

MEDICINE

Value Of Infantile Paralysis Vaccine Held Doubtful

Brodie-Park Method Termed Safe But of Uncertain Value; Kolmer Vaccine May Even Cause the Disease

VACCINATION of children against infantile paralysis by present methods is of little or no value in protecting the children from the disease. One type of vaccine may not even be safe.

This is the opinion expressed by Dr. Thomas Rivers of the Rockefeller Institute, New York City, and Dr. James P. Leake of the U. S. Public Health Service, at the meeting of the American Public Health Association. These two authorities discussed reports of infantile paralysis vaccination presented by Drs. Maurice Brodie and William H. Park of the New York City Health Department Laboratories and Dr. John A. Kolmer of Temple University, Philadelphia.

The Brodie-Park vaccine was characterized as safe but of doubtful value in protecting children from the dread paralytic disease.

Dr. Kolmer's vaccine was described as being dangerous and of doubtful value. "I don't believe Dr. Kolmer's vaccine is safe," Dr. Leake declared. Dr. Kolmer himself admitted that eight persons given his vaccine subsequently developed infantile paralysis. He believes this is because they had already become infected with the causative virus before given the vaccine. Dr. Rivers, however, disagreed, basing his opinion on study of the reports of the cases, time of exposure and also on the type of vaccine used.

Dr. Kolmer's vaccine is prepared from the infantile paralysis virus by passage through monkeys, and other treatment a process which he believes reduces the infective property of the virus, leaving it capable of stimulating the body's natural defensive forces to resist the disease. This method of weakening the virus has not been proved to be safe, in the opinion of Dr. Rivers and of Dr. Simon Flexner, former director of the Rockefeller Institute. The safety of such a weakened virus is assumed but not proved, Dr. Rivers stated.

The Park-Brodie vaccine is prepared from killed virus. It is safe, apparently, but Dr. Rivers questions its protective value. However, he hopes that this safe vaccine will be tried on a large number

of children so that its value or lack of effectiveness may be determined beyond doubt. Dr. Brodie explained later that he and Dr. Park expect to continue their work for at least another year. They believe that their vaccine gives susceptible children a small amount of resistance to the disease and they hope this amount is enough to "give them a boost" that will see them safely through one or two exposures to infantile paralysis, by which time they may acquire the natural resistance to the disease that many children have without any vaccine.

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GEOGRAPHY

Wax-Seeking Expedition to Fly Over Sea and Jungles

WAX for polishing floors and furniture will be the Golden Fleece of an expedition that started from Florida on Oct. 1, by amphibian plane for the jungles of Brazil. Carnauba wax, the product of a South American palm, is the basic ingredient of all high-grade polishes. Because of increased rainfall in the district which has always been the main source of supply, less and less of this wax has been coming on the market during recent years, and manufacturers are becoming concerned.

For this reason the expedition, headed by H. F. Johnson, Jr., president of one of the larger wax and polish firms, is undertaking the flight, to seek new sources on several of the principal tributaries of the Amazon. A twin-motored Sikorsky is being used, and the flight will total over 20,000 miles before the expedition returns.

In addition to seeking new stands of carnauba palms, the expedition will gather data for the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. The personnel includes a botanist, Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, of the Field Museum Staff.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Largest Photo Map Shows Whole of Connecticut

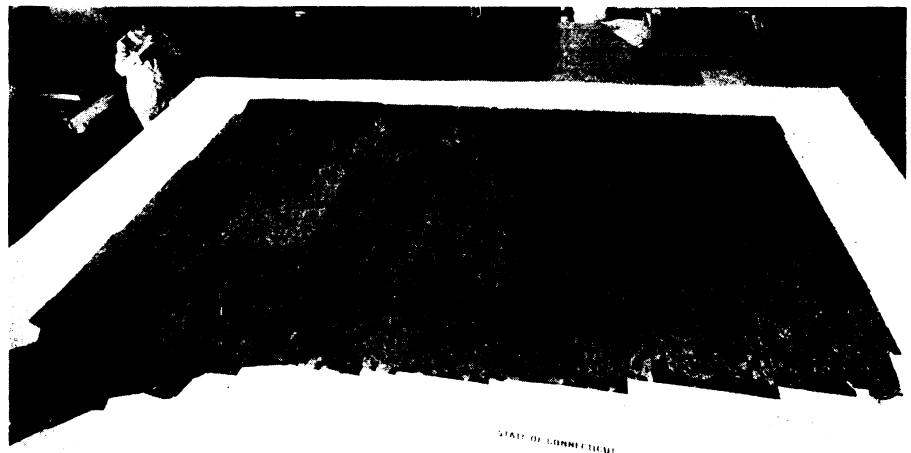
THE WORLD'S largest photographic map, showing every square inch of the 5,004 square miles in the State of Connecticut, will go on display on October 2 at the Tercentenary Industrial Exhibition.

The huge wall map contains 34 large composite prints derived from 10,479 exposures taken by the 43rd Division Air Service, Connecticut National Guard, using new Fairchild aerial mapping cameras. The planes cruised above the state at an altitude of 11,400 feet photographing approximately three and one quarter square miles of territory at each exposure.

The scale of the map will be 1,200 feet to the inch. To study detail, spectators will stand back from the map and view it with field glasses and be able to pick out landmarks in their own localities.

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The word coffee is traced to a city in Ethiopia, called Kahfeh.



WORLD'S LARGEST MAP

Observers use field glasses to examine this photographic map of Connecticut, which is 18 feet across the bottom and 13 feet high, including 234 square feet.