

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1916

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE NATURE, MANNER OF CONVEYANCE AND MEANS OF PREVENTION OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS¹

THE Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research has been appealed to by so many physicians and laymen for information and advice on the subject of infantile paralysis, that it has seemed desirable to relate the facts of present knowledge concerning certain highly pertinent aspects of the disease, together with deductions of practical importance derived from them.

Nature

Infantile paralysis is an infectious and communicable disease which is caused by the invasion of the central nervous organs—the spinal cord and brain—of a minute, filterable microorganism which has now been secured in artificial culture and as such is distinctly visible under the higher powers of the microscope.

Location of the Microorganism or Virus in the Sick

The virus of infantile paralysis, as the microorganism causing it is termed, exists constantly in the central nervous organs and upon the mucous membrane of the nose and throat and of the intestines in persons suffering from the disease; it occurs less frequently in the other internal organs, and it has not been detected in the general circulating blood of patients.

Location of the Virus in Healthy Persons

Although the microorganism of infantile paralysis is now known, the difficulties attending its artificial cultivation and identification under the microscope are such as

¹ Substance of an address before New York Academy of Medicine, July 13, 1916.