

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF **MARCH, 1967** BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

FOOD POISONING AT POLITICAL BANQUET - EAST BATON ROUGE

A political banquet in Baton Rouge on February 18, attended by 525 people ended in an outbreak of gastroenteritis with an attack rate of 71.5 per cent. Although the cultures were negative (probably the result of freezing the remaining food), the outbreak had both the clinical and epidemiological characteristics of food poisoning due to *Clostridium perfringens*. An acute onset of abdominal cramps and diarrhea followed an average incubation period of 9 hours. Vomiting and fever were rare, and there was no secondary transmission to contacts. Food histories suggested roast beef which had been cooked the night before the banquet and reheated the following day as the probable vehicle of infection. All cultures for enteric pathogens were negative. (Continued on Page 3).

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

RELEASED April 7, 1967	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHThERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	MEASLES	MININGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS
TOTAL TO DATE 1966	6	1	3	4	103	58	76	0	0	13	1	30	18	1	35	3	274	1649	718
TOTAL TO DATE 1967	6	4	4	1	111	63	49	4	0	22	3	32	20	11	43	0	276	1698	538
TOTAL THIS MONTH	5	0	3	1	51	33	14	3	0	13	2	15	6	0	26	0	138	646	215
ACADIA											1				1		11	12	5
ALLEN																	1	1	
ASCENSION					1	3												3	
ASSUMPTION					1														1
AVOUELLES					2														
BEAUREGARD					1												1	1	
BIENVILLE																			
BOSSIER						10												22	1
CADDO					2		2			1			6		4		4	126	13
CALCASIEU					1	9	1					2						43	9
CALDWELL										3							1	4	
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA					6												1		
CLAIBORNE						1				1							2	2	1
CONCORDIA																	4	2	1
DESO TO										1								3	1
EAST BATON ROUGE					1	1	1	1				1			1		5	22	20
EAST CARROLL																	1		2
EAST FELICIANA						1											1		1
EVANGELINE																	8		
FRANKLIN																	1		
GRANT																			1
IBERIA																	4		3
IBERVILLE																		12	8

Parishes reporting more than ten cases of measles (by School Absenteeism): Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Jefferson, Natchitoches, Rapides, Terrebonne and Vermilion.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -		- LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH																	
RELEASED	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHtherIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIOUS	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	MEASLES	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS
April 7, 1967										2									
JACKSON										2									
JEFFERSON	2		2		3	2						3					10	25	14
JEFFERSON DAVIS							1										1	1	1
LAFAYETTE					1	2	1								6		3	7	5
LAFORCHE					2												2	3	
LASALLE					1														
LINCOLN									1								1	1	6
LIVINGSTON					2	1											1		1
MADISON																			4
MOREHOUSE																	1	1	
NATCHITOCHES											1						1	4	
ORLEANS				1	15	1	2	1				8					33	162	76
OUACHITA					1										7		1	29	6
PLAQUEMINES																	1	1	
POINTE COUPEE																	1		
RAPIDES					2												1		
RED RIVER									1								3	7	7
RICHLAND																	3	2	1
SABINE																	1	3	
ST. BERNARD																	1		1
ST. CHARLES								1										3	1
ST. HELENA																		2	1
ST. JAMES																			2
ST. JOHN																		1	1
ST. LANDRY																	16	22	1
ST. MARTIN																			
ST. MARY							2		1								4		2
ST. TAMMANY					3												5	4	2
TANGIPAHOA							1										1	9	3
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE	3		1		1		1										1	1	2
UNION							1		2									1	
VERMILION					2										7			1	
VERNON					1													97	1
WASHINGTON					1	1												1	4
WEBSTER																	1		2
WEST BATON ROUGE																			1
WEST CARROLL																			
WEST FELICIANA						1						1							3
WINN					1		1										1	5	
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through March 31 of 1967, the following cases were also reported: 4 Tularemia, 7 Malaria, 2 Leptospirosis, and 4 Brucellosis.

Clostridium perfringens is being recognized more and more as a cause of food poisoning outbreaks. Last year, 17 per cent of outbreaks were due to this organism. No etiologic agent was recovered in 50 per cent of food poisonings, and it is possible that the failure to do anaerobic cultures for Clostridium perfringens was the reason in many cases. An increased level of suspicion by physicians and more frequent anaerobic culturing will probably increase the number of diagnoses.

Nelson, K.E. et al, Clostridium Perfringens Food Poisoning, report of an outbreak. American Journal of Epidemiology 1966, 83: 86 - 95.

15,000 VACCINATED FOR MEASLES - RAPIDES, AVOYELLES

Mobile teams with jet injector guns moved through the schools of Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes during the third and fourth weeks of March to stop an epidemic of measles. Both parishes had reported increasing school absenteeism due to measles during the preceding weeks. The decision was made in the Parish Health Units to start mass immunization and assistance was requested from the Epidemiology Section of the State Board of Health. Teams consisting of public health nurses and immunization technicians worked under the direction of the Health Unit Directors, Drs. Taylor and Dupree, and completed the immunizations in five days.

Four parishes, Tangipahoa, East and West Feliciana, and St. Helena, have scheduled End Measles Campaigns for the first week of April. These clinics will be opened to first and second grades, in addition to all pre-school children.

Any health unit or medical society interested in a measles campaign can receive assistance from the State Board of Health.