

Hinsdale Health Museum

*an Illinois community
takes a dynamic approach
to health education*



(David Lannes photo)

A biology teacher on the museum staff explains to young visitors the exhibit showing normal and abnormal eyesight and correction of faulty vision. The museum usually conducts at least two such classes daily.

Dedicated to the promotion of better living through health education, 13 exhibits on the human body formed the opening show of the health museum in Hinsdale, Ill., in May 1958. The museum is housed in a wing of the Hinsdale Medical Center, founded by the Kettering Family Foundation of Chicago. About 34,000 persons visited the museum during the first 6 months.

Pushbuttons, telephones, flashing lights, and moving parts encourage visitor participation. Most of the exhibits focus on a single component of the body, such as the brain, the ear, and the eye.



(Rus Arnold photo)

“You began as a single cell . . .” says the voice recounting the engrossing story of body cells. Designed especially for Hinsdale, the exhibit forms the museum’s central motif.

Part of the exhibit on the structural systems is a skeleton that moves (right). A neighboring model is a male figure with muscles exposed.



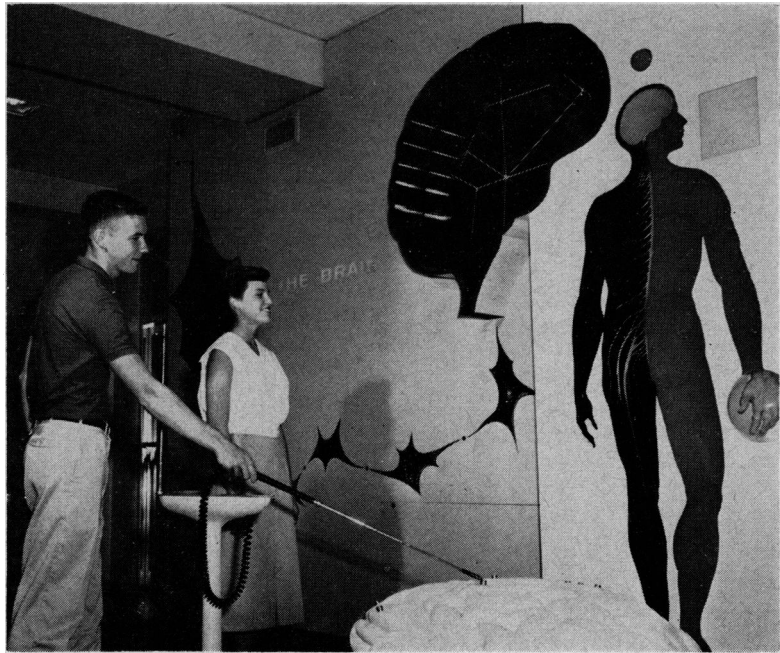
(Rus Arnold photo)



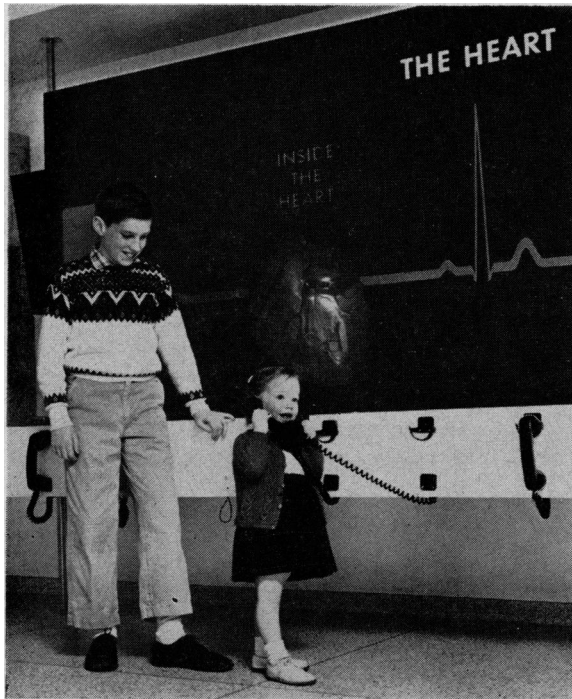
(Rus Arnold photo)

The phenomenon of hearing is demonstrated by means of a human “telephone receiver.”

Students operate the control on a giant brain, especially constructed for Hinsdale. The unit presents what is known about the nature of nervous energy and thought processes.



(Chicago Tribune photo)



(Stephen Heiser photo)

The comprehensive heart display shows both inside and outside of the organ, circulation, heartbeat, and an electrocardiogram.

Other displays describe the body's structural systems, birth, and the coughing process. A transparent female figure, life size, in Plexiglas, contains organs and systems in distinctive colors, which are lighted as a voice on a synchronized sound track explains their functions. (A similar exhibit, pictured in *Public Health Reports*, March 1958, is installed in the Smithsonian Institution.)

The center's museum, health theater equipped with a film collection, and medical library are free to the public; they are maintained by the proceeds from rentals on medical center offices.

The museum schedule calls for close collaboration with schools in the area and with the physicians in the medical center.

Signs

and

Symptoms

of trends in public health

Pedestrian deaths in New York City since August 8, when the anti-jaywalking ordinance went into effect, are 22 percent less than for the same period in 1957; injuries are 14 percent less.

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The “bedside central center” at Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, is the first completely integrated system of self-help for patients. Consisting of various switches, the machine enables a patient to draw draperies, turn on lights, raise or lower his bed, and so on. It also contains an intercom system between patient and nurse’s station.

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Progress in Psittacosis Research and Control, published by Rutgers University Press, includes contributions by Justin M. Andrews, James A. Baker, Albert A. Benedict, Robert H. Russell, Preben Møller Christiansen, Donald E. Davis, John P. Delaplane, René J. Dubos, B. Eddie, Raymond Fagan, Irving Gorden, Robert J. Huebner, K. F. Meyer, R. J. Muir, Morris Pollard, J. H. Richardson, John H. Scruggs, N. L. Shipkowitz, Richard E. Shope, James H. Steele, and Morgens Volkert. The editor is F. R. Beaudette.

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The summer graduate program in public health statistics at the University of Michigan will be offered again in 1959 and 1960. Designed to train specialists in records maintenance and medical research, the program was developed under a grant from the Public Health Service.

The National Safety Council urges all States to license motor-scooter drivers in order to cut down teenage accidents; it opposes licensing drivers under 16 years old.

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Of public health nurses employed in Wyoming State and local health departments, 100 percent have completed an approved program of study in public health nursing.

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At the Second International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Lewis L. Strauss called for an international convention to protect the public against nuclear reactor accidents. Professor Johan H. de Boer, heading the Netherlands delegation, pressed for an international safety code.

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Four years of fluoridated water has reduced the number of cavities in school children by 47 percent and extractions by 43 percent, and has accounted for a saving of \$1 million a year, Philadelphia Health Commissioner James P. Dixon says.

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According to Alcoholism and California Related Statistics, 1900-1956, published by the California State Department of Public Health, more alcohol has been consumed per capita in California since 1936 than in any other State. Alcoholism in California in 1955 affected 723 per 100,000 persons 21 years old or older, and it caused 1 percent of all deaths in that year, making it 11th among leading causes of death in the State.

The number of people without ready access to general hospitals has dropped from 10 million to 2.8 million in the last decade, the Public Health Service reports.

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Since August 15, the Public Health Service has been studying the effects of the fire ant control program on aquatic life in the southeast. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has treated about 200,000 of the 27 million acres affected. (See *Public Health Reports*, May 1958.)

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The National Cancer Institute, Public Health Service, has set up four projects for the development of cytological methods in diagnosing cancer of the lung, large intestine, stomach, and urinary tract. Three schools of medicine have been designated for the first three projects. In order, they are the University of Texas, Ohio State University, and Bowman-Gray in Winston-Salem, N. C. The site of the fourth project has not been determined.

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Emphysema tends to develop in obscure pockets of the lungs where everyday soot particles nestle, according to Dr. Charles P. Oderr, chief of radiology, New Orleans Veterans Administration Hospital. After photographing lung tissue specimens through a beryllium window tube, the investigators found 45 percent of 125 persons with evidence of the disease. Most of them had indoor dusty jobs.

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The number of orphans in the United States dropped from 6.4 million in 1920 to 2.7 million in 1958, whereas the child population rose from 39 to 60 million in that time, the Health Information Foundation reports.

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Federal programs for older people (excluding programs of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare) are summarized in Issue No. 77 of the Social Legislation Information Service, Washington, D. C.