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York Holstein Club To Meet In Masonic Hall

The annual meeting of the York County Holstein Club will be held in the Masonic Hall, Richmond Hill, on Monday next, January 17. The Holstein Club which is the largest breed organization in the county is traditionally known for the excellent speakers at its annual meetings. The guest speaker this year will be Professor R. D. Campbell, head of the Agricultural Economics Department, O.A.C., Guelph, who will discuss farm business analysis.

The meeting commences at 10.30 and a lucky door prize will be drawn for at 10.45. Lunch will be served free of charge at noon and will be followed immediately by the election of directors for the coming year.

A special invitation to attend is extended to all Black and White supporters in the county.

EARACHE

When a child complains of earache medical attention should be obtained since serious trouble may be indicated, especially if there is feverishness. A discharging ear should, of course, have medical attention, otherwise it may become a chronic condition, with resultant impairment of the hearing.

Engineer J. A. Howard

Markham Road Dept. Presents Annual Report To Council

In a comprehensive report to the members of Markham township Council, Township Engineer and Road Superintendent J. A. Howard has carefully reviewed the work of his department during the past year.

Staff changes in 1954 included the addition of Mr. C. Whetters as Stock and Time Keeper. Mr. John Nich joined the staff as an engineering assistant, while Mr. Treanor Canning was appointed road foreman.

The road staff was placed on a permanent 5-day work week in the summer; however the men are on call in case of an emergency.

Several pieces of new equipment were purchased in the past year. The major purchase was that of a five ton truck.

Turning next to the problem of dust control, Mr. Howard reported that 55 of the 150 miles in the township road system were treated with asphalt prime (oil) at a total cost of \$48,212.00. In addition, 30 continuous miles of road were treated with calcium and the balance were all spot treated in front of any homes. The total cost of the calcium amounted to \$15,298.00.

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Cancer More Prevalent Among Certain Races And In Certain Districts

Cancer, so far as we know, occurs in all parts of the world but among certain races and in certain districts some types of cancer are more, or less common than in others.

Cancer of the tongue, for example, is relatively frequent in certain parts of India, cancer of the liver occurs commonly in Africa and Indonesia, and the Chinese are particularly prone to develop cancer of the gullet or esophagus. On the other hand cancer of the stomach is seldom to be found amongst African negroes, the Javanese and the natives of French North Africa.

Just why these differences exist we do not know but great interest is being shown in this subject because it is felt that nature, in this vast experiment has hidden away important clues about the cause of cancer.

In Canada our Indian and Eskimo populations present an unique opportunity for study in this field, and the National Cancer Institute has recently published its findings on the first of these two groups.

Some 25 years ago the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa considered cancer to be a very rare disease among the Indian population but, as the years have gone by, medical services for our Indians have greatly improved, and more complete data from ac-

ross Canada have become available for study.

At the time of the first settlements in North America, four centuries ago, there were about 200,000 Indians in what is now Canada. Then followed a decline in their numbers and it was a common belief that they were a dying race. In the last half century however, there has been a steady increase and today the Indian population is increasing at a rate of 1.5% each year. A census taken in 1949 showed their present number to be almost 150,000.

When an Indian receives medical care a record of his case goes forward to the National office of the Indian Health Service. This record gives the patient's age, sex, diagnosis, the number of days stay in hospital and so on. The medical records of all Canadian Indians were reviewed for the five year period of 1948-1952 and detailed information on the cancer cases was obtained from 48 hospitals.

In this period 327 cases of cancer were reported, 125 in males and 202 in females. Making due allowance for differences in the average age of Indians and Whites this total number of cases is somewhat less than would be expected for a corresponding group of white people in Canada but the difference may well be explained by inaccurate reporting of causes of death in the older Indian age groups.

In Indian men, as in white Canadian men, cancer of the stomach and bowel is most frequent. A surprising finding of the study however, is that cancer of the neck of the womb is apparently very high among Indian women. It accounts for 40% of all cancer in Indian women suggesting that it is several times as common as in white females. Moreover, it has a tendency to occur earlier in life.

The explanation for the high incidence of cancer of the cervix of the uterus is not known. Possible factors may be the high birth rate among Indians and the limited post-natal care available to them. In any case, the Department of Indian Affairs has already taken an interest in the problem. Doctors in the Indian service have been made aware

of the findings of the study and members of the nursing service have been instructed in methods of taking specimens for pathological examination from patients with symptoms. It is hoped that in this way the earlier diagnosis of cases will be facilitated.

Another point of interest arising from the study is that cancer of the skin occurs less frequently than among our white population. It is possible that the skin pigmentation of Indians acts as a protection against skin cancer in the same way as for the black race.

It is not so easy to obtain figures about cancer in our Canadian Eskimo, but an effort is presently being made to do so. There are about 7,500 Eskimos living in our northern parts but many of these live far from civilization and details of illness and causes of death are difficult to obtain.

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