

# *Gamma Globulin Effect on Poliomyelitis In 1953 Field Trial*

**T**HE EFFECTIVENESS of gamma globulin in preventing poliomyelitis or in reducing the number of cases cannot be determined from the results of its trial administration during the summer of 1953. A committee of experts appointed by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service reported that no beneficial effects were demonstrated from the use of gamma globulin in the mass inoculation of children in epidemic areas or from inoculation of members of the families of poliomyelitis patients.

The committee based its conclusions on data which had been collected and analyzed by the staff of the Communicable Disease Center of the Public Health Service at the end of the 1953 poliomyelitis season. The effect of gamma globulin in modifying the epidemic could not be determined because most of the inoculations in the 23 communities in which mass inoculation of children had been carried out had been given after the peak of the epidemic had been reached. Longer experience in the use of gamma globulin and more opportunity for scientific observation will be necessary before its efficacy can be determined.

However, the data collected showed that inoculation of family contacts with gamma globulin as soon as the first case of poliomyelitis in a household was recognized did not reduce the number of subsequent cases in the household nor

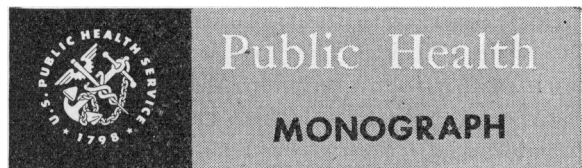
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*Prepared by the Bureau of State Services, Public Health Service. The full report of the National Advisory Committee for the Evaluation of Gamma Globulin in the Prophylaxis of Poliomyelitis will be published as Public Health Monograph No. 20. A summary of the committee's report appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association, March 27, 1954.*

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did the inoculation of exposed persons before they developed paralytic poliomyelitis produce a measureable effect on the paralysis.

The Public Health Service sponsored the gamma globulin evaluation program in collabo-



## No. 20

The accompanying report summarizes the findings of the National Advisory Committee for the Evaluation of Gamma Globulin in the Prophylaxis of Poliomyelitis. The committee's full report is presented in Public Health Monograph No. 20, published concurrently with this issue of Public Health Reports.

Readers wishing the data in full may purchase copies of the monograph from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. A limited number of free copies are available to official agencies and others directly concerned on specific request to the Public Inquiries Branch of the Public Health Service. Copies will be found also in the libraries of professional schools and major universities, and in selected public libraries.

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Gamma globulin in the prophylaxis of poliomyelitis. Public Health Monograph No. 20 (Public Health Service Publication No. 358). 178 pages. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1954. Price \$1.25.

ration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, the American Physical Therapy Association, and the D. T. Watson School of Physiatrics, which is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The members of the committee of experts included State and city health officials and leaders in poliomyelitis research. Field activities were directed by Dr. Abraham M. Lilienfeld of the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, a consultant to the Communicable Disease Center. The Public Health Service was represented by Dr. Alexander D. Langmuir, chief epidemiologist at the Communicable Disease Center. The other members of the committee were:

Lucy Blair, consultant, professional services, American Physical Therapy Association, New York, N. Y.; John Chapman, M.D., epidemiologist, Los Angeles City Health Department, Los Angeles, Calif.; Roy F. Feemster, director, division of communicable diseases, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Boston, Mass.; Thomas Francis, Jr., M.D., professor of epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, Mich.

D. G. Gill, M.D., State health officer, Alabama State Department of Public Health, Montgom-

ery, Ala.; A. L. Gray, M.D., director of preventable disease control, Mississippi State Board of Health, Jackson, Miss.; Morris Greenberg, M.D., epidemiologist, New York City Health Department, New York, N. Y.; William McD. Hammon, M.D., professor of epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Arthur C. Hollister, Jr., M.D., chief, bureau of acute communicable disease control, California State Department of Public Health, Berkeley, Calif.; Robert F. Korn, director, bureau of epidemiology and communicable disease control, New York State Department of Health, Albany, N. Y.; John R. Paul, M.D., professor of preventive medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn.; John D. Porterfield, M.D., director of health, Ohio Department of Health, Columbus, Ohio.

Albert B. Sabin, director, Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio; Leonard M. Schuman, M.D., deputy director for division of preventive medicine, Illinois Department of Public Health, Springfield, Ill.; Thomas F. Sellers, State health officer, Georgia Department of Public Health, Atlanta, Ga.; and Jessie Wright, M.D., medical director, D. T. Watson School of Physiatrics, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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### **Committee to Study Artificial Sweeteners**

The Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council, at the request of the Food and Drug Administration, has named a committee to study the principles which should govern the use of artificial sweeteners in foods for special dietary purposes.

The primary purpose of the committee will be the development of a statement of general principles and of other factors for consideration in the formulation of a policy on the use of artificial sweeteners in food.

The committee, which held its first meeting in January at Ithaca, N. Y., includes Dr. W. H. Griffith, chairman, professor of physiological chemistry, University of California Medical Center, Los Angeles; Dr. B. S. Clark, president, Institute of Food Technologists; Dr. P. L. Day, professor of biochemistry, University of Arkansas School of Medicine; Dr. Norman Jolliffe, director, bureau of nutrition, New York City Department of Health; and Dr. Charlotte Young, professor of food and nutrition, Cornell University.