

The germ itself is particularly tough, and to make sure of survival has a spore form. Tetanus spores can live for years, in sun, wind, hail or snow. Dust on farms, from gardens heavily manured, from streets—these are the more likely places to find the spores.

Deep punctured wounds are just the thing, dark and damp with oxygen cut off. Nails, splinters, firearms, garden forks make the kind of wounds that are ideal. Skin scratches and scrapes are less likely to provide the right conditions, unless festering or sealed off. After the germ gains entry, it takes up to three weeks to develop its poison. This toxin acts on the nerves. The neck muscles stiffen, there are painful spasms of the jaws. The only hope of saving life lies in antitoxin treatment in the early stages. As the disease progresses, the muscles generally go into spasms and the body is racked with convulsions.

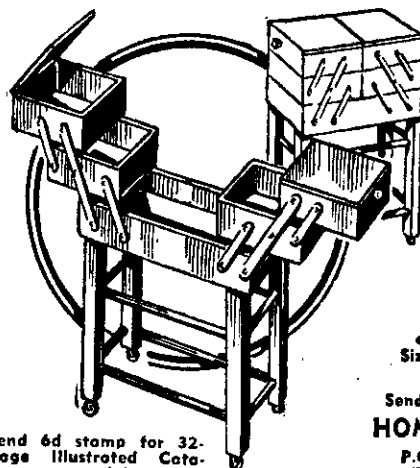
Since the Great War doctors have learnt to guard against tetanus by giving antitetanic serum to all accident victims and wherever they encounter deep and dirty wounds. The last World War proved the value of prevention. Troops in that war were given prior protection, and didn't have to rely solely on antitetanic serum after they were wounded. The same process was used as for diphtheria protection. The troops were immunised beforehand with anti-tetanus

toxoid. Not a single case of tetanus followed the violence of the Dunkirk landing.

Nor should New Zealand be having cases of tetanus. Immunisation protects against this killer. There is no reason why our children shouldn't be immunised in infancy or early childhood. It takes at least two injections to build up enough protection, and a booster dose a year later is wise. Thereafter, following a likely injury, another booster dose is all that is necessary, and you don't then have to have those large injections of antiserum so commonly given now. Antiserum gives temporary protection for the time of the wound. Immunisation, appropriately boosted, gives permanent safety. So talk this matter over with your doctor.

This is your anti-tetanus task! Prompt first aid to all scrapes and scratches—your doctor's aid for deep or doubtful wounds—permanent protection through immunisation.

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Eavesdropping by Radio

IT is nearly 600 years since eavesdropping was banned by law in Britain; eavesdropping by radio has been illegal since April, but few people knew of it until a recent prosecution.

In a shed in a London suburb police found seven radio sets being used to monitor police and fire brigade messages. The small news agency responsible passed this red-hot information of crimes, accidents, and fires to newspapers and a firm of fire assessors. The prosecution stated that normal radio sets could not pick up the high frequency used for such messages, but the defence contended that several thousand people were entertained each evening by listening to such messages on shortwave sets. Although it was not stated in court, it has been reported several times that police have heard police car and taxi service messages on their telephones.

One man was fined £7 and another £4. When the law was introduced in 1360, eavesdroppers were defined as "such as stand under walls or windows to hear news."

—J. W. GOODWIN (London).

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