

# STOP RHEUMATIC FEVER

## Health Education Unit

A film, a discussion guide, and a general information booklet and folder make up the new health education unit recently released as part of the "Stop Rheumatic Fever" campaign being conducted by the National Heart Institute of the Public Health Service and the American Heart Association.

The unit provides materials for use in State and community programs for the prevention of rheumatic fever—a leading cause of disability and death in childhood and producer of heart damage in children, adolescents, and young adults. The materials are based on medical recommendations for preventing rheumatic fever. These recommendations were drawn up by the American Heart Association's Council on Rheumatic Fever and Congenital Heart Disease and were published in the April issue of *Public Health Reports*, p. 373.

Done entirely in animation with much human interest appeal, the film symbolizes rheumatic fever as a smoky flame which sometimes flares up, sometimes lies almost dormant—the character of the disease itself. Streptococcus infections that come from the germs which cause sore throats, tonsillitis, scarlet fever, and some other diseases are symbolized as the forerunner of rheumatic fever.

The guide provides a synopsis of the film. It suggests pertinent remarks for the user to make before showing the film, including a sample 2-minute introduction. Delineated are important points to be emphasized in discussion after the film is shown. Information useful in answering audience questions and sources for further information are given.

The booklet offers a condensed version of the film content and is illustrated with pictures from the film. It provides information about streptococcal infections and on what to do about them to prevent rheumatic fever. It is useful for distribution to film audiences to aid in retention of content and for future reference and also as educational literature in general health information and rheumatic fever programs.

The folder describes rheumatic fever and its association with a preceding streptococcal infection. It helps parents to know when to call a physician and what to tell him about their child's sore throat. It contains a chart of questions on signs and symptoms, helpful in determining whether or not a child has a "strep" sore throat. Affirmative answers indicate the need to call a physician promptly.

**FILM.** Stop Rheumatic Fever. 16 mm., sound, black and white, 12½ minutes, 1955. Prepared by National Heart Institute, PHS. Produced by Transfilm, Inc. Cleared for television.

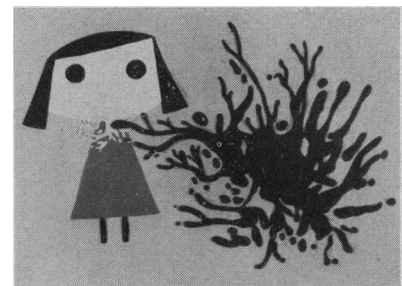
**Audience:** General public. Suitable for showing before parent-teacher groups, in the classroom, community health meetings, luncheon clubs, and other similar meetings. On television may be used as complete presentation, or preliminary to a physician's talk or other discussion.

**Available:** Purchase—American Heart Association Film Library, 13 East 37th Street, New York 16, N. Y. Price \$15. Rental distribution not being made since purchase price is so low.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE.** 4 pages. Copy accompanies each print of the film. Single free copies obtainable from American Heart Association, 44 East 23d Street, New York 10, N. Y., or from local heart associations.

**BOOKLET.** Stop Rheumatic Fever. Public Health Service Publication No. 420. 1955. 16 pages. Single free copy accompanies film. Additional copies obtainable from the National Heart Institute, Bethesda 14, Md. Quantities may be purchased from Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at \$4.00 per 100.

**FOLDER.** Now You Can Protect Your Child Against Rheumatic Fever. Free copy accompanies film. Additional copies available from the American Heart Association, 44 East 23d Street, New York 10, N. Y., or local heart associations. Quantities are \$1.65 per 100.



An octopus-like representation of the streptococcus germ, closely resembling its microscopic appearance.