

Then the substance, in larger dosage, was given to twelve children exposed to the measles in a hospital ward. After the injection of the substance, none of them "took" the disease.

In a preliminary report, the council of pharmacy and chemistry of the American Medical Association considers the new substance, which is a placental ex-

tract first used experimentally by Dr. C. H. McKann and his co-workers. It regards the product as a promising immunizing agent. Both the council and the journal editor, however, think it to early for doctors to put the extract into general use, until further evidence of its value is available.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1935

PUBLIC HEALTH

Education of Dog Owners Urged as Rabies Preventive

Tendency of Dogs to Bite Varies With Breed; Dogs Bite More Frequently in June Than in "Dog Days"

EDUCATION of dog owners and adequate penalization of owners of biting dogs are important measures for the prevention of rabies, in the opinion of Dr. Robert Olesen, U. S. Public Health Service medical director. Dr. Olesen states these opinions in a report on the control of rabies in New York City.

June, contrary to general opinion, is the number of greatest animal bites in New York City. Animal bites are fewer in the so-called dog-days of July and August, than in May and June.

Some breeds of dogs bite more frequently than others, it appears. Dr. Olesen tentatively lists dog breeds, in order of greatest frequency of bites as follows: German police, chow, poodle, Italian bull, fox terrier (crossed), chow (crossed), airedale, pekinese, German police (crossed).

While this is the order of frequency according to the records in New York City, Dr. Olesen pointed out that popularity of a given breed, for example, which would make many such dogs present in a given community, might affect the listing. Training and environment of dogs undoubtedly plays a considerable part in the infliction of bites and these factors should also be considered, in listing frequency of bites according to breed.

Prevention of rabies by vaccinating the dogs in the community is not practical at present. Anti-rabic vaccination is still in the experimental stage. It should therefore not be relied on, although it is hoped that a successful anti-rabic vaccine will be developed in the future.

Instead Dr. Oleson recommends "Increasingly effective application of such obviously practical methods of licensing, quarantining and the destroying of stray animals."

While he approves thoroughly of such measures as control and observation of the biting animal and Pasteur treatment of the bitten person, Dr. Olesen believes that in addition public health officials should emphasize the need for discrimination in the selection, training, and care of dogs. He suggests decreasing the dog population by weeding out the unfit. Surely animals, unable to distinguish between friend and foe, and vicious animals should be destroyed.

"If dogs were given reasonable consideration and care, as befits their peculiarities when living in close proximity to human beings, it is conceivable that bites would be fewer," he suggests.

Putting the responsibility for preventing dog bites on the owner with adequate penalties for bites inflicted by his animal, should materially reduce the occurrence both of dog bites and of rabies, in Dr. Olesen's opinion.

Rabies prevention costs the city of New York approximately \$100,000 annually. Unlike many other communities, this city does not derive any income from dog licenses. This income goes instead to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The society's animal shelters, however, are available for the observation of dogs that have bitten.

The cost of preventing human and canine rabies Dr. Olesen thinks should be borne by dog owners rather than by the city. He also believes that each person bitten, whether the bite is provoked or unprovoked, should be compensated for his pain, fright, torn clothing and medical expenses.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1935

Tuberculosis takes its heaviest toll between the ages of 15 and 45.

ZOOLOGY

Dog, Hero of Research, Honored by Monument

HONORING the dog, so often the hero and invaluable aid of medical research, a bronze monument will be erected on the grounds of the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine at Leningrad.

The Monument to the Dog, as it is to be called, will be erected at the suggestion of Academician I. Pavlov, whose famous discoveries in physiology were made by means of studies with dogs.

The monument is to be a bronze image of a sitting dog on a pedestal. Bas-reliefs on all four sides of the pedestal will depict separate moments from the life of the dog at Pavlov's laboratory.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1935

ASTRONOMY

New Comet Found During Search for Minor Planets

THE heavens' newest comet, the second to be discovered by and be named after Prof. G. Van Biesbroeck of Yerkes Observatory, consists of a star-like nucleus surrounded by a round nebulosity, without any tail.

Prof. Van Biesbroeck found it on photographic plates exposed with the Yerkes 24-inch reflecting telescope while studying asteroids or minor planets. He then spotted the new comet in the 40-inch telescope.

Several known comets have also been rediscovered by Prof. Van Biesbroeck in past years.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1935

GENETICS

Moth Pest of Beehives Found Scientifically Useful

BEE MOTHS, which are a destructive pest in beehives and are hated by all beekeepers, have found scientific usefulness in the zoology laboratory of the College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Mo. Prof. T. L. Smith of that institution demonstrated before fellow-scientists at the summer meeting of the Genetics Society of America, the results of breeding experiments illustrating certain principles of genetics.

Prof. Smith chose the moth, he said, because it is easily handled under laboratory conditions and is a prolific breeder. He used a wild strain, and has carried it through several generations.

Among the most curious of the progeny that came from these carefully watched