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FLUORIDATION NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH POLLUTION

Excerpt from article titled, "Too Much Will Kill and Too Little Also Fatal," by Dr. F. J. Trembley, Professor of Ecology, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which appeared in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Call-Chronicle, September 3, 1972.

And yes, the much cursed and discussed fluorine is an essential trace element. There is not the least doubt about it, the recent very carefully designed experimental work of Dr. Schwarz and his research team show conclusively that insufficient fluorides of some type in the diet leads to stunting of body size and poor development of bones and teeth. There is no more reason for the existence of anti-fluoridationists than for anti-seleniumists, or anti-iodinationists.

Dr. Schwarz states, "As shown by selenium, fluorine, and iodine as well, toxicity in itself is no counter argument at all to trace element function."

Fluoridation of public water supply systems was initiated to promote the formation of good enamel on the teeth of young people. Now dietary fluorides have been proven to be much more important than this original use indicates. The arguments proposed by anti-fluoridationists tend to be highly emotional and often show a serious lack of information concerning ordinary inorganic chemistry, ionic exchange, quite natural geographic differences in the fluoride content of soils and waters, and especially in the meaning of the word pollutant, when applied to waterways.

Most of the part per million of fluoride added to a drinking water supply, of course, is not consumed by humans. It flows down rivers and streams and finally to the ocean where most of it will precipitate out as fluorapatite mineral on the ocean bottom.

Do we have any reason to believe that this water, carrying a part per million of fluoride acts as a pollutant on its way to the ocean? The answer is decidedly not. These people don't like the idea of fluoridation so they simply call it a pollutant without any evidence that it kills, or injures any living thing in the receiving waterway.

In all probability, quite the opposite is true. Fish and other aquatic animals need fluorine as much as we do. They profit from the presence of the fluoride.

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There are many confusing ideas and statements in this field that must be cleared up for the better life of all of us. We must have a fluoride intake since fluorine is a necessary dietary trace element.

We must get used to the thought that the earth was not prepared for the advent of the higher animals, including man. There is and probably always has been unequal distribution of materials needed to provide good health and growth for these animals. Only now are we beginning to learn how scattered and unequal the distribution is and how man can alter the distribution of needed trace elements to benefit land and fresh water ecosystems and to benefit terrestrial animal life.

Division of Dental Health
Preventive Practices Branch
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014