

PUBLIC HEALTH

Do Not Expect National Infantile Paralysis Outbreak

Federal H-Men Have Gone to Field to Study the Tennessee-Alabama Outbreak and to Try New Nose Spray

NO INDICATIONS are seen by U. S. Public Health Service officials that the infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) epidemic in Alabama and Tennessee will reach national proportions. Reports from other parts of the country show no unusual amount of the disease.

Federal health authorities are also encouraged by the fact that the Alabama-Tennessee outbreak is not so severe as the North Carolina epidemic of about the same time last year. Nor does it show any great tendency to spread.

Federal "H-men" led by Dr. Charles Armstrong have gone into the affected areas in order to aid in the application

of the new nose spray which it is hoped will prevent the disease. Developed by Dr. Armstrong and Dr. W. T. Harrison as the result of experimental work on monkeys, the alum-picric acid nasal spray is receiving its first large-scale application in this epidemic.

In the hope of saving some of those who might otherwise fall victims, the nasal spray is being used without any attempt at making a controlled experiment. Physicians and health officers are administering the spray, which is quite harmless, to those who desire it and who can be treated with the facilities available. Undoubtedly a study will be made later to determine whether any

cases of poliomyelitis occur among those who are treated with the spray, but there is no systematic exclusion of some from the treatment in order to have a "normal" group in which the disease might have an unhampered chance to spread, as would be the case if the doctors were conducting a laboratory experiment.

In last year's North Carolina epidemic there was experimental use of vaccines designed to provide artificial immunity to the disease. In the time subsequent to that use medical opinion has developed which has indicated that vaccines should not be used.

Science News Letter, July 25, 1936

MEDICINE

Nasal Spray as Preventive Of Infantile Paralysis

BECAUSE spraying the nose with an alum-picric acid solution has proved effective in preventing poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) in monkeys, it is being used on an experimental basis in combating the Alabama-Tennessee epidemic.

Although the U. S. Public Health Service warns that this new development by two of its surgeons, Drs. Charles Armstrong and W. T. Harrison, "is not at present to be regarded as of proved value in the prevention of poliomyelitis in man," directions have been issued telling how the treatment may be administered.

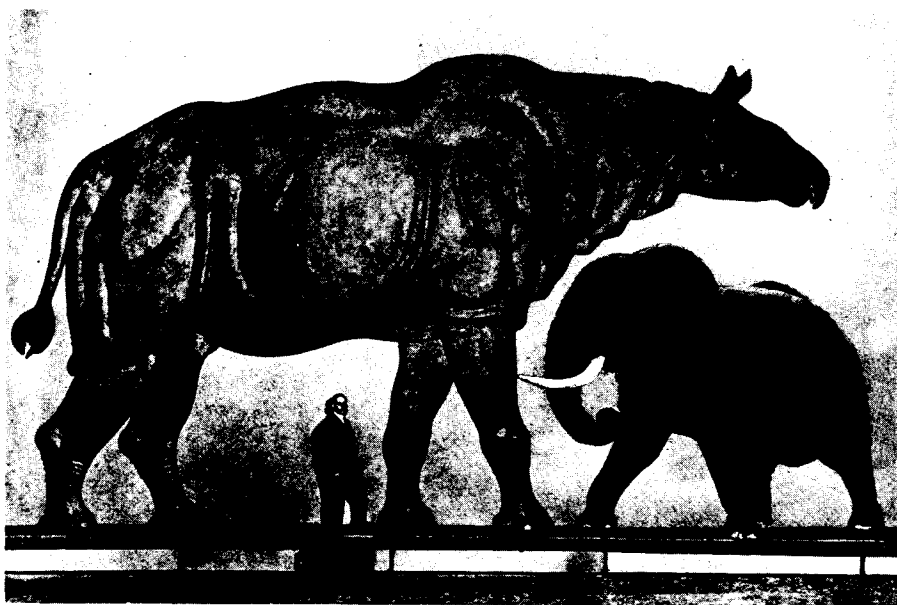
If it is desired to use the solution it should be sprayed into the nostrils three or four times on alternate days, and thereafter weekly during the presence of poliomyelitis. The spray tip should be pointed upward and backward at an angle of about 45 degrees, and the spraying should be thorough enough to reach the pharynx as well, when a bitter taste will be noted. The early applications at least should be administered by a physician.

Still Experimenting

The experimental work on animals is still being pursued. Therefore, the tentative procedure is subject to such changes as may be dictated by future findings.

The most effective solution so far developed during experimentation on monkeys is prepared as follows:

Solution A—Dissolve one gram (1 gm.) of picric acid in 100 cc. of physiological salt solution (0.85%). (Warming facilitates solution of the picric acid.) (*Turn to next page.*)



WORLD'S LARGEST

Baluchitherium, the biggest mammal that ever walked the earth, has a new full-size portrait statue in the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City. John W. Hope, museum staff artist who made the image, stands under his handiwork to give an idea of the extinct monster's tremendous size. It was half again as high as the largest living mammal, the African elephant, and it had a body about twice as bulky as the elephant's. Baluchitherium (the name is Greek for "Beast of Baluchistan") was a 10-ton, 30-foot-long relative of the rhinoceros, that lived in Central Asia 25,000,000 years ago. (See SNL, June 8, 1935, for article on Titan Beasts.)