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Subject Matter

Value of Vitamin B₁ (Thiamin) in the Diet of a Modern American Family

Type of Presentation

Current Drama

Approximate Length

Seven Minutes

Source

"LISTEN AMERICA"

(Women's National Emergency Committee and NBC)

1911

VALUE OF VITAMIN B₁ (THIAMIN) IN THE DIET OF A MODERN AMERICAN FAMILY

ANNOUNCER: That happens when we allow ourselves to suffer from a serious lack of Vitamin B₁?

(MUSIC AND UNDER.....)

ANNOUNCER: As our story opens, Dorothy is talking with her younger brother whom she is putting through college.....:(FADE),

DOROTHY: My goodness, just look at you. You'll be on the football squad next Fall ! Honestly, you look like a rhinoceros.

HENRY: (WRYLY) Maybe but you're still losing weight. Why not take it easy -

DOROTHY: (A LITTLE SHARPLY) You sound just like John! He's always talking about my health - and taking it easy. And not working yourself to death.

HENRY: And not starving yourself to death - so you can get me through college.

DOROTHY: (LIGHTLY) Oh, let's not be dramatic about it, Henry.

HENRY: John's right though, Dodo.

DOROTHY: He's not right! He's all wrong!

HENRY: Say you're going to lose John if you carry on this way -

DOROTHY: I don't want to lose him -- but I can't marry him just yet --- Oh, Henry, can't you understand, can't you see you've got to have your chance in life --- you've got to finish college --

HENRY: (GENTLY) Listen, Dodo, I'm going to go to work unless you begin eating right - and stop losing weight.

DOROTHY: You're right. Give me a month. John'll be back on the fifteenth. I'll build myself up. I'll be a different woman. You wait and see!

(MUSIC BRIDGE)

(DISHES - EATING)

JOHN: Why won't you eat your food, darling --

DOROTHY: Oh, John, stop lecturing me. (CHAIR SCRAPE) Let's have some music. (CLICK)

(ORCH: QUICK BURST HOT TUNE)

JOHN: (OVER MUSIC) Dorothy! Don't you get enough noise and excitement working on your newspaper --!

DOROTHY: No, never enough! Never enough noise! (SINGS PHRASE OF RADIO TUNE)

JOHN: (SHOUTS) Stop it!!

(CLICK)

(ORCH: CUT MUSIC)

(PAUSE)

DOROTHY: Why did you do that? What are you looking at me that way for ... think I'm going crazy? -- Well, maybe I am --- say it! ... (ALMOST CRYING) Well, why don't you?

JOHN: (QUIETLY) Dodo, come here and finish your dinner --

DOROTHY: I'm sorry John. You're a dear but I can't eat anything --

JOHN: Dorothy, we've got to have a talk --

DOROTHY: No! Please, please, please! Don't let's start arguing again or I'll scream.

JOHN: Darling, this nightmare can't go on! Do you realize what you're doing to your life -- our life!!

DOROTHY: (SUDDENTLY SHARP) Oh .. stop it! I've heard it all - six hundred times!

JOHN: You're impossible to talk to! You've lost your sense of proportion. It'll only be a question of time before you lose your job --

DOROTHY: (FURIOUSLY) And before I lose you! (COLDLY) Well, if that's the case, I'll make it easy .. You're perfectly free, John. I wouldn't think of trying to hold you ... Well, why don't you go?

JOHN: (HOPELESSLY) All right, Dorothy.

(CHAIR SCRAPE, FOOTSTEPS FADING, DOOR SLAM OFF)

DOROTHY: (HORRIFIED WHISPER) John! Oh, John! I couldn't tell you -- I've already lost my job. And now I've lost you. (FADE OUT)
What am I going to do .. What am I going to do.

(ORCH: TWO CHORDS BLOT OUT SCENE. QUICK SEGUE TO)

VOICE: (WAY OFF MIKE) Calling Dr. Carhart .. Calling Dr. Merton.

(MUSIC OUT)

JOHN: (OFF MIKE) Are you sure she'll be able to leave the hospital soon, Doctor.

DOCTOR: She's absolutely all right, my boy .. Go on in and see her.

(DOOR OPENS)

DOROTHY: (ON MIKE) John! (HAPPILY) Oh, John, I'm so glad you've come!

JOHN: (FADING IN FAST) Darling .. darling ..

DOROTHY: Oh, Johnnie, it's so good to be in your arms.

JOHN: (PUZZLED) Darling, I still don't understand what happened to you.

DOROTHY: It was all appetite and worry, John --

JOHN: But you didn't have any appetite --

DOROTHY: That's just it! Worry makes you lose your appetite, and if you don't eat enough whole cereals or enriched breads and other things with Vitamin B₁, for your nerves, well you worry still more. So you eat less and that's the way you go on -- then -- wham!

JOHN: (TENDERLY) And that's where they picked you up.

DOROTHY: Picked me up is right. The doctor said I was the deadiest looking thing he ever saw. But a week's treatment with Vitamin B₁ -- and here I am! Oh, Johnnie, it's like

MORE

DOROTHY: coming out of a nightmare .. The darkness and pain o f
(CONT.) yesterday are gone forever. And tomorrow, oh, Johnnie
darling, every tomorrow is going to be a beautiful day!

(SHORT MUSIC CURTAIN)