

companies large sums.

When Home Sapiens gets into the water his sanity seems often to become so diluted that he is unable to take care of himself. At a great eastern summer resort, a few years ago, the life guards were thrown into a panic by 150 early morning bathers attempting to wade the Atlantic. They came out of their hotels to the beach and marched into the ocean with the confidence of four-year-olds paddling in the baby's bath. Once they were beyond their depth, the tide took them in charge, and all the life rescuing facilities of that world renowned resort were taxed to the utmost to save its reputation and its patrons who regarded either depth nor wave.

In passing it is interesting to note not only has man developed a strange mental attitude when around water, but he has also lost his fins and only as a "throw-back" has webbed toes and fingers. Webbing of the toes and fingers is a dominant characteristic - a hint that such a structure once had its special function and that he may be more closely related to Donald, the Duck, than the comic strip may indicate. Another fact which suggests that man's primordial existence was aquatic is the concentration of minerals in his blood stream. The ionic composition of the blood of a man and a jelly fish or of a man and a lobster are so similar as to suggest their ancestors floated lazily together in the Archaean Ocean. It also indicates the conditions under which cell life is possible are very restricted indeed and have not changed substantially since life first began.

It has been many million millennia since our aquatic ancestors slid out of the primeval ooze, found they could live in the air, and did not return at night. Through many era since, evolution has wrought many changes, among them the development of eyes, ears, and sinuses which are rather poorly adapted to swimming - a maladjustment which is the price of breaking home ties.

Without a nictitating membrane to protect the cornea and conjunctive against injury, trouble with the eyes frequently results from swimming. The temperature of the water differs markedly from that of the body, and is conducive to discomfort of the eyes. Its mineral content may also injure the eyes. Osmosis and the washing out of immune bodies may likewise have an effect. Many of us know how much easier slightly salt water is on the eyes than soft fresh water. When residual chlorine rises above 0.5 p.p.m. trouble with hyper-sensitive eyes is not far off. Many individuals may withstand several times this amount but those less resistant will have various grades of conjunctivitis or mild inflammation of the eyes. With the use of ammonia the chlorine content of the pool may be raised as high as 1.00 p.p.m. without causing many complaints.

It should be remembered that eyes are often as different as are individuals. Susceptibility, hypersensitiveness, and allergy rarely behave according to fixed standards. Lack of complaint is not always proof of the harmlessness of a chemical nor is failure to report trouble an indication that no symptoms of irritation are evident. Inflammation of the eyes may be a sign of pollution of the water. Organisms which ordinarily attack the eyes may, under especially favorable circumstances, pass from one individual to another. The use of the same towel or soap around bathing places is probably often responsible for the spread of eye infections which are frequently attributed to the lack of sanitation of the pool, or to too much chlorine.

Infection of the ear, nose, and throat may come either from the nasal passages of the individual or from a grossly polluted pool. By rare chance, highly virulent bacteria may be conveyed by water from one person to another.