

at what may be considered a cheap cost or without elaborate apparatus not readily applicable under rural conditions. An attempt was therefore made to see whether a fluoride-free water could be obtained at depths greater than 30 to 35 feet, the normal depth of fluoride-bearing waters in Nellore District. A bore-hole carried to a depth of 300 feet yielded water having a high fluoride content of 3.5 parts per million. It would, therefore, appear that the practical solution of the problem of endemic fluorosis should be sought by remedying the nutritional defects of the population.

TETANUS

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Cause. Tetanus, otherwise called Lockjaw, is the result of infection with a specific organism called *Bacillus tetani*. Punctured wounds such as from explosive shells, nails etc. are very liable to infection from tetanus bacilli. Any wound contaminated with earth may be suspected to be infected by tetanus and should be treated accordingly. The disease develops from a week to twenty-one days after the wound has been received.

Symptoms. Early spasm of muscles closing the jaw, the maseter, which gives rise to the name of lockjaw. Spasm of the back muscles throwing the patient into such a position that he may stand almost on his head and his heels known as opisthotons, and bending up the body sideways in muscular spasms known as pleurothotons. The spasm occurs upon sudden movement on the part of the patient, noise, bright light and cold, all of which cause setting of the jaw and spasms of the muscles, making feeding impossible.

If the wound is on the head or neck the condition is spoken of as cephalic tetanus.

As a rule, due to rigidity of the abdominal muscle there is difficulty in bowel movement. Due to spasm of the neck of the bladder there is often difficulty in urination, and profuse sweat is common.

Nursing. Keep the patient in a quiet dark room and handle him skilfully. Avoid stimulation of senses, bright light, jarring of the bed, noise and banging of doors. Attend to him quietly and gently. Everything brought in contact with him should be warm if possible, soft pads should be arranged under his back and sides, he should be bathed with warm alcohol and water (cold alcohol brings a spasm). Mouth, back and cleansing bath etc. should be attended to.

Prevention. Suspicious wounds should be treated aseptically and should be dressed with hydrogen peroxide or with wet mag. sulph. dressing. Antitetanic serum 500 to 1500 units according to the age of the patient.

Precautions. Special attention to dressing. Soiled dressings should be burnt at once. Urinals, dishes, instruments, boiled for thirty minutes. Enema cans and funnel should be kept in H.P. lotion 1:500.