

PUBLIC HEALTH

Infantile Paralysis Definitely on Decline

NATION-WIDE reports to the U. S. Public Health Service show that the infantile paralysis outbreak is apparently definitely on the decline. Total number of cases from all states but Idaho was 586 for the week ending Sept. 6, compared with 624 for the previous week. Idaho reported only one case for the previous week, so the total figure is not expected to be much changed when her report arrives.

A big jump in human cases of horse "sleeping sickness," or equine encephalomyelitis, was reported from North Dakota. For the week ending Sept. 6 this state reported 151 cases, compared with 98 the previous week. The increase, however, may be due to delayed reports, health authorities explain. Minnesota, South Dakota and Colorado reported fewer cases for the week of Sept. 6 than the previous week. From Wisconsin came a report of 24 cases of encephalitis between Aug. 16 and Aug. 30, but no report for the week of Sept. 6.

From Canada Rockefeller Institute investigators at Winnipeg report that the outbreak in Manitoba apparently was caused by the Western strain of equine encephalomyelitis virus.

Unusually warm weather, abundant rainfall and less mosquito control activity this year than in previous years in Manitoba, also reported by the Rockefeller scientists, seem to strengthen the case against the mosquito as the villain that spreads this disease of horses and man.

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CHEMISTRY

U. S. Scientists Seek Use for Water Chestnut

See Front Cover

EFFORTS to find means for making water chestnut self-liquidating are being made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture at the instance of President Roosevelt. This floating plant pest, introduced into some eastern rivers years ago, blocks navigation channels and has to be kept cleared out. It is especially bad in the Potomac estuary. The President expressed the hope that some use might be found for it that would repay part of the cost of its removal.

The plant in its fresh state contains about 98% of water. The dried residue

consists mainly of cellulose. A quantity of it has been dried and bagged and sent to the Northern Regional Laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering at Peoria, Ill., where cellulose research now centers.

In China, the native home of the weed, its sharp-horned fruits are gathered and the meat extracted for food. It is quite

tasty, too, as any chow-mein devotee can testify. The trouble is, however, that a great deal of hand labor is involved in this use, which makes it impracticably costly in this country. Mass use of the whole plant, by mechanized means, offers the only possible economic solution under American conditions.

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PSYCHOLOGY

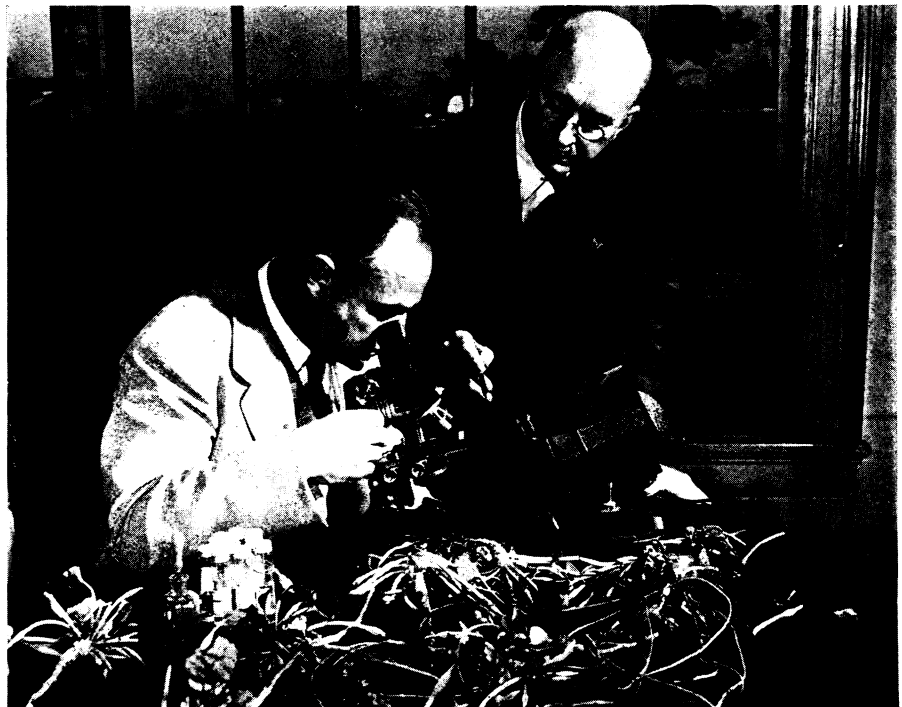
Electric Shock Treatment Causes Partial Memory Loss

Amnesia Greatest for Period Near the Treatment; May Be an Advantage in Preventing Dread of Shock

ELECTRIC shock treatment used to jolt a mental patient out of his dream world back into sanity has been found to cause a partial loss of memory, Dr. Joseph Zubin of the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital, told the American Psychological Association meeting in Evanston, Ill. It was at Dr. Zubin's institution that the electric shock treatment was given for the first time in the United States in June 1940.

After reports that patients who had had the shock treatment found it difficult, following the shock, to remember where they lived or whether they had had the treatment, Dr. Zubin made some careful tests of memory before and after the shocks.

The test was to memorize and later recall a list of groceries such as coffee or sugar together with some invented "brand" names.



HUNTING FOR VALUE

Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, is explaining to Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard the structure of the leaves of the water chestnut which is being tested for possible uses at the request of President Roosevelt.