

is in the elderly persons that the women far outnumber the men. In all types of accidental deaths last year, for instance, 900 were in males and 462 in females, whereas in home accident deaths only, there were 215 male deaths and 315 female fatalities.

And now let us consider the causes of the accidental deaths in Kansas homes last year. Falls, as usual, caused most of these fatalities -- the 1940 total was 317, with 80 deaths in persons from 80 to 85 years of age. Second in importance were burns and conflagrations, which took a total of 83 lives, and in third place were the accidental deaths caused by poisons (gas excepted), with a total of 29 fatalities. Fourth in importance were the accidental deaths caused by mechanical suffocation, and of the total of 19 fatalities, 17 were in children less than five years of age -- most of these were babies who were smothered to death by too many or carelessly arranged bed clothes. Deaths resulting from firearms accidents in the home or its environs totalled 16, and excessive heat was reported as the cause of 13 fatalities. Seven persons died from the accidental absorption of poisonous gas in the home. In 46 other fatal home accidents, the cause of death was not stated.

The following home safety suggestions are based on the home accident deaths that occurred in Kansas last year: (1) don't wax floors too highly or use the small appropriately named "throw" rugs; (2) provide adequate lighting in house, stairways, and basements; (3) keep the floors and stairways clear of toys and other stumbling hazards; (4) provide roomy play-pens for creeping and toddling children -- this will prevent many accidental deaths in children less than three years of age; (5) never start or hurry fires with kerosene or gasoline; (6) provide screens for use in front of open fires; (7) keep all poisons for medical or household use in high, out-of-the-way places; (8) see that all gas appliances are equipped with vents, and have them inspected once yearly; (9) turn handles of cooking pans to the back of the stove, and never place a pot of hot coffee or tea near the edge of the table; (10) do not smoke in bed -- keep matches in a safe place; (11) never keep a loaded gun in the house, or point it in fun; (12) don't cover a baby with too many or loose bed clothes, pin covers securely to the underneath side of the mattress at the foot of the bed, and never use pillows in the baby's bed.

The above simple, common sense safety suggestions do not represent mere theories of a safety enthusiast -- they are founded on a study of the 530 home accident deaths reported to the Kansas State Board of Health last year. Observance of these suggestions would save many lives.