

MEDICINE

# Infantile Paralysis Vaccine Ready for Next Epidemic

## Already Used on Hundreds of Children, Protective Method is Being Given "Final Proof" in West

**M**ORE than 300 children have been successfully vaccinated against infantile paralysis—poliomyelitis to scientists—and thus assured that they will be saved from the deformities and crippling effects of this dread disease, it was revealed to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Two of America's leading disease fighters now concentrating their efforts on this disease, Dr. Maurice Brodie of New York University, Bellevue Hospital and New York City Health Department, and Prof. John A. Kolmer of Philadelphia's Temple University, reported encouraging progress.

And in California, considered an epidemic area for the disease, Dr. Brodie's vaccine is being given "final proof" through the vaccination by Dr. Joe Smith, Kern County health officer, of hundreds of children and adults who have been in contact with the disease. No child had any untoward effect from the vaccine. Vaccinations are continuing.

Dr. Kolmer has used his vaccine on 25 children, among them his two sons, John and David. Both Drs. Brodie and Kolmer tried the new protective first on monkeys, then on themselves and then on fellow medical workers, six in New York and two in Philadelphia, before children were vaccinated.

### Not in Agreement

Not in agreement with Drs. Brodie and Kolmer was Dr. W. Lloyd Aycock of Harvard who considers that protective vaccination is not a practical method of control. A very large part of the population becomes immune to the disease by the time they are grown-up and because of this relatively few contract the disease, Dr. Aycock told the scientists.

Dr. Kolmer disagreed: "Certainly I cannot agree with those who believe that the processes of natural immunization, whatever they may be, are sufficient since so many, especially children, contract the disease before such im-

munity can develop and either succumb or recover badly crippled and handicapped for the balance of life."

The Brodie and Kolmer vaccines are not exactly the same but both consist of the virus or invisible germs of the disease so weakened, attenuated or inactivated by chemicals that instead of producing the sickness they stir up the body to produce the anti-body "soldiers" in the blood to fight later invasions of the infective agents. Dr. Brodie uses formalin and Dr. Kolmer uses sodium ricinoleate made from castor oil beans.

Not yet are these polio vaccines ready for widespread use by physicians, and it will take several years to tell whether the protection conferred is sufficiently lasting to justify their routine use. But Dr. Kolmer's monkeys have stayed immune for a year, whereas the injections of blood from normal healthy

adults during some recent epidemics in hope of conferring protection are known to be of short usefulness.

Thanks to advanced methods of therapy practiced at such places as Warm Springs Foundation founded by President Roosevelt for other poliomyelitis sufferers, the chances of recovery from infantile paralysis are now brighter. Through the vaccines being developed there is the chance that little children may be saved from poliomyelitis and that this disease will join smallpox, diphtheria, typhoid and other conquered diseases.

*Science News Letter, January 5, 1935*

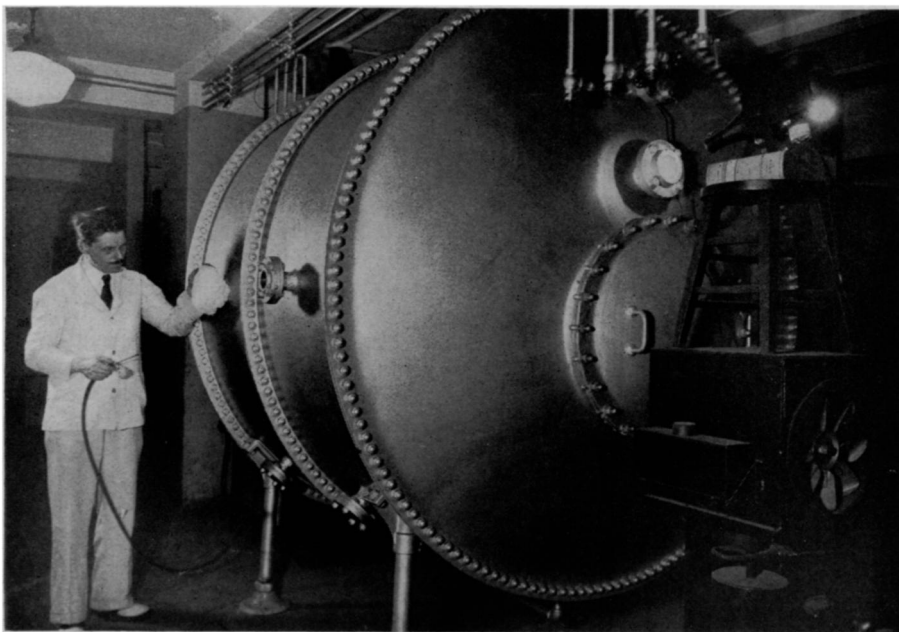
ARCHAEOLOGY

## Stone Age Sculptors Carved Mammoth Bones

**P**REHISTORIC statuettes of women, artistically made from bones of mammoths, have been discovered in the village of Malta, near Irkutsk, Siberia. The figurines were carved in the Solutrean period of the Old Stone Age, which existed in Europe some 25,000 years ago.

With the female figurines, at the camping site of the ancient people, have been unearthed various weapons, household utensils and bones of animals.

*Science News Letter, January 5, 1935*



### FOR TESTING LONGEVITY OF "GERMS"

*This enormous piece of apparatus was constructed by William F. Wells, Harvard School of Public Health, to determine how long various disease "germs" live and remain suspended in the air. In his hand Mr. Wells holds the nozzle by means of which he shot the germs into the huge testing tank. The sampler is hidden by the chamber, but the Tyndall beam by which he observed the inside of the tank is in the upper right.*