Health Unit Stresses Immunization Benefits

The staff of the Skeena Public Health Unit here today joined health units across Canada in urging parents to take advantage of immunization services for their children.

The advice came in connection with Canada's 12th National Immunization Week, being marked September 26 to October 2 across the country.

Miss Helen Boehme, nurse in charge of the local health unit, outlined immunization services offered locally and urged parents to see that their children were fully immunized against infections which, in past years, have maimed and killed thousands of children, but which may be prevented.

Major immunization scheme for children included prevention of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, through triple-combined injections, and smallpox, through a separate vaccine, as well as protection against typhoid and para-typhoid, stressed locally because of conditions here.

Miss Boehme suggested to parents that the triple-combined shots against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, should start at the age of three months. The series consists of four shots, followed by booster shots throughout pre-school and school years.

Smallpox injections usually are given between the combined shots, consisting of one major shot, reinforced every five to seven years.

Miss Boehme, stressing the local need for typhoid and para-typhoid injections, due to periodic cases reported here and the transient population with its danger of carriers, said this treatment should start after the age of one and one-half years.

Returning to the diphtheria-whooping-cough-tetanus problem, Miss Boehme pointed out that records showed many deaths from whooping cough particularly in the first year of life, and stressed that some level of immunity was reached only about eight weeks after the first shot. Therefore, immunization should start early . . . at three months or as advised by the family doctor.

In Prince Rupert, parents can assure their children of protection against these infections through health unit well-baby clinics, held regularly, or by consulting with their doctors.

Clinics are held at the health unit offices every Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m., and at Conrad Hall every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. Monthly clinics are held at Port Edward, scheduled for the first Friday of every month from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Community Hall.

Similar services are offered through health unit sub-offices at Terrace and Smithers, and some clinic facilities are offered at almost every point in the Skeena district, including the Queen Charlotte Islands.

In conclusion, Miss Boehme seconded the rules suggested by the Health League of Canada, in conjunction with departments of health in their publicity campaign: "Immunize every child; immunize early; keep immunity high with periodic "booster" or "recall" doses.

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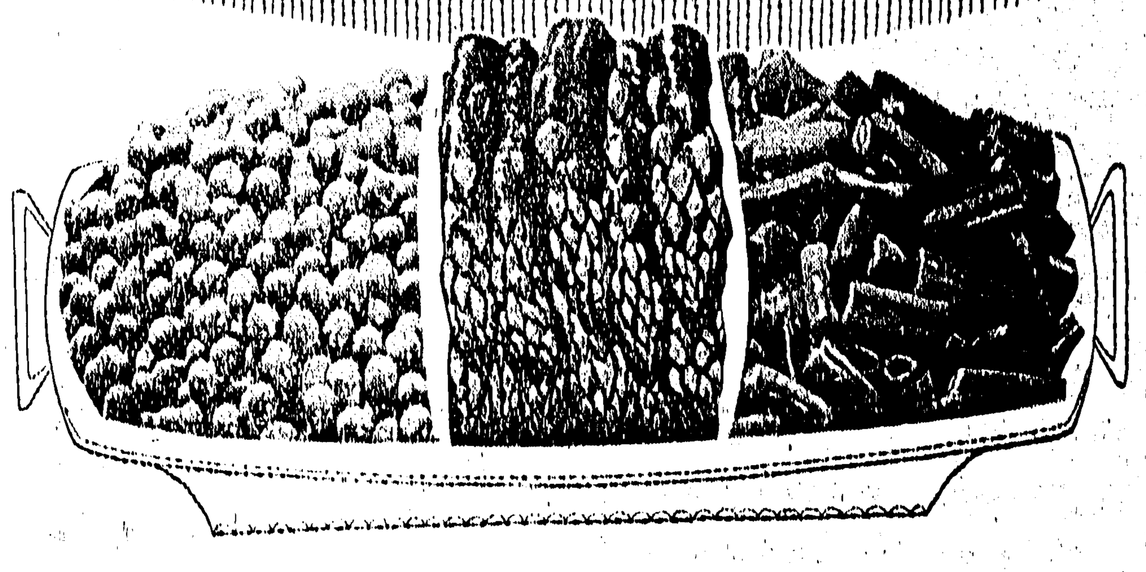

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executive com- McKay, W. D. A. Newton, J. pe and A. Me-

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Youth eting ficial

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Meeting, 8 pm Busin- bers please at- (227)

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