

IOWA MEDICAL JOURNAL

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Devoted to the Interests of the Iowa Profession

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- The Improvement of the Health of Iowa People.
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Acute Poliomyelitis.

In this number of the Journal will be found two original articles on this subject.

The August number of *Pediatrics* is devoted to the subject and is the most complete and comprehensive compilation of the literature on this subject to date.

Those interested in the disease (and every Doctor in Iowa ought to be) should read these articles.

It had been our expectation to publish the report of Dr. Frost and same had been set by the printer but because of the fact that all reports of officers of the hospital marine service must be O. K.'d before offered for publication we were deprived of the opportunity this month. It is more than likely that we can use Dr. Frost's report and the discussions given at the open meeting of the Board of Health on August 17th in the next issue of our Journal. So many valuable

points were brought out at this meeting that it seems hardly fair to delay for a month offering the physicians of Iowa the discussions and valuable comments on such an uncommon disease as we have been confronted with the last few months.

In and about Mason City there were reported some fifty-three cases of the disease which showed paralysis and twenty-two cases of the abortive or suspicious variety. Statistics as compared with other epidemics show a much smaller percentage of children under five years and a much larger percentage of children over ten.

The first case reported at Mason City occurred early in April and, so far as inquiry could determine, contracted the disease while on a trip out of town. That this case was the beginning of the epidemic at Mason City has not been proved by investigation. Many peculiar conditions have occurred showing that some cases were supposed to have been infected from other cases and many isolated cases that have been of the severest type apparently had no connection whatever with previous cases. That the first cases in town seemed to be centered around a common focus was a matter of observation as some nine or ten cases occurred within a block or two of the first case. A number of cases occurred in children who attended school where the first case had attended. Some cases occurred in schools where there had been no previous exposure. Some schools did not have any cases up to the time school closed in June.

Much credit is due the physicians and the people at Mason City in their endeavor to stamp out and prevent any spread of the disease and their acceptance of the theory that it is a communicable disease and its eradication must be by quarantine procedure and disinfection. There were a few of course who would not accept this theory but without doubt most of these had an ulterior motive in not accepting the view as expressed by scientific investigators up to the present time.

The Iowa Board of Health issued its bulletin on September 10th and this is devoted to Infantile Paralysis. It is well worth the time necessary to study the disease. It contains two charts, one showing the location of the cases in Iowa, the other showing location of deaths of cases in Iowa.