

members in Floyd County, Indiana, was attributed to potato poisoning.

Since there is little specific data available regarding human potato poisoning, an account of two recent deaths after eating greened potatoes may be of interest. About October 15, 1924, James B. Matheney, of Vandalia, Illinois, gathered about one and one half bushels of tubers from a patch of strawed potatoes. The tubers were distinctly green, due to having been exposed to sunlight following the scattering of the straw by chickens. On October 18, the family started to use the greened potatoes and two days later began to show symptoms of poisoning. All members of the family, consisting of father, mother, two daughters and five sons, were ill with the exception of the father, who did not partake of the tubers, and a child of 18 months, who lived on milk almost exclusively. The mother, aged 45, died on October 25, while a daughter, Cynthia, aged 16, died two days later. The other five members of the family recovered.

Altogether, six physicians worked on these cases. Two diagnoses were made, milk sickness and potato poisoning, but the milk sickness theory was eliminated when it was shown that the two heaviest users of milk, the father and 18-months-old child, were not affected, while the mother, who died, never used milk or dairy products, with the exception of an occasional teaspoonful of milk in her coffee and a small amount of butter. Furthermore, the four cows in the pasture exhibited no symptoms of white snakeroot poisoning even after having been violently driven. In addition, the characteristic breath odor of milk sickness was absent. No wild berries, nuts, etc., had been eaten. The evidence seemed clear that the deaths of the mother and daughter were due to potato poisoning as a result of eating greened tubers.

The symptoms were described by Dr. Walter D. Murfin, of Vernon, Illinois, one of the attending physicians, as follows:

The symptoms of all were nearly the same. The first symptom was epigastric pain, which increased in severity until nausea and vomiting ensued, which began from one to two hours after the pain started. After emesis of the stomach contents and bile, the vomiting ceased and there was but little pain. All were constipated except the fourteen-year-old boy who exhibited mild diarrhoea. There was no fever; the temperature was 97.4 to 98.4. The pulse was normal. The expression was dull, while the patients were apathetic, indifferent and extremely exhausted. Two were restless before exhaustion began. One was extremely thirsty, the others did not crave water. The respirations were extremely difficult and accelerated but not of the Cheyne-Stokes type. No particular odor to the breath. Weakness and prostration were marked. Consciousness was retained by the two who died until

within three or four hours of death. No convulsions. Examination of the chest, abdomen and reflexes was negative.

These symptoms agree in several particulars with the symptoms described in the case of 56 Berlin soldiers previously mentioned. Briefly, these symptoms were headache, colic, nausea, diarrhoea, general debility, vomiting and acute gastro-enteritis. The majority were drowsy and apathetic. Several victims fainted and a number showed rise in temperature to 103° F.

ALBERT A. HANSEN

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

SO-CALLED SALMON POISONING OF DOGS

THE question of whether or not salmon is the cause of a disease of dogs is an old one in the Pacific northwest. The findings in studies now in progress are considered of sufficient importance to be reported.

A number of dogs developed typical symptoms and died after eating "sore-back" salmon. This is a popular term which applies to the mature fish that are found in fresh water streams during the spawning season. The spawned salmon undergo tissue degeneration which results in discoloration of the skin. They die after reaching fresh water.

Salmon which was caught in salt water was fed to dogs. No symptoms developed in these dogs.

A small trematode has been found in the intestinal tracts of dogs that died after eating "sore-back" salmon. Large numbers of these parasites and their eggs have been found accompanied by a severe inflammation of the intestines. This trematode is a fluke, but has not yet been identified.

Microscopic cysts have been found in the muscles of the "sore-back" salmon used in this experiment. It is logical to infer that these cysts may be one of the intermediate forms of the mature fluke found in the intestines of affected dogs.

Further work with the life cycle of this parasite will be attempted. Work will also be continued on various other phases of this problem.

C. R. DONHAM

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
AND EXPERIMENT STATION

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

An Introduction to the Theory of Optics. By SCHUSTER AND NICHOLSON. *A Treatise on Light.* By R. A. HOUSTOUN, 2nd edition.

A PERUSAL of these two books is highly educational, not only because of the store of information they