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FOURTH OF JULY INJURIES AND TETANUS

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL COMPILATION BY
THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

A PLEA FOR A SAFE AND SANE FOURTH

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AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE DEARBORN AVENUE
CHICAGO

FOURTH OF JULY INJURIES AND TETANUS

[EDITORIAL]

THE ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY RECORD

In this issue of *THE JOURNAL* appears the seventh annual compilation of deaths and injuries resulting from the celebration of the Fourth of July. The fact that the celebration was spread over three days this year, since the Fourth came on Sunday, may be partly responsible for the increased number of tetanus cases, the total being nearly double that of last year. Except in a few progressive cities which passed prohibitory or restrictive ordinances, however, there seems to have been a relaxation of authority regarding the use of fireworks, chiefly in Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. More serious has been the absence or non-enforcement of restrictions on the use of blank cartridges, which, of course, accounts for the increase of tetanus cases.

Tetanus antitoxin, although extensively used, was still not employed as much as it should have been, either as a preventive measure or after active symptoms began. In several instances, according to report, doctors still resorted to the old methods of treatment long known to be of little value. Several instances were reported also in which doctors did not lay open the wounds until after tetanus had developed, and, therefore, too late to be effective. In some instances the later operation revealed imbedded in the wound the wad which should have been removed at the first treatment. The following simple rules have already had wide circulation, but should be carefully followed in the treatment of every blank cartridge or puncture wound:

TO PREVENT LOCKJAW

1. Freely incise every wound.
2. Carefully and thoroughly remove from the wound every particle of foreign matter.
3. Cauterize the wound thoroughly with a 25 per cent. solution of phenol (carbolic acid) in glycerin or alcohol.
4. Apply a loose wet boric acid pack.
5. Inject subcutaneously 1500 units of antitetanic serum.
6. In no case should the wound be closed. It should be allowed to heal by granulation. The dressing and packing should be removed every day.

Although the numbers of dead and of injured are larger than or as large as last year, there is, nevertheless, abundant evidence of an increasing public sentiment in favor of more rational methods of celebration. Two more cities, Washington and Cleveland, passed and enforced prohibitory ordinances, and Chicago enforced a restrictive ordinance, with the result that no casualties were reported for Washington, only four slight injuries for Cleveland, and less than half the usual number of accidents and no deaths for Chicago. These results show that prohibitive measures are more effective than mere restrictive ordinances, although restrictive measures are much better than doing nothing.

Efforts to provide safe amusements have been more extensive this year than ever before. Worthy of special mention is the plan adopted by Springfield, Mass., which shows the great opportunity offered by the annual celebration of the Fourth of July to instill in the minds of the youth of our land a spirit of genuine patriotism. The parades, the floats representing historical incidents, the picnics, and, last but not least, the annual chorus drill under skilled leaders in preparation for the mass singing of national airs and popular songs—all these methods, if more extensively employed, would add greatly to the value of the Fourth-of-July celebration in our national life, and help to do away with the present death-dealing methods of celebration. Those who are working toward better methods have reason for encouragement and should persevere. City authorities should assist by prohibiting fireworks. The only objections seem to come from the "business interests" involved. By the combination, therefore, of substitution and restriction, a more enlightened celebration of our national Independence Day will be assured.

STILL TEMPORIZING WITH THE BLANK CARTRIDGE
PISTOL

Blank cartridge wounds cause more deaths in the annual celebration of the Fourth of July than all other factors combined. In seven years, 794 deaths have been caused by this one factor! Most of the victims were bright active boys, aged from 6 to 18 years, and they were doomed to die the most awful death known to medical science, a death the agony of which is probably not paralleled even by the tortures of the Inquisition. If this annual sacrifice were really necessary, it would be far more merciful to pick out the hundred or more youths each year and deliberately shoot them. But this annual outrage is not necessary; it is entirely preventable, and the prevention rests with our city governments.

For seven years THE JOURNAL has heralded these facts to the world. They have been given even wider publicity by some of our public-spirited newspapers. During the past two or three years the public press generally has taken up the cry, and now no one can plead ignorance of the awful facts. Nevertheless, the average city government still views with the blind eye of callous indifference the fatalities for which it is morally responsible. Some cities have, indeed, passed prohibitory ordinances, but have not enforced them vigorously. To permit the use of blank cartridges and blank cartridge pistols in the celebration of the Fourth of July is absolutely criminal. The city council which fails to pass and to enforce ordinances prohibiting the use of these instruments of torture will hereafter be open to the charge of criminal negligence. The plea of ignorance is no longer good; to temporize further regarding the sale and use of blank cartridges and blank cartridge pistols is to aid and abet torture and murder.

These are strong words; but to use mild ones would be to trifle with the anguish and horror in scores of homes—a horror and anguish but faintly reflected in the appalling statistics on the subject. The only effective way to deal with the murderous blank cartridge pistol is to pass and to enforce an absolutely prohibitive ordinance in each city. No more temporizing should be tolerated. The agonizing deaths from this cause should cease.

THE VALUE OF TETANUS ANTITOXIN

Among the reports of the cases of tetanus that we have received we have frequently found the statement that tetanus antitoxin was not used because "the doctor said" that it "was useless," or "of doubtful value," or "in an experimental stage." Therefore, although we have been to some pains at several times to set forth the exact status of tetanus antitoxin according to the best available evidence, it would seem worth while again to discuss the subject while it is so acutely before us as it now is. To put the matter in a nutshell, it may be stated dogmatically that the value of tetanus antitoxin as a prophylactic agent is very great, and its efficiency nearly absolute; as a curative agent it is by no means worthless, and undoubtedly it saves not a few lives when properly used. Apparently, to judge from the reports at hand, many physicians have not yet learned to distinguish between the results obtained by the prophylactic use and by the curative use of tetanus antitoxin; the usual futility of the latter has been incorrectly assumed to apply to the former.

The example of using tetanus antitoxin for preventive purposes was first furnished by the veterinarians, who have to contend with tetanus much more commonly than we. Knowing that in certain stables the horses which received wounds were very likely to develop tetanus, they found it desirable to try to prevent this serious complication by injecting antitoxin into all horses that had received wounds. The results that they obtained were from the first so striking that now antitoxin prophylaxis is invariably used to prevent endemic and epidemic outbreaks of tetanus in horses. For example, in one stable in which from six to eight cases of tetanus developed yearly, it was decided to give every horse with wounds about the feet a prophylactic dose of antitoxin; during the following five years three hundred horses were so treated without a single case of tetanus, although one horse which received no antitoxin developed the disease.¹ Vaillard² says that in a series of 13,124 prophylactic injections in horses not one contracted tetanus. In man it is not so easy to estimate the results of tetanus prophylaxis, for, outside of Fourth-of-July tetanus, we do not often get a chance to observe this

1. Wells, H. G.: Medical News, June 1, 1901.

2. Bull. Acad. Méd., Paris, 1908, lxxii, 581.

disease in epidemic proportions, but such evidence as we have is almost equally favorable. Suter³ has collected 700 cases in which but one light attack of tetanus was observed among all the patients given antitoxin. In France, where this practice seems to have been especially general, there have been a few cases of tetanus in spite of prophylactic injection, but the entire evidence is emphatically in favor of the value of this procedure; indeed, Vaillard claims that in only five cases in the literature to 1908 can the antitoxin prophylaxis be considered a complete failure. The Society of Surgery of Paris recently reported that in a group of Paris hospitals there had occurred in the last seven years but eleven cases of tetanus, all of which were in persons who by some mischance had not received the customary preventive dose of antitetanus serum, which is the routine practice there after a street accident. Kocher went so far as to say before the German Surgical Society that he would consider any physician entitled to reproof who failed to use this measure in a case of injury with contamination of the wound by street dirt.

In this country, the prophylactic treatment of Fourth-of-July injuries has been, so far as we can learn, invariably successful, and our annual mortality list from "patriotic" tetanus has occurred because of the lack of this measure in the cases of the victims. It is to be expected that a few cases may occur in spite of antitoxin, especially when it is given several days after the injury is received, because by this time the disease may be well advanced and the blood loaded with tetanus toxins, even several days before the appearance of symptoms.⁴ But even in these cases the prognosis will be much better if the antitoxin is given before rather than after the symptoms have developed.

To neglect to use antitoxin as a curative agent is also unwarranted in the light of our present knowledge, even although the results are by no means so striking as with diphtheria antitoxin. There is no question that more of these patients recover with antitoxin than without, even if the number is not great. Especially efficacious seems to be the intraspinal route of administration, for by this means the antitoxin is brought into close contact

3. Arch. klin. Chlr., 1904, lxxv, 113; Beltr. klin. Chlr., 1907, III, 671.

4. Madsen: Centralbl. f. Bakteriöl., 1908, xl, No. 3.

with the place where it is most needed, and it is well known that antibodies injected subcutaneously or into the blood directly do not find their way into the cerebro-spinal fluid in large amounts. Clinical results support this theorization, and Hoffmann⁵ reports a series of thirteen cases with 58 per cent. mortality in which the antitoxin was given subcutaneously, whereas of sixteen patients given intradural injections only two died, and these from complications. Undoubtedly some of the earlier disappointments with antitoxin prophylaxis and treatment were the result of the uncertain activity of the antitoxin preparations then on the market, a defect which has been remedied in this country by the system of standardization developed by the Hygienic Laboratory of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

[THE REPORT]

SEVENTH ANNUAL SUMMARY OF FOURTH OF
JULY INJURIES

For the seventh consecutive year we are presenting statistics of injuries received during the celebration of the Fourth of July, with particular reference to tetanus resulting from these injuries. Considerable effort has been made to secure reliable data, and all serious cases have been carefully investigated, so that, so far as the figures go, dependence may be placed on them. We have received thousands of letters from physicians in all parts of the country, reporting cases which otherwise could not have been included in the statistics. There are doubtless thousands of other cases not reported, although chiefly minor injuries. Our thanks are due for the many careful reports which have made these statistics more complete and the figures more reliable. The data are presented in the same manner as heretofore, in order that comparison may be made.

MORE CASES OF TETANUS

There were 150 tetanus cases this year, almost double the record of last year, when 76 cases were reported. This is the largest number since 1903, when there were 415 cases. It is significant to note that the number of blank cartridge wounds correspondingly increased from

5. Beltr. klin. Chir., 1907, iv.

TABLE 1.—CASES OF TETANUS

Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Wound.	Site of Wound.	Duration in Days.	Result.
CALIFORNIA						
Benbow.....	M	16	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	10	D.
Gardner.....	M	45	Firecracker.	Hand.....	11	D.
DELAWARE						
Corbin.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	(6) 8	D.
Smith.....	M	17	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	7	D.
FLORIDA						
Padgett.....	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	..	D.
IDAHO						
Hendricks.....	M	27	Gunshot.	Ankle.....	10	D.
ILLINOIS						
Allen.....	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Finger.....	(4) 13	D.
Brown.....	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	9	D.
Bingaman.....	M	8	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	..	D.
Cook.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	9	D.
Ebright.....	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	7	D.
Ford.....	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	19	D.
German.....	M	8	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	12	D.
Gestel.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	7	D.
Granat.....	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Thigh.....	(10) 22	R.
Haffey.....	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	30	R.
Menson.....	M	9	Bl. ctg.	Finger.....	7	D.
Morris.....	M	Boy.	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	..	..
Mueelford.....	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	(7) 9	D.
Neff.....	M	19	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	10	D.
Quinn.....	F	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	25	R.
Reed.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	..	..
Remillard.....	M	17	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	9	D.
Simmons.....	M	Boy.	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	13	D.
Stoffel.....	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Thigh.....	(7) 9	D.
Verbelia.....	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	15	D.
INDIANA						
Callahan.....	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	..	D.
Czerwinski.....	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	18	D.
Dolson.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	9	D.
Kennedy.....	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	7	D.
Lacey.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	7	D.
Lurok.....	M	15	Firecracker	Thumb.....	7	D.
McCoy.....	M	..	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	8	D.
Thompson.....	M	16	Bl. ctg.	Leg.....	20	D.
Webster.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	8	D.
IOWA						
Parks.....	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	9	D.
KANSAS						
Allen.....	F	6	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	14	D.
Clark.....	M	16	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	11	D.
Miller.....	M	16	Gun-hot.	Knee.....	7	D.
Van Meter.....	M	Boy.	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	..	D.
Williams.....	M	8	Bl. ctg.	Penis.....	(7) 10	D.
Yocum.....	M	9	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	9	D.
KENTUCKY						
Gill.....	M	8	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	..	..
MAINE						
Pitts.....	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	11	D.
MARYLAND						
Behrman.....	M	18	Bl. ctg.	Finger.....	(10) 48	R.
Cavey.....	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.....	14	D.

Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Wound.	Site of Wound	Duration in Days.	Result.
MASSACHUSETTS						
Blanchette, C.	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(5)11	D.
Bouchard, A.	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	17	D.
Brown.	F	24	Bl. ctg.	Thigh.	(15)20	D.
Joseph.	M	20	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(6) 9	D.
Killeen.	M	29	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Nagen.	M	14	Firecracker.	Hand.	(8)14	D.
Norton.	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(7)10	R.
Silva.	M	23	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	15	R.
MICHIGAN						
Ashlund.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	D.
Barnett.	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(7)12	D.
Cole.	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Damm.	M	15	Firecracker.	Hand.	16	D.
Lawler.	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
McKorie.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Morrison.	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	D.
Schaff.	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Sheridan.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Stewart.	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Straffon.	M	16	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	18	D.
MISSOURI						
Adair.	M	Boy.	Powder expl.	Arm.	18	D.
Cooper.	M	16	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	10	D.
Enloe.	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	D.
Hogan.	F	28	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Judson.	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Nelaud.	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(5)11	D.
Solomon.	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	11	D.
Taylor.	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	11	D.
MONTANA						
Kelly.	M	23	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	10	D.
Mulholland.	M	16	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Staten.	M	7	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	10	D.
NEBRASKA						
Dargy.	M	12	Rocket.	Hand.	..	D.
Pop.	M	Adult.	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	10	D.
Watkins.	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	D.
NEW HAMPSHIRE						
Boyle.	M	17	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(7) 9	D.
NEW JERSEY						
Campbell.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(6)14	D.
Da Costa.	M	..	Gunshot.	Finger.	10	D.
Fischer.	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Francke.	M	13	Cannon.	Thigh.	10	D.
Frisco.	M	13	Fireworks.	Hand.	..	D.
Goldstein.	M	8	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	D.
Guthrie.	M	9	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(6) 8	D.
Hunt.	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	8	D.
Jasperino.	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	18	R.
Keley.	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Long.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	8	D.
McIntyre.	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Finger.	10	D.
Martin.	M	..	Firecracker.	Hand.	..	D.
Miner.	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(8)10	D.
Penn.	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	8	D.
Riccio.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(8)11	D.
Walters.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Weigel.	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	30	R.
Wilson.	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(12) ..	R.

Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Wound.	Site of Wound.	Duration in Days.	Result.
NEW YORK						
Brightman	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	12	D.
Jeriorski	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	20	D.
Last	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Maftredonia	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Ohlwald	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	D.
Otis	M	8	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	6	D.
Schroeder	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	11	D.
Schultz	M	31	Gunshot.	Thigh.	(7) 9	D.
Stanway	M	18	Bl. ctg.	Finger	14	D.
Tater	M	12	Firecracker.	Hand.	(8) 10	D.
Wiegand	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
OHIO						
Combaw	M	14	Powder expl.	Hand.	16	R.
Getroast	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	10	D.
Lewe	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	(7) 10	D.
Manuel	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	8	D.
Marcus	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Parkos	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Finger	(5) 14	D.
Seaman	M	13	Fireworks	..	18	D.
Sells	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	10	D.
Sliman	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Stokely	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	D.
Tindall	M	14	Bl. ctg.	..	12	D.
Underwood	M	Boy.	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	16	D.
PENNSYLVANIA						
Breich	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	8	D.
Coles	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Leg.	6	D.
Donovan	M	13	Bl. ctg.	..	15	D.
Farber	M	18	Bl. ctg.	Finger	22	D.
Haupt	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Groin.	6	D.
Koslowski	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	11	D.
Kowalick	M	6	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	..
Maxwell	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Finger	12	D.
Scott	M	Boy.	Firecracker.	Leg.	..	..
Werts	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Finger	10	D.
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Phebus	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Finger	9	D.
WASHINGTON						
Frown	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	..
Nelson	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	7	D.
Perry	M	14	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	..
Roth	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	6	D.
WEST VIRGINIA						
Comedy	M	13	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	..	D.
Llewellyn	M	9	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	16	D.
Parshall	F	15	Firecracker.	Hand.	..	..
Robinson	M	10	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	6	D.
WISCONSIN						
Briscoe	M	12	Bl. ctg.	Finger	(6) 8	..
Darling	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	11	..
Dakonich	M	15	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	..
Golden	M	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	8	..
Micka	M	13	Firecracker.	Hand.	(8) 13	..
Peterson	M	16	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	8	..
Rhein	F	11	Bl. ctg.	Hand.	9	..
Rutz	F	30	Bl. ctg.	..	8	..
Zettman	M	..	Powder expl.	..	1	..

Figures in parentheses show incubation period.

816 last year to 1,095 this year, and that the states having the largest numbers of blank cartridge injuries have also the largest numbers of tetanus cases (Table 5). It is interesting also to state that from blank cartridge

TABLE 2.—COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Alabama .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Arizona .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
California	2	4	4	3	1	..	2
Colorado	4	..	1	..	..	..	..
Connecticut	3	..	3	..	4	1	..
Delaware .....	..	..	1	1	1	..	2
Dist. Columbia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Florida .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Georgia .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Idaho	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Illinois	49	15	20	16	12	12	20
Indiana	11	6	3	8	2	..	9
Iowa	14	2	3	4	4	1	1
Kansas	11	1	..	..	2	1	6
Kentucky	4	2	..	1	..	1	1
Louisiana .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maine	2	4	1	1	..	1	1
Maryland	1	..	1	1	..	..	2
Massachusetts	16	5	7	3	2	5	8
Michigan	29	7	9	4	4	2	11
Minnesota	15	2	2	2	2	..	..
Missouri	29	1	3	3	1	5	8
Montana	2	1	1	..	1	..	3
Nebraska	4	3	3	1	..	1	3
New Hampshire	2	..	..	1	..	..	1
New Jersey	8	9	3	10	8	10	19
New York	36	9	6	8	4	9	11
North Dakota .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ohio	67	9	5	7	6	7	12
Oklahoma	1	..	1	1	..	1	..
Oregon	2	..	..	1	1	1	..
Pennsylvania	82	17	12	5	7	7	10
Rhode Island	3	..	..	1	..	..	..
South Carolina .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Dakota .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Tennessee .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Texas .....	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Utah .....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Vermont	3	2	..	2	2	..	..
Washington	2	1	..	..	2	4	4
West Virginia	3	..	..	2	..	1	4
Wisconsin	10	4	13	2	3	5	9
Wyoming .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Total ...	415	105	104	89	73	76	150
States having cases	30	21	23	25	23	20	25

wounds there was a higher percentage of deaths (10.2) than from gunshot wounds (6.1 per cent.).

The most common cause of the wound is the blank cartridge, and the usual site is the hand. The duration

given is the number of days between the injury and death or recovery. Following the injury it required from 5 to 15 days before the symptoms of tetanus appeared, the average of all fatal cases being about 7 days. The longer incubation period doubtless indicates a less virulent germ and, therefore, a better chance for recovery by treatment. In one case the symptoms began on the fourth day, while in another case they appeared on the fifteenth. Following the appearance of the symptoms death resulted in from 2 to 9 days, the average of all cases reported this year being about $3\frac{1}{2}$ days. In 4 cases the entire duration of time between inoculation and death was six days or less. The average duration for all fatal cases reported was $10\frac{1}{2}$ days. The list of tetanus cases is given in Table 1.

TABLE 3.—CAUSES OF TETANUS CASES.

Year.	Blank Cartridge.	Glant Cracker.	Can- non.	Fire- arms.	Powder, etc.	Total
1903.....	363	17	5	3	27	415
1904.....	74	18	5	1	7	105
1905.....	65	17	4	5	13	104
1906.....	54	17	1	7	10	89
1907.....	52	8	6	4	3	73
1908.....	58	5	4	3	6	76
1909.....	130	9	1	4	6	150

TABLE 4.—CAUSES OF DEATHS ASIDE FROM TETANUS

Year.	Gun- shot.	Fire from Fire- works.	Fire Tor- pedoes, etc.	Glant Crackers.	Can- non.	Other Causes.	Total.
1905....	37	23	6	5	7	17	95
1906....	38	18	18	3	3	3	83
1907....	20	31	13	13	3	22	102
1908....	30	22	19	23	7	7	108
1909....	17	37	16	7	7	6	90

Tetanus cases occurred in 25 different states, or in 5 more than last year, and the same as in 1906. For the fifth consecutive year Illinois reports the largest number, having 20 cases this year, 12 each in 1908 and 1907, 16 in 1906 and 20 in 1905. In 1903 and 1904 Pennsylvania reported the highest numbers. For the fourth consecutive year New Jersey reports the next highest number, having 19 cases this year, 10 last year, 8 in 1907 and 10 in 1906. Ohio reports 12 cases this year. Michigan and New York each had 11 cases and Pennsylvania 10. Table 2 gives a comparison of the number of cases in each state for the seven years.

TABLE 5.—SUMMARY BY STATES OF JULY FOURTH CASUALTIES

States.	Deaths.		Injuries.					Causes of tetanus cases.		Causes of all cases aside from tetanus.							
	From tetanus.	From other causes.	Total deaths.	Loss of sight.	Loss of one eye.	Loss of legs, arms or hands.	Loss of fingers, one or more.	Other injuries.	Total non-fatal injuries.	Total persons dead or injured.	Blank cartridge.	All other causes.	Blank cartridge.	Firecrackers.	Cannon.	Firearms.	Powder and fireworks.
Alabama .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Arizona .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	3	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Arkansas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
California	2	1	3	..	2	..	1	83	86	89	1	1	11	33	20	1	22
Colorado .....	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	16	17	18	..	..	2	4	1	3	8
Connecticut .....	..	3	3	..	..	..	4	79	83	86	..	..	28	24	14	11	9
Delaware	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	10	10	13	2	..	..	5	..	2	4
Dist. of Columbia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Florida .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Georgia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Idaho	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Illinois	15	3	18	2	7	2	14	504	529	547	20	..	168	163	39	44	113
Indiana	9	2	11	..	..	7	2	143	152	163	8	1	35	57	10	10	42
Iowa	1	..	1	..	3	2	2	83	90	91	1	..	7	52	9	1	21
Kansas	6	..	6	..	..	..	1	79	80	86	5	1	30	22	5	4	19
Kentucky .....	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	15	16	17	1	..	..	3	6	3	4
Louisiana .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maine	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	20	21	22	1	..	2	6	8	1	4
Maryland	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	9	9	10	2	..	1	2	2	1	2
Massachusetts ..	5	11	16	..	3	1	16	394	414	430	7	1	113	130	24	18	128
Michigan	9	5	14	3	3	3	8	146	163	177	10	1	34	64	16	9	43
Minnesota .....	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	66	66	69	..	..	3	23	2	3	38
Mississippi .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Missouri	8	6	14	..	..	..	2	336	338	352	7	1	146	69	30	40	59

Montana	3	3	3	16	36	41	176	4,823	5,093	5,307	130	20	1,095	1,614	427	341	1,080
Nebraska	3	1	4	11	34	38	42	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	10
Nevada	1	1	1	1	22	22	23	1	3	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	4
New Hampshire	14	7	21	2	3	6	24	432	467	488	15	4	126	131	60	32	120
New Jersey	11	10	20	2	4	6	41	824	877	898	9	2	139	244	62	88	354
New Mexico	11	10	20	2	4	6	41	824	877	898	9	2	139	244	62	88	354
New York	11	10	20	2	4	6	41	824	877	898	9	2	139	244	62	88	354
North Carolina	10	3	13	3	4	11	292	310	323	10	2	65	139	36	16	55	3
North Dakota	10	3	13	3	4	11	292	310	323	10	2	65	139	36	16	55	3
Ohio	10	3	13	3	4	11	292	310	323	10	2	65	139	36	16	55	3
Oklahoma	8	19	27	6	3	5	42	903	959	986	9	1	114	258	49	35	520
Oregon	8	19	27	6	3	5	42	903	959	986	9	1	114	258	49	35	520
Pennsylvania	8	19	27	6	3	5	42	903	959	986	9	1	114	258	49	35	520
Rhode Island	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	38	39	42	4	4	11	8	4	3	16
South Carolina	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	3
South Dakota	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	3
Tennessee	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	16	18	18	18	2	10	2	2	6
Texas	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	16	18	18	18	2	10	2	2	6
Utah	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	16	18	18	18	2	10	2	2	6
Vermont	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1
Virginia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1
Washington	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	20	20	32	4	4	5	17	2	2	4
West Virginia	3	2	5	1	1	1	1	27	30	35	3	1	2	17	6	1	5
Wisconsin	9	4	13	1	1	1	1	142	144	157	7	2	18	70	8	9	43
Wyoming	9	4	13	1	1	1	1	142	144	157	7	2	18	70	8	9	43
1909 totals	125	90	215	16	36	41	176	4,823	5,093	5,307	130	20	1,095	1,614	427	341	1,080
1908 totals	55	108	163	11	93	57	184	5,115	5,460	5,623	58	18	816	1,793	399	481	2,058
1907 totals	62	102	164	12	75	57	237	3,868	4,219	4,413	52	21	554	1,489	297	502	1,528
1906 totals	75	83	158	22	72	56	227	4,931	5,308	5,466	54	35	925	1,690	408	532	1,822
1905 totals	87	95	182	25	106	80	221	4,592	4,994	5,176	65	39	744	1,775	474	404	1,975
1904 totals	91	92	183	19	61	61	298	3,637	3,986	4,169	74	25	931	1,268	508	406	1,956
1903 totals	406	60	466	10	75	54	174	3,670	3,983	4,449	363	29	1,369	1,152	397	236	731
Grand totals	801	630	1,531	115	518	406	1,427	30,606	33,073	34,603	796	187	6,374	10,781	2,880	2,902	10,550

Blank cartridges still continue to be responsible for the great majority of tetanus cases, 130, or 86.5 per cent. of all cases this year, being due to that cause, as compared with 73.3 per cent. last year and 71 per cent. in 1907 and 60 per cent. in 1906. Nine cases this year resulted from giant firecracker injuries, 4 cases from gunshot wounds, 1 case from toy cannon injury and 6 from other forms of fireworks.

Of the 150 cases of tetanus due to Fourth of July injuries this year, 125, or 84 per cent., were reported to have ended fatally, as compared with 72 per cent. of deaths last year, 85 per cent. in 1907 and 84 per cent. in 1906.

TETANUS FROM OTHER THAN FOURTH OF JULY INJURIES

Besides the cases of lockjaw due directly to Fourth of July injuries, many other cases were reported this year which occurred during the Fourth of July season, but which were due to penetrating injuries from nails or splinters, to crushing injuries or other causes. There were 128 such cases reported this year, as compared with 166 last year and 94 in 1907. The report of these cases emphasizes the fact that in the treatment of all penetrating wounds the possibility of tetanus should be borne in mind and prophylactic measures employed.

Of the 128 cases of tetanus due to other than Fourth of July injuries, Pennsylvania reported 21, Illinois 18, Ohio 13 and New York 12. Altogether 25 states reported cases, as compared with 28 last year. Table 8 on page 953 shows these cases by states and will be interesting in comparison with Table 2.

DEATHS FROM FIREWORKS, ASIDE FROM TETANUS

Besides the 125 deaths due to tetanus, 90 persons were killed by various forms of fireworks, making a total of 215 deaths, an increase of 52 over last year and 57 more than in 1906. Seventeen were killed outright this year by firearms, 16 were killed by explosions of powder, 7 by giant firecrackers, 7 by toy cannon and 7 by various causes, such as blood poisoning, by sky-rockets, chemicals, etc., while 37 were literally burned to death by fire from fireworks, many of which were caused by the so-called "harmless" varieties of fireworks. As heretofore,

all accidents not directly due to the discharge or handling of fireworks or other means of noise production on or about the Fourth of July have been omitted. Table 4

TABLE 6.—TOTAL DEATHS AND ACCIDENTS BY STATES DURING SEVEN YEARS

	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Alabama	2	7	1	2	1	1	1
Arizona	1	..	4	5	2	5	3
Arkansas .....	..	..	3	4	..	5	1
California	100	138	142	96	121	136	89
Colorado	39	44	26	23	25	13	18
Connecticut	162	133	132	169	63	105	86
Delaware	1	5	14	8	16	12	13
Dist. Columbia ..	2	10	24	5	12	21	..
Florida	1	2	2	..	..	..	1
Georgia .....	..	..	..	4	2	4	..
Idaho	4	4	3	3	4	4	2
Illinois	366	423	542	598	468	558	546
Indiana	160	211	217	250	..	235	164
Iowa	168	137	328	255	231	174	91
Kansas	63	88	56	61	64	72	86
Kentucky	30	72	17	21	18	33	17
Louisiana .....	..	2	3	7	8	4	..
Maine	31	32	29	15	11	16	22
Maryland	21	22	13	10	23	21	10
Massachusetts ..	637	193	467	329	168	430	430
Michigan	144	157	288	193	163	203	177
Minnesota	157	102	174	95	95	65	69
Mississippi .....	..	..	..	2	2	1	..
Missouri	147	84	218	325	299	375	352
Montana	5	17	40	3	6	11	9
Nebraska	46	63	43	47	58	46	42
Nevada .....	..	1	2	..	1	4	..
New Hampshire ..	37	23	9	29	13	13	23
New Jersey	228	204	350	398	402	472	488
New Mexico .....	..	4	5	1	6	..	1
New York	522	549	566	681	752	647	897
North Carolina ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
North Dakota ..	10	8	29	11	8	13	4
Ohio	443	327	329	490	375	543	323
Oklahoma	1	3	7	14	194	9	12
Oregon	16	13	9	11	5	9	21
Pennsylvania ..	533	744	721	969	491	987	986
Rhode Island ..	64	30	11	21	39	39	42
South Carolina ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
South Dakota ..	4	10	15	5	8	10	9
Tennessee	4	1	5	6	4	5	4
Texas	2	2	4	11	7	11	4
Utah	23	22	25	18	30	12	18
Vermont	45	14	10	14	18	19	12
Virginia .....	..	11	5	8	..	5	4
Washington	21	25	15	25	23	38	32
West Virginia ..	19	16	34	64	27	29	35
Wisconsin	190	215	230	155	150	187	157
Wyoming	1	2	8	3	..	1	1

shows a comparison of the causes of death other than from tetanus for the past five years.

In Table 5 will be found a summary of all injuries, including tetanus, and of all causes, arranged by states.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER REPORTED KILLED AND INJURED IN OUR LARGEST CITIES IN THREE YEARS

City.	Population, Census Bureau Est. 1906.	1907		1908		1909		Totals.	
		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
New York, N. Y.	4,113,043	22	422	11	316	7	559	40	1,297
Chicago, Ill.	2,049,185	16	151	12	202	..	118	28	471
Philadelphia, Pa.	1,441,735	7	248	6	426	9	508	22	1,182
St. Louis, Mo.	649,320	3	180	4	229	4	163	11	581
Boston, Mass.	602,278	3	59	6	190	5	167	14	416
Baltimore, Md.	553,669	..	5	1	10	..	5	1	19
Cleveland, O.	460,327	3	63	12	93	..	4	15	160
Buffalo, N. Y.	381,819	..	18	3	11	..	33	3	62
Pittsburg, Pa.	375,082	10	88	..	30	5	48	15	166
San Francisco, Cal.	364,667	..	..	..	11	..	12	..	23
Detroit, Mich.	353,563	2	46	..	10	2	46	4	102
Cincinnati, O.	345,230	2	89	1	112	3	86	6	287
Milwaukee, Wis.	317,903	2	93	..	70	..	78	2	241
New Orleans, La.	314,146	..	8	..	4	..	..	..	12
Washington, D. C.	307,716	..	12	..	21	..	..	..	33
Newark, N. J.	289,634	1	129	2	81	1	150	4	360
Minneapolis, Minn.	273,825	..	13	..	10	1	24	1	47
Jersey City, N. J.	237,652	..	31	5	34	1	14	6	79
Louisville, Ky.	226,129	..	13	..	10	1	10	1	33
Indianapolis, Ind.	219,154	1	31	1	14	1	35	3	80
St. Paul, Minn.	203,815	..	20	..	13	..	18	..	51
Providence, R. I.	203,243	..	20	1	21	..	13	1	54
Rochester, N. Y.	185,703	..	12	..	10	..	5	..	27
Kansas City, Mo.	182,367	1	46	..	55	4	67	5	168
Toledo, O.	159,980	1	5	..	8	2	3	3	16
Denver, Colo.	151,920	..	8	..	13	..	12	..	33
Columbus, O.	145,414	5	36	..	5	1	19	6	60
Albany, N. Y.	145,240	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Worcester, Mass.	130,078	1	6	2	26	1	42	4	68
Memphis, Tenn.	125,018	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	8
Omaha, Nebr.	124,167	..	25	..	10	1	17	1	52
New Haven, Conn.	121,227	..	2	..	..	..	15	..	17
Syracuse, N. Y.	118,880	..	20	..	14	..	13	..	47
Scranton, Pa.	118,692	..	5	1	17	1	29	2	51
St. Joseph, Mo.	118,004	1	23	1	41	1	24	3	88
Paterson, N. J.	112,801	1	29	2	31	1	45	4	105
Portland, Ore.	109,884	..	2	..	3	..	16	..	21
Fall River, Mass.	105,942	..	..	..	12	..	19	..	31
Atlanta, Ga.	104,984	1	4	..	3	..	..	1	7
Seattle, Wash.	104,169	1	3	..	..	3	10	4	14
Los Angeles, Cal.	102,479	..	35	..	40	..	26	..	101

Dayton, O.	100,700	..	11	14	..	4	..	29
Grand Rapids, Mich.	90,704	..	20	30	..	3	..	53
Cambridge, Mass.	98,644	..	24	17	..	31	..	17
Albany, N. Y.	98,637	1	..	37	..	..	1	92
Hartford, Conn.	95,882	..	18	18	..	11	..	47
Lowell, Mass.	95,173	..	23	..	..	16	..	41
Reading, Pa.	91,141	..	17	13	..	17	..	47
Richmond, Va.	87,246	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
Trenton, N. J.	86,855	..	36	17	..	58	113	..
Wilmington, Del.	85,140	1	14	13	3	9	36	59
Camden, N. J.	84,840	..	16	29	4	14	59	2
Nashville, Tenn.	84,703	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Bridgeport, Conn.	84,374	..	3	27	..	21	49	..
Lynn, Mass.	78,748	..	..	11	3	16	30	..
Des Moines, Ia.	78,523	..	31	41	..	13	85	..
Kansas City, Kan.	77,912	1	10	17	..	33	60	..
New Bedford, Mass.	76,746	..	..	3	..	..	3	..
Troy, N. Y.	76,513	..	21	18	..	16	34	..
Springfield, Mass.	75,896	..	9	36	1	9	66	..
Oakland, Cal.	73,812	..	11	..	5	8	17	..
Lawrence, Mass.	71,548	..	..	..	..	1	33	1
Somerville, Mass.	70,798	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Savannah, Ga.	68,596	..	13	9	2	10	32	..
Duluth, Minn.	67,337	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norfolk, Va.	66,931	..	1	24	..	7	32	..
Hoboken, N. J.	66,080	..	8	27	1	22	57	..
Peoria, Ill.	65,865	..	..	10	..	5	83	..
Utica, N. Y.	65,090	..	18	5	..	3	9	..
Manchester, N. H.	64,703	..	3	1	1	8	45	..
Yonkers, N. Y.	64,110	..	32	5	..	23	23	..
Evansville, Ind.	63,957	..	5	12	..	6	..	..
San Antonio, Tex.	62,711	..	43	1	..	37	152	..
Elizabeth, N. J.	62,185	..	4	72	..	8	32	..
Schenectady, N. Y.	61,910	..	4	20	..	5	27	..
Waterbury, Conn.	61,903	..	8	14	..	14	35	..
Salt Lake City, Utah	61,202	2	15	6	2	13	53	..
Wilkesbarre, Pa.	60,121	1	..	38	1	4	5	..
Erie, Pa.	59,993	..	..	1	..	1	2	..
Houston, Tex.	58,132	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Charleston, S. C.	56,317	..	23	71	1	22	116	..
Harrisburg, Pa.	55,735	..	4	3	1	10	4	..
Tacoma, Wash.	55,392	2	2	..	..	2	..	..
Portland, Me.	55,167	1	2	..	..	2	..	..
Totals	94	83	80	2,000	237	2,035	8,253	..
Totals Elsewhere	70	80	135	2,600	285	2,156	6,547	..
Grand Totals	164	163	215	5,400	542	5,091	14,800	..

Beneath the totals at the bottom of the table are given the totals for the six previous years in order that comparisons may be made. The grand totals are also given. Table 6 is arranged to show a more ready comparison by states of the total deaths and accidents for the six years.

Pennsylvania holds the blackest record with 986 casualties, New York coming second with 898, followed by Illinois with 547, New Jersey with 488 and Massachusetts with 430. Altogether there were 5,307 accidents this year, or 316 less than last year.

NON-FATAL INJURIES

There were 5,092 non-fatal injuries this year, or 368 less than last year. There were 16 people totally blinded this year, being 5 more than last year, but 9 less than the highest number in 1905. There were 36 who lost one eye each, 41 who lost legs, arms or hands, while 176 persons lost one or more fingers. The giant firecracker holds the first rank as a cause of mutilating wounds and is responsible for the majority of losses of eyes, hands and fingers during the annual celebration of the Fourth. In the awfulness of its destruction, the giant firecracker is equaled in a few instances only by the explosions of home-made cannon. The fact that the wounds made by the giant firecracker are so lacerated and laid open is probably the reason it does not cause more lockjaw. Then, also, these cases are taken to the physician, while the supposedly insignificant wounds made by blank cartridges are neglected. This year 1,614 accidents, including 7 deaths and 9 cases of lockjaw, were due to the giant firecracker.

Firearms caused 341 accidents, including 17 killed and 4 cases of lockjaw. The percentage of deaths was 6.1. Of the total number thus injured, 132 were struck by stray bullets from the reckless shooting of firearms by others and 5 deaths resulted. Toy cannons caused 427 injuries, including 7 killed and one case of tetanus.

TOTALS IN CHIEF CITIES

Table 7 shows the number reported killed and injured in the largest cities during the past three years. The population figures were taken from the U. S. Census

Bureau's estimate of 1906. This table will be of special interest from year to year, since it will show the results of the adoption and enforcement of ordinances prohibiting or restricting the use of fireworks. Philadelphia had 9 deaths this year, the largest number reported for any one city, New York had 7 deaths, Boston, Pittsburg and Lawrence, Mass., each had 5, while 4 each were reported for St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo., and Camden, N. J.

Of non-fatal accidents this year, New York leads with 559, followed by Philadelphia with 508, Boston with 167, St. Louis with 163, Newark with 150, and Chicago with 118.

RESULTS OF RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION

For several years Baltimore has practically prohibited all forms of fireworks, and the small number of casual-

TABLE 8.—CASES OF TETANUS FROM OTHER CAUSES

	1908.	1909.		1908.	1909.
Alabama .....	..	..	Nevada .....	..	..
Arizona .....	..	..	New Hampshire .....	..	..
Arkansas	2	..	New Jersey	7	8
California	4	4	New Mexico .....	..	1
Colorado	3	..	New York	17	12
Connecticut	2	2	North Carolina	1	..
Delaware	2	1	North Dakota	1	..
Dist. of Columbia ..	..	..	Ohio	23	13
Florida	2	..	Oklahoma .....	..	..
Georgia .....	..	1	Oregon .....	..	1
Idaho .....	..	..	Pennsylvania	21	21
Illinois	17	18	Rhode Island .....	..	1
Indiana	6	4	South Carolina .....	..	..
Iowa	2	7	South Dakota	2	2
Kansas	4	..	Tennessee	3	..
Kentucky	5	5	Texas	4	1
Louisiana	1	..	Utah .....	..	..
Maine .....	..	..	Vermont .....	..	..
Maryland	3	..	Virginia	4	1
Massachusetts	3	5	Washington	2	..
Michigan	4	5	West Virginia .....	..	1
Minnesota	4	2	Wisconsin	5	4
Mississippi .....	..	..	Wyoming .....	..	..
Missouri	12	5			
Montana .....	..	..	Total	166	128
Nebraska .....	..	3	States reporting cases ..	29	25

ties shown in Table 7 are the result. In fact, it has been stated that, even of the few accidents reported, most came from suburbs and outlying districts which were not directly under the city ordinances.

Immediately following last year's celebration, when 12 persons were killed by fireworks, Cleveland passed a prohibitive ordinance, in spite of the protests of fire-

works dealers. The wisdom of that legislation is shown by the fact that no deaths were reported this year and only four minor injuries.

Washington, our national capital, has set a splendid example by enforcing a prohibitory ordinance, with the result that this year not a single accident was reported.

Instead of prohibiting all fireworks, Chicago passed a restrictive ordinance limiting the sale to fireworks to a few days preceeding July 5 and limited the size of firecrackers. The use of blank cartridge pistols was strictly forbidden. Comparatively few licenses to sell fireworks were issued, and, according to reports, the ordinance was well enforced. No deaths were reported this year as compared with 12 last year and 16 in 1907. The number of injuries still remains high, although it is a splendid showing compared with Philadelphia, New York and other cities, where very little, if any, restrictive efforts were made. Restrictive ordinances were reported for other cities, but no such marked results were apparent.

WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS

The responsibility for the vast majority of deaths and injuries clearly rests with city governments, and this annual carnage could doubtless be prevented without extreme difficulty. Prohibitory ordinances are most effective and permanent, as shown by the results in Baltimore, Washington, San Francisco and Cleveland, and even restrictive ordinances, if strictly enforced, are rather effective, as shown by the results in Toledo, Chicago and other cities. But the enforcement of restrictive measures is more difficult and requires more constant vigilance on the part of the police. By the sound, it is difficult to know whether an explosion is due to a firecracker 3 inches long or to one 5 inches long, or whether it is due to some other forbidden form of fireworks. Under the prohibitory ordinance any explosion would be recognized at once as a violation of the law. Again, the smaller sized firecrackers which have been considered so harmless caused the clothing to catch fire in many of the 37 instances where persons, mostly girls and young children, were burned to death. Even the "harmless" sparkler caused three of these deaths, which were far more agonizing than if caused by gunshot wounds.

The police commissioner of one of our large eastern cities is reported to have openly declared himself in

sympathy with the noise, the tumult and the shooting of firecrackers in the celebration of the Fourth of July. When the results of the celebration in that city were known, it was found that 5 lives had been destroyed and 167 persons were injured, some of whom had eyes blown out, hands, fingers and ears torn off, or were otherwise marred for life. Of the 5 who were killed, 2 were shot down and 3 became human torches, burned in order that the people in that city might "warm up and let the world know they were alive!"

With what relief, therefore, we turn to another but somewhat smaller eastern city, Springfield, Mass., which has set a glorious example in the proper celebration of our national birthday and has taken advantage of America's greatest opportunity to develop true patriotism and to bring closer together the various nationalities which make up so large a portion of its population. The Springfield celebration, which meanwhile cost the committee only \$3,500 in contributions, has already been so well described¹ that detailed mention is unnecessary.

ANNUAL PREPARATION FOR CASUALTIES

Thousands of dollars are being spent each year in preparation for the casualties of July 4. So extensive has become this preparation that, as some one has pointedly remarked, it resembles the preparation for a great battle. How much more enjoyment would result as well as uplift and profit if the same energy were expended in preparation for more modern methods of celebration!

RADICAL ACTION NEEDED

Our annual sacrifice in the celebration of the Fourth may be compared to the facts related about the Minotaur of old to whom the Greeks were required to sacrifice periodically large numbers of the fair youths and maidens of Athens. America suffers by the comparison, however, since our sacrifice is annual, whereas that of the Athenians was only once in nine years! Radical measures were used then when Theseus slew the Minotaur. Radical measures are needed now and the barbarous Fourth should go. The sentiment favoring the enlightened celebration is rapidly on the increase, but hoodlums require more than coaxing—they must be handled

1. *Atlantic Monthly*, June, 1909.

by the police. More restrictions were placed on the use of fireworks this year than ever before. The celebration in many cities was limited to the one day and the sale of fireworks was limited to 2 or 3 days. Many forms of fireworks were prohibited in many cities and zones of quiet were provided for hospitals. And results were obtained, since from all parts of the country come reports that there was never a more quiet and orderly celebration. Although the deaths and injuries are as many as ever, there is nevertheless much to encourage those who are working for truly patriotic methods of celebrating our national independence. They should persevere in their efforts.

PRESS OPINIONS REGARDING THE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Never has public sentiment been so thoroughly aroused regarding the antiquated and death-dealing methods of celebrating Independence Day than at the present time, judging from the flood of newspaper clippings which continue to pour into the office commenting on the statistics of deaths and injuries from this year's celebration, published in *THE JOURNAL* a few weeks ago. Among these comments are many able editorials which we should like to publish entire if space permitted. The following extracts, however, show how strong has become the sentiment favorable to any measures which would effectively suppress all dangerous and noisy methods of celebration. The reasons showing that now is the time when cities should pass ordinances prohibiting the use of fireworks are clearly set forth in the following from the *New York Tribune*:

There remains to be made, with all possible earnestness, the suggestion that now, right away, is the time for action if the good example of those three cities is to be extended next year and if the United States is to be rescued from what has become a grave national reproach and an impeachment of our humanity and common sense. It would be futile paltering to wait until a few days before next Fourth of July and then try to stop the mischief. The only rational course is to enact ordinances or state laws at the earliest possible date, as far as possible in advance of the need of their application, so that makers of and dealers in explosives will have fair warning and they and the public will be prepared for a Fourth of July without the usual murderous racket. The publication of such

statistics as those which we have quoted should mark the signing of the death warrant of the toy pistol and all its death-dealing kin.

So widespread and emphatic has become this demand for the suppression of dangerous and antiquated methods of celebration that city councils may be assured of strong support in the adoption of rigidly restrictive or prohibitory ordinances, and now is the time when action should be taken. Strike while the iron is hot.

The Newark (N. J.) *News* not only gives us an encouraging report regarding Trenton, N. J., and urges Newark to adopt a similar ordinance, but also reports another death due to the supposedly harmless "sparker," the description of which, however, is mild compared with the reports of the awful deaths due to lockjaw caused in this year's celebration. The comment is as follows (*italics ours*):

Trenton has enrolled itself in the list of cities which will henceforth enjoy a safe and sane Fourth of July. Its council has adopted the ordinance, introduced at the first meeting after the recent Independence Day celebration, prohibiting the sale or use of toy cannons, toy pistols, firecrackers and fireworks of all kinds, except by persons to whom the Mayor grants special permits, upon occasions of public celebrations and exhibitions. That Trenton's mayor will approve of the ordinance there is no reason to doubt.

The last victim to die of injuries received at the recent Independence Day celebration was Anna Hetzel, a little girl in Dover. She was a child of ten years, and while setting off one of those vicious things known as a "sparker" her clothing caught fire and she was terribly burned before the flames could be smothered. She lingered in pain that was at times agonizing, until August 12, when she died.

The following from the York (Pa.) *Gazette* is characteristic of many comments which have been made regarding the present methods of celebration:

If we are to indulge our savage instincts, at least let us be honest about it. Let us revive the old worship of Moloch and send the spirits of the children adrift in eternity as an offering to this devil. Such action would be consistent at least. But this is not the solution of the problem. The freedom which was purchased by the blood of Bunker Hill and Yorktown was not shed that soulless murder-mongers of to-day might deliver over to death and torment tens of thousands of their fellow-beings. This is not freedom but the worst kind of anarchy. This is the thing that must be stopped.

The good results obtained by restrictive ordinances in several cities will doubtless lead to similar measures being adopted elsewhere, as shown by the following, also from the *New York Tribune*:

We have referred to the efforts of some places to stop this infernal work. Three cities thus made themselves notable. Washington had a prohibitory ordinance, and suffered no casualties whatever. Cleveland also tried prohibition, and had only four slight injuries. Chicago had a merely restrictive law, which reduced the usual number of casualties by more than one-half. The example of these three cities affords a ray of hope amid the general gloom of the year's record. It shows that it is quite feasible to put an end to this yearly torture and slaughter in the abused name of patriotism, and that it is best done by absolute prohibition of such devices as toy pistols and blank cartridges—which are practically loaded with tetanus germs.

Many of the comments favor the absolute prohibition of fireworks in the Fourth of July celebration, as illustrated by the following from the *Waterbury (Conn.) Republican*:

It would seem that 133 years of this demonstrative, dangerous manner of celebrating the date of the independence of the country were sufficient, and if the people will not of their own volition substitute therefor a saner way of keeping the anniversary they should be obliged by law to do so.

From the Knoxville (Tenn.) *Sentinel*:

The only safety is absolute prohibition of the use of any explosive, however harmless it may seem, except in an official celebration managed by experts. It would be better, however, to substitute something else for powder and dynamite. Accidents will keep on marring the national holiday until other forms of celebration are devised.

Cleveland has a justifiable pride in the effectiveness of its prohibitive ordinance. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* says:

Undoubtedly the sane Fourth idea is spreading. The American people has nearly outgrown its habit of teaching patriotism with gunpowder and dynamite. All that was needed was a start in the right direction, and Cleveland went far toward making the national start by offering an example of the beauty of a noiseless, bloodless Independence Day.

That there is no longer any reasonable excuse for permitting deaths and injuries which are wholly unnecessary is emphasized by the following from the *Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution*:

Holiday use and abuse of fireworks and firearms of the dangerous sort can and should be eliminated; it can be accomplished without the least unreasonable interference with the innocent pleasures of childhood. Protection of the children is a duty of municipal government and, in this instance, it can be performed without expense or cost.

Although the control of the sale and use of fireworks seems to be chiefly a city function, there are some which believe that state legislatures could more effectively solve the problem. The Washington (D. C.) *Post* says:

What is needed in this connection is country-wide prohibition of the dangerous devices that are misused on the national birthday in a barbaric display of so-called patriotism. It is not enough for cities here and there to put them under the ban. State legislatures should adopt the necessary restrictions forbidding their manufacture. Only by such means will the traffic which has cost the United States many thousands of lives be brought under control.

The Sandusky (Ohio) *Journal* says:

Apparently the regulation of Fourth of July celebrations cannot be left to municipalities, but should be subject to state legislation. In too many cities and towns the belief prevails that the boys should be permitted to "have their fun," and the fact that a hundred or more must suffer an agonizing death as a result is overlooked. It is time that the state legislatures take notice of this and put an end to the terrible slaughter.

Of all the comments made, the opinion was unanimous that present methods of celebration were barbarous and inexcusable, and that efforts toward suppression should be continued. It remains to be seen whether the effective action taken by Baltimore, Washington, Cleveland and Chicago will also be taken by other cities or whether the awful sacrifice of this year shall have been in vain.

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