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HEALTH OFFICER **ISSUES WARNINGS**

Friday, September 2, 1910,

Dr. C. J. Fagan Reports on His Investigations Into Epidem Which Has Been Prevalent on Island and Mainland

the mainland as far south as the boundary, Dr. C. J. Fagan, secretary of the provincial board of health, yes-terday presented to Hon. Dr. Young to secure full and authentic informa-tion from the medical profession, and submitting reports obtained from Dr. Bapty, the government's bacteriologi-cal saalyst, Dr. Fagan says in part: "The ages of the affected vary from inforcy to 75 years being as per rentancy to 75 years, being as per re-norts from ten practitioners, 22, : ears and under; 42, from two to fif-een years; 37, from fifteen to forty; from forty upwards. The disease is of restricted to any particular place, uch a number of adults being at-ucked is unquestionably unusual, and hows that the causes of the trouble

re of more cirulent character than enerally to be found in conditions ausing infant diarrhoea. Epidemic diarrhoea is something that has given sanitarians great con-

"Epidemic diarrhoea is something that has given sanitarians great concern for many years, and its cause has been discussed in many places. One point is universally agreed upon: that climatic conditions always are present when these attacks prevail. Lengthened drought in hot seasons is pow accepted as being almost certain to be followed by epidemics. The cause of this is clear. The earth becomes heated, and the temperature of the ground, extending down sometimes to a foot or a foot and a half, shows a warmth of from 55 to 57 F. Such conditions are most favorable to the development of bacteria, and when the surroundings are filthy, certain bacteria are developed that are undoubtedly irritants to the intestinal canal if admitted to it.

"Here, then, we have myrlads of bacteria developed, of various kinds, depending on the surroundings. These are gathered from the surface, and carried by the feet, by the blowing of dust, and by files, around and into the houses. As said above, many kinds of these bacteria develop through fermentation and decomposition of food stuffs. These foods when ingested cause irritation and diarrhoea follows, depending in intensity upon the amount of decomposition and the character of the bacterial poisoning. Certain constitutions are able to resist, whereas others are more liable to the attacks. From conditions that I personally have observed, and from what has been reported to me by members of the medical profession, I am satisfied that much of the present trouble could be avoided.

"The bacteria developed from decomposing dead organic matter are most hostile to the human frame. Here then is a matter of simple commonsense, and the observance of ordinary

then is a matter of simple co misery that exists today. My view of the present conditions is that the trouble comes from various sources: Foods during the summer months are particularly liable to decomposition; as a result of this decomposition, ptoas a result of this decomposition, ptoingines are formed, and as above s
stated, when admitted to the stomach
will cause irritation and consequent
diarrhoea. Another cause is milk.
This article is a splendid means for
the development of bacteria, and provided the heat is sufficient the development of germs in milk will be
enormous. The remedy is plain: Keep
the milk covered and so protect it
from files and dust. Keep it cool and
so prevent multiplication of bacteria.
Again water, unless of the purest, is
liable to multiply its germs, and so
become an unhealthful drink. In my
opinion all these conditions have contributed to the present epidemic, and
the main cause is the enormous number of bacteria developed in the soil
and made malignant by the present

of filth.
"I sincerely trust that the present apparent change in the weather will continue, and that a strong rain will soon be in evidence. If the coolness continued there will be no further development from the ground sources, and a strong rain will wash away the germs and stop the spread of the disease.

disease.
"It is evident, if the above conclusions are correct, that in the prevention of this summer disease, certain precautions can affect a great deal. Attention to the following hints would section to the following hints would save many infants lives:

1.—"Do not wean your infants during the months of July, August and September. To begin artificial feeding during the hot weather is very dangerous.

2.—"All milk should be pasteurized or even boiled before being given to the infant. Milk and water, and still more, patent foods, if left two or three hours, go bad, and are then very highly dangerous to the infant.

3.—"All jugs or other vessels for water in the capture of the conforts is unshability clean.

4.—"The feeding bottle should be thoroughly scaled after each meal.

5.—"The use of 'comforts' is unhealthful, and when they fall on the floor they are dangerous and frequently the cause of diarrhoea.

A few general points for the benefit of all: ave many infants' lives:

1.—"Decomposing refuse, such as de-caying vegetables, bones, fish-heads, etc., is a fertile sourse of diarrhoea. It should be burned—not put in the dust-2.—Scrupulous cleanliness of the a bouse—especially of all rooms where a cool is stored—is most important. Dust call the cool is stored—is most important. Dust call the cool is dangerous to health, in the certable to dry. Thus washing and the certable to dry.

dry places, and be kept covered, so as y places, and be kept covered, so as y protect from flies and dust.

—"Milk should be kept on ice if one ble, and absolutely protected from places and dust. When sewerage systems are not liable, dry earth or ash closets