

The Moloney Test and Anatoxin Sensitivity.

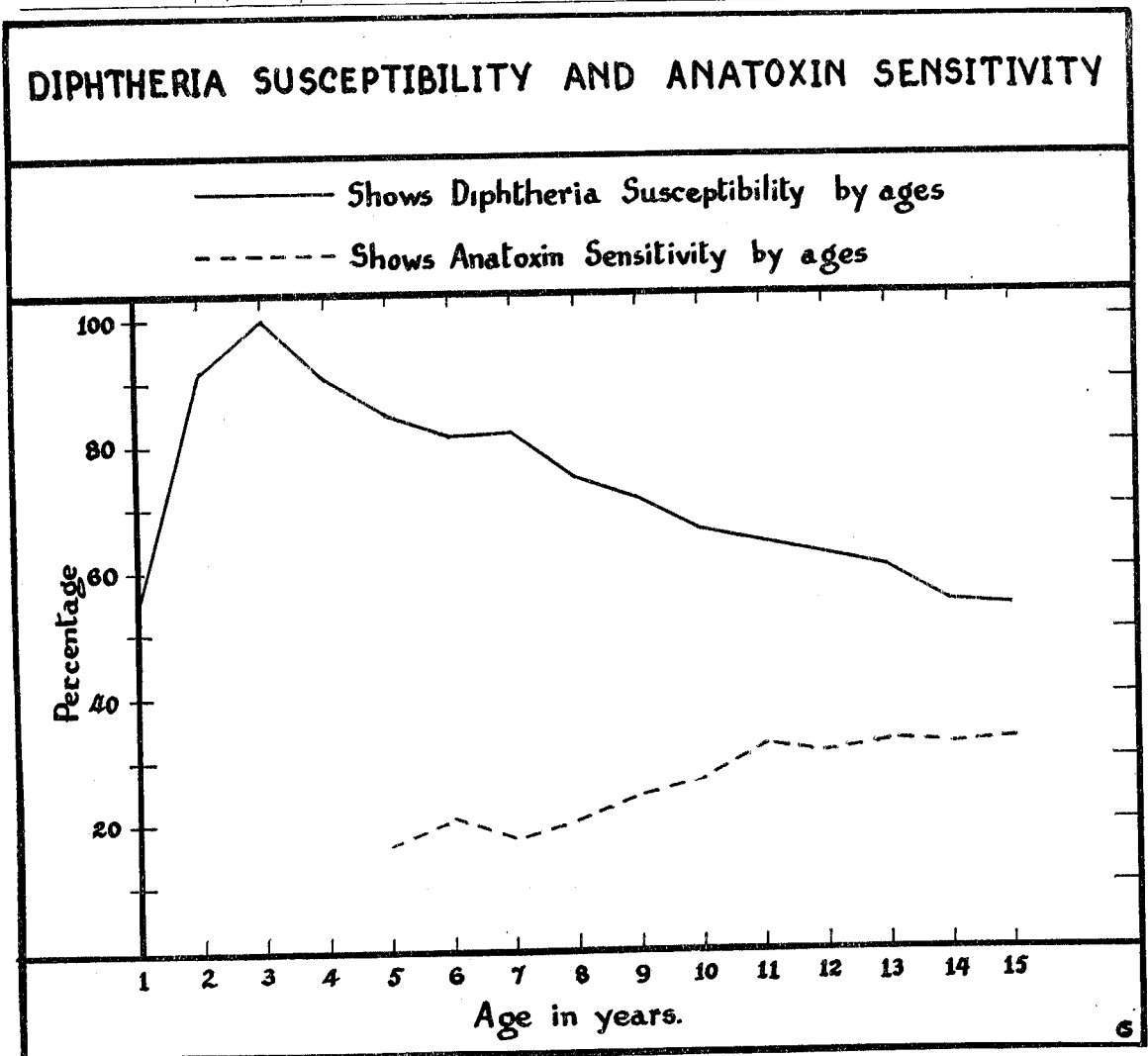
Eight thousand one hundred and forty-one children were Moloney tested. Reactions were graded as follows:—

- + = area of erythema up to 10 m.m. diameter with no induration.
 ++ = area of erythema more than 10 m.m. with slight central induration.
 +++ = area of erythema of 40 m.m. and more, with definite palpable induration.

All +++ reactors were not given anatoxin. ++ reactors received an initial dose of 0.25 c.c. anatoxin, unless they showed more than slight degree induration, when they were rejected. Induration seemed a more reliable guide than erythema as regards eliminating those liable to have reaction to anatoxin. In 1937, of 4,945 Moloney tested, 247, or 5 per cent., were rejected as +++ reactors. In 1938, of 3,196 children tested, 131, or 4 per cent., gave +++ reactions and were not immunized. The sensitivity to anatoxin increases steadily with age, the figures being given in the table, and demonstrated in the accompanying graph.

Anatoxin Sensitivity, 1938.

Age.	Number Tested.	Reactions.				+++	Percent-age.	Total.	Percent-age.
		+	Percent-age.	++	Percent-age.				
5	240	28	11.9	11	4.5	1	0.4	40	16.6
6	306	47	15.3	10	3.2	7	2.2	64	20.9
7	349	48	13.7	9	2.5	5	1.4	62	17.7
8	366	46	12.5	19	5.1	10	2.7	75	20.4
9	344	41	11.9	32	9.3	11	3.1	84	24.4
10	396	53	13.3	38	9.5	16	4.0	107	27.0
11	348	65	18.6	36	10.3	13	3.7	114	32.7
12	336	47	13.9	35	10.4	23	6.8	105	31.2
13	275	38	13.8	32	11.6	21	7.6	91	33.0
14	161	18	11.1	18	11.1	16	9.9	52	32.2
15	51	9	17.6	4	7.8	4	7.8	17	33.3
16	24	0	—	2	8.3	4	16.6	6	25.0
	3,196	440	13.7	246	7.6	131	4.0	817	25.5



A quarter of the children tested in 1938 showed sensitivity to anatoxin. The severe and immunization eliminating +++ reacting exists in less than 1 per cent. at age five years, rising steadily to over 16 per cent. at age sixteen years.