 1902. I have since learned first-hand that Martinique is a still unspoiled island paradise with a Creole culture blending French and African traditions in atmosphere, language and cuisine. The temperature varies only five or six degrees throughout the year, and the island basks in eternal sunshine. It is a veritable Garden of Eden covered with lush foliage, trees and exotic flowers. It is the home of a friendly people and the rhythm of the Beguine

I was fortunate in being able to tour the entire island on two occasions and had ample opportunity to observe and talk about economic and social conditions. I was impressed by the industry and well-being of the people and the many fine schools available for the children. Children are very much the same everywhere, but we were delighted by the starched cleanliness and the alert and friendly attitudes at all age levels. At the present time, children over 16 who qualify are sent to France for higher education but a university is now under construction so that it will not be necessary to leave the island.

Martinique has become a tourist attraction only during the last three years, and the resulting prosperity is evident everywhere. On one day, seven cruise ships were at the harbour in Fort du France, the major city.

Shopping is an exciting experience as French imports are available everywhere duty free. U. S. dollars, francs, and travellers cheques are accepted everywhere.

The beaches are the cleanest and most beautiful I have ever seen. All forms of water sports and activities are available in the warm, buoyant Caribbean.

A final word about the food which is mainly Creole style. A speciality is a very old local fish, fresh fish caught straight out of the sea mixed up with potato and plantain. It gives a fantastic taste -- with tomato and pepper, of course.

Some say the local rum is the best in the Caribbean

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

SYMPATHIES to Mr. Andre Cattaoui, Admitting, whose wife, Helen, died at the JGH March 10th... to the family and many friends of Mr. Bill McGeehan, recently retired from Housekeeping, who died suddenly at the JGH February 5th...

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Wayne Thompson, Orderly, 3NW, whose daughter was born, appropriately, on Valentine's Day... to Mrs. P. Avis, RN, 6W, whose beautiful daughter, Karla Marie, was born February 2nd... to Mrs. E. Arlequi, RN, 6NW, whose baby daughter arrived January 29th... to Mrs. V. Campued, RN, 8NW, who also gave birth to a girl January 26th... to Mr. Thomas Boudjaklian, Printing, and his wife, on the birth of their daughter January 21st... to Mme. Genevieve Renaud, Dietary, who was appointed Chief Therapeutic Dietician early in December...

BEST WISHES to Mr. Morris Jesion, formerly Administrative Assistant to the JGH's Medical Director, who is now Executive Director of the Jewish Convalescent Hospital, Chomedey... to Mr. Herb Bercovitz, new Administrative Assistant at the JGH who replaced him... to Miss Julia Longseed, RN, Insutructor, School of Nursing, who was appointed Head Nurse of 5NW February 21st... to Elaine, daughter of Mrs. Ruth Fleisher, Admitting, who married recently. Elaine worked in our Medical Records for two orthree summers... to Mrs. S. Chan, RN, formerly Miss Pe, Night Supervisor, who is now on the permanent staff of 6NW... to Miss C. Evans, RN, 4W, who is retiring from the JGH following many years of service... to Mrs. Gail Decarie, RN, who became HN in the OR January 28th... to Mr. John Rountree, Laundry, who retired January 31st following 15 years of service ... to Mr. Jimmy Szabo, formerly Mr. Rountree's assistant, who succeeds as the new manager...

WELCOME BACK to Mrs. Minnie Strauss, Dietary, who returned to her job March 23rd following an ear operation... to Mrs. Jean Heath, fomrelly a clerk in the Admitting Office, who recently returned to her old job after an absence of two years... to Dr. Ned Better, Surgery, who vacationed at the Club Mediterran ean in Martinique early in February...

MORE PEOPLE IN MORE NEWS

DID YOU KNOW that many JGHers, e.g., Miss Nancy Mosier, Lady Davis Institute, got their groceries in before the March 3-4 blizzard of '72 by shopping by candlelight during the power cut of March 2nd? that because of the great storm of February 19-20th, nearly 80 staff members were put up in the Nurses' Residence both nights? that Mrs. E. Fernier, Mrs. N. Unger, Mrs. E. Kavanaugh, Nurses' Residence, worked long overtime hours to help out with the above? that Dr. Harvey Barkun, who interned at the JGH, was recently named Executive Director of the Montreal General Hospital? that he succeeds Dr. William Storrar who will join the staff of the Aga Khan in Europe and East Africa? that in 1971, the Women's Auxiliary of the JGH contributed \$139,000 to various hospital service programs and special patient services in '71? that in late September, 1971, President Nixon signed a bill providing \$1.6 billion over 3 years to help find the causes and cures of cancer? that approximately 325,000 Americans -- meaning about 32,500 Canadians -- die of cancer each year? that on January 25th, Dr. Danny Silver, Psychiatric Institute, spoke on drugs on Cable 9 TV? that Dr. Michael Gold's new office is located in the link leading to the Lady Davis Institute? that a recent government survey shows that 1.55% of women in the full-time labour force were absent from work because of illness for the whole of a given week compared to 1.85% of men in the same labour force? that in 1968, 20.1% of women paid workers were members of trade unions compared to 39.7% of men paid workers?

AND DID YOU KNOW that the deadline is NOW for artists and photographers to enter the upcoming rotating art exhibit? that application forms may be obtained from Dr. Nathan Freedman? that a new vaccine which fights measles, German measles (rubella), and mumps will be available in Canada soon? that Dr. Mervyn Gornitsky, Chief of Dentistry, and Dr. Earl Hershenfield, Dentistry, were interviewed by the Montreal Star for the article "Dentist draws bead on tooth decay care myths" which appeared February 16th? that Dr. Gornitsky and Miss Marilyn Finesilver, Dentistry, were interviewed for the article "95% cut in tooth decay aim of new dental clinic" which appeared in the Gazette February 28th? that Dr. Hershenfield's own story on this topic appears in this issue of Pulse? that Dr. Albert Schweitzer once said: "One thing I know, the only ones among us who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve"?

Letters

To the Staff:

I wish to express the Administration's appreciation to all members of the Staff who weathered the recent snowstorm and to those who did double duty, to keep the Hospital functioning normally during a trying time.

The fine cooperation of all is most deeply appreciated.

I extend to all members of the Staff and their families best wishes for a Happy Passover and Easter Holiday.

Sincerely yours,
W. R. Slatkoff, M. D.,
Executive Director.

* * *

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the Hospital's sponsorship of the French instruction classes held twice a week. I have found them very useful and our teacher, Mrs. Brown, quite skilled.

It has been obvious the attrition of the students, numerically, but I hope this will not discourage the Hospital's further involvement in this programme.

Yours truly,
(Miss) Sylvia Henchendorff, RN,
4E.

February 2nd.

* * *

Dear Mr. Littman:

I want to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks and appreciation for the splendid service your Hospital, through its various agencies, extended to my wife, Gertrude Brensilber, who was recently a patient at your fine Hospital.

I have never seen a Hospital, either here or in Canada, which has so many dedicated and courteous people attached to it. This applies to the volunteers in the coffee shop right up to the resident staff and medical staff and surgeons.

You are to be commended for running such a fine institution, and I, for one, as well as my wife, fully appreciate it, beyond words. Keep up the good work!

New York City,
January 31st.
6.

Sincerely,
Murray Brensilber. (see p. 8)

PULSE PROFILE



EDWIN AUSTIN (TED) WOOLEY, Accounts Office, was born in Montreal in 1923, an accountant's son. With his only sister, he attended Montreal High School, and yearned to be a pilot. At age 14, however, Ted left school to take on a clerical job in a belt processing company. Three years later, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy to spend most of the next 42 months sailing "the North Atlantic triangle" -- first on the minesweeper Truro, then on the corvette Hepatica, and finally on the larger corvette Kamsack -- doing convoy duty between Halifax, Newfoundland, and New York. "I never got overseas in the whole darned War!" laughs Ted now. "And the only action we saw in all that time was in September, 1942, in the St. Lawrence River between Rimouski and Nova Scotia. U-boats sank seven out of our eight ships there... and we never caught one of them."

After the War, Ted completed three more years' schooling to get his High School Leaving, and went on to earn a B. Comm. degree by completing seven years of night study at Sir George Williams College. In the daytime, he worked as an assistant accountant at several companies and, for a while, travelled up and down the east coast of Canada doing auditing for Industrial Acceptance Corporation. Eventually he did a stint with the Montreal Children's Hospital. Then in 1966 he joined the JGH as Chief Accountant, a post he still holds. "Hospital work is the most interesting thing I've been into," he says. "This aspect of it outweighs the fact it doesn't leave much time for self-development."

Married in 1950 to Margaret Dunk, a pre-school teacher, Ted has four children, the youngest of whom are interested in swimming. As a result, he helps to administer the community swimming pool in his home-town of Beaconsfield, and officiates at some of the events sponsored by the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association.

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impossible to reach these inter-dental areas with a toothbrush.

Some method of inter-dental cleaning, e.g., dental floss, is thus most important in preventing dental and periodontal disease.

To this end, we have set up a plaque control program in the Department of Dentistry. All of our patients (excepting emergencies) must first learn to control and remove their dental plaque prior to undergoing any form of active treatment.



Earl Hershenfield, DDS, MSc, FRCD(C)
Dentistry.

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and I will not dispute it! Lobsters, crawfish, mangoes, papayas, bananas, and pineapples are available everywhere for mere pennies.

My wife and I are saving our "pareos" (a colourful length of cloth which may be worn in a variety of ways) and are looking forward to a return visit sometime in the future.

Adieu foulard -- adieu madras.



David Littman,
Admitting Office.

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Dear Dr. Slatkoff:

I would like to thank you for all the devoted care and attention that was given to me in your Hospital.

I wish to congratulate you for the good administration of your Hospital with a wonderful team of devoted and very competent doctors. I am very grateful to them all and thank them from the bottom of my heart.

The Jewish General Hospital in Montreal is the best hospital in Quebec.

My thanks are also extended to the nurses, technicians, and the rest of the staff.

Sincerely,
Jeanine Gatineau.

Montreal.
January 15th.