

Drug use worries MSU pediatrician

Today's physicians might learn from the past when it comes to prescribing hormone treatment for pregnant women, believes Dr. Arthur Kohrman, professor and associate chairman of Michigan State University's department of human development.

Dr. Kohrman, a pediatrician specializing in the effects of hormones upon developing organisms, believes that current treatment of pregnant women with synthetic analogs of the sex hormone "progesterone" may be potentially dangerous to the fetus when it matures.

Doctors today commonly prescribe progesterone for pregnant women having a history of miscarriages and premature deliveries in the hope that the drug will prolong pregnancy, Dr. Kohrman said.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, between 300,000 and two million women were treated with another hormone, DES (diethylstilbestrol), a synthetic estrogen, in attempts to reduce fetal loss.

"WE NOW feel," Dr. Kohrman said, "that DES was not effective in preventing miscarriage, but that it is responsible for the appearance of a rare vaginal cancer and for other urogenital abnormalities in sons and daughters of mothers given DES during pregnancy."

There is no evidence, he added, that DES—now sometimes prescribed as a "morning after" birth control pill—causes any problems in women taking the drug for short periods or in any children born to women who took DES prior to pregnancy.

Though DES-related vaginal cancers are rare—less than 500 in the entire world—have been reported—as many as 80 to 85 per cent of the women who were fetuses in the womb when their mothers took DES, do show changes in their vaginal tissues

Dressing Your HOME



After a homebound winter, it's time to make decorative changes to lift the spirits for spring. Here are some ideas that are easy and inexpensive to bring your outlook—your windows.

A simple way to change your windows is use of new window shades, not just any basic shade but a complete window treatment.

There is a booklet available full of ideas and instructions for using today's colorful and beautifully-textured window shades to create a custom shade treatment that will set the design pace for your room.

There are two major kinds of "dress up" techniques. In one, you start from scratch to trim, apply, stencil, or paint designs on a plain shade cloth.

In the other, you take advantage of many new self-help aids offered by the industry. They include two types of lamination for the look of all over pattern.

Also available are custom shaped borders to dress up plain shades, packaged fringes, even shade cloth valances.

THE TRIMMING selections cover a wide range. Classics include loop-edged, tasseled, ball and brush fringes in many styles, widths and colors, as well as braids of various types. Ribbons in all types, eyelid edging, rickrack and printed borders are also interesting ideas—many are self-adhesive.

Coordination one of the basic principles of successful interior design, can be easily achieved by the use of window shades.

For example, instead of drap curtains for a single window, or two side by side, use just a pair on both sides of the opening and laminate shades in the same fabric. You now have a new window treatment and a more functional one at that.

Or try eye curtains and a laminated shade of matching fabric. Another approach to coordination in the window treatment is apply glue cut-outs of a pattern used elsewhere in the room, such as wall paper.

IF YOU HAVE labors in the field of painting, you may wish to turn your artistic hand to painting a window shade.

You can work in any style you choose, traditional or contemporary. Acrylic, vinyl-based paints, or textile paints work well, depending on the type of shade used. Some shades will take a thin oil paint, but always test first.

Room-darkening shades are usually best for painting because light coming through the translucent type may show up an uneven application of paint.

If you are interested in doing your own windows with a new shade treatment you may write for this "Do-it-yourself Ideas for Window Shades" booklet. It is available by mail from Window Shade Manufacturers' Association, Dept. "Observer", 230 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Please include 25 cents to cover postage and handling.



LAURETTA REGAN

Teaching alternatives viewed

The Continuum Center of Oakland University will offer its award-winning workshop, Alternative Career Options for Teachers, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday April 16 on the OU campus.

The teachers' workshop was one of two continuum programs which received awards March 20 at the annual convention of the National University Extension Association in Tucson.

The one-day workshop offers the opportunity to learn about some different career options which can build on teacher preparation and experience in their search for other career alternatives. Job placement is not offered. The \$20 fee includes materials and lunch, and registrations are being accepted at the center, 377-3023.

The workshop will be led by Jim Hoppin of Southfield, a businessman and Continuum Center coordinator.

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French culture on display

A closeup view of the French, their lifestyle and culture will be on display during the month of April in the Hall of Nations of the International Institute, 111 Kirby, Detroit.

The French government has made available special material dealing with French churches and cathedrals, gastronomy, art and cinematography. Also on exhibit will be 17th and 18th century silver, Limoges china, St. Louis crystal, fine laces and a collection of visual arts from the graphics of Daumier to works of Braque and examples of modern photography.

A special attraction will be a collection of modern Abassoum tapestries woven to designs of contemporary French and American artists.

The preview dinner on Friday, April 1 features a French provincial menu. A balladeer, Serge Kerval, will give a concert Sunday, April 17.

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