have received an injection of horse serum, and have become sensitive to it, are given another injection of it at some later time.

Use of a serum can often be avoided by being inoculated with a vaccine well in advance of trouble. An injection with a tetanus vaccine, for example, gives a person protection from the danger of the lethal poison of tetanus organisms, should he receive a wound from something that has tetanus spores on it. A vaccination for tetanus could mean that tetanus serum would be unnecessary. This is a factor a person might want to consider since tetanus serum presents a greater risk of bad side effects than the vaccine and also is produced from blood.

In view of the hazards accompanying vaccinations, persons opposing them should be given the right to decline to take the risk of those hazards. Some public officials have shown a disregard for these hazards, possibly because of not being aware of them, and have tried to compel people to be vaccinated. Parents often are confronted with such officials in public schools, who may refuse to let unvaccinated children stay in school. When such officials adamantly refuse to respect their right to refuse vaccinations for their children, the parents must decide whether to let their children be vaccinated so as to remain in school or to find some other way to get them educated. The issue for such persons is not a religious one but one of health risks.

The view held by persons believing that a healthy body does not need vaccinations was presented by *Prevention* magazine of October 1958. It stated: "A basic element in the case against artificial immunization is this: just as outward sanitation has helped rid us of some basic causes of diphtheria, so internal cleanliness of the child's system would surely take care of the rest of the problem. A clean and healthy bloodstream, achieved by a good diet of unrefined foods, healthful exercise and use of food supplements has a high immunity of its own to all infections. There is no need then to inject a new immunizing factor to combat each contagious disease, for the body will manufacture its own as the need to defend itself arises."

Are They Necessary?

There can be little doubt that vaccinations appear to have caused a marked decrease in the number of people contracting certain contagious diseases. During the first thirty years of this century there were thousands of smallpox cases in the United States. From 1920 to 1930 alone, they ran from 30,000 to 100,000 annually, but in recent years there have been only about 55 cases of smallpox annually, with no deaths. Vaccinations also appear to have caused a decline in polio.

Strange as it may seem, epidemic poliomyelitis seems to be a disease peculiar to this sanitary twentieth century. As late as 1887, it was unknown; and in places where the standards of hygiene are low it does not seem to be present. An explanation for this might be in what opponents of vaccination say. *Prevention* magazine of June 1964 mentions that a polio epidemic in one locality was stopped when the children there were put on a diet that eliminated refined sweets such as ice cream, soda, candy and pastry that caused a lowering of their blood sugar. Such things are not eaten to any great extent where standards of living are low.

The highest incidence of polio in the United States was in 1952, when there were 57,879 cases of it. After that the Salk polio vaccine began to be used. Since then polio cases have dropped precipitously. In 1957 they had fallen to 5,000, and for the years 1961 and 1962 there were fewer than 1,000 cases.