

MEDICINE

Hospitalization Urged

Immediate intensive treatment seen as best solution for syphilis problem for the duration of the war. Clinic patients often not cooperative.

► FOR THE duration of the war, at least, all uncooperative patients with early syphilis who come to public health clinics should be put into hospitals and treated by one of the intensive methods, in the opinion of Dr. H. N. Cole, Dr. E. B. Heisel and Dr. George Stroud III, of Cleveland.

The crux of the syphilis problem, they point out (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Oct. 2), is that the disease is most prevalent among the most ignorant and least cooperative part of the population. These patients will come to the clinic for a few treatments and then stop coming in spite of all efforts to keep them returning until they have had enough treatment to cure them or at least make them non-infectious. In Cleveland these patients not only stop coming to the clinic but get lost "so effectually that not even their draft boards can find them."

The intensive treatment methods are those in which the total amount of arsenicals believed necessary to cure a patient is given in a relatively short time, either by continuous drip into the vein or by repeated single injections of large doses. In some methods, fever treatment is combined with the medical

treatment. With these methods, the Cleveland doctors point out, the doctor is at least sure that when the patient leaves the hospital he or she has the necessary amount of medicine "under his or her skin."

A certain number of patients will relapse after these intensive, short time treatments, whereas with the slower 18 months schedule relapses are believed to be few in those who complete the full course of treatment. The number who relapse after the short, intensive treatment schedule, the Cleveland doctors state, will be small compared to the number who stop treatment too soon on the slower schedule.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1943

ENGINEERING

Non-Skid Plastic Contains Particles of Garnets

► NON-SLIP DECK covering on battleships, particularly around the great guns, which eliminate largely the hazard to men passing the ammunition, has recently been developed, thoroughly tested, and now is in use. Garnets, pulverized into coarse grains, supply the non-skid property.

This new deck covering, which is now fire-proof as well as non-skid, was developed by the Goodyear Research Laboratory, Akron, Ohio. It is manufactured by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. It replaces the older battleship linoleum, sand boxes and special paints formerly used.

The new material consists of abrasive particles held in a special plastic synthetic resin binder that has the ability to stick to the smooth steel surface of a battleship or similar structure. It can be applied with a trowel or, more quickly, by spraying it with an ordinary spray gun.

The abrasive particles used in the plastic are usually ground garnets. Alundum may be used also. This is a product obtained by fusing aluminum oxide in an electric furnace. It, like the garnets, when reduced to coarse grains or particles, sometimes called grits, has

exceedingly sharp hard edges and corners which add greatly to the non-skid characteristics.

The coating of this garnet-holding plastic which is applied to the decks is about ten times as thick as coatings of paint. The hard abrasive particles carry the weight of passing bodies making the covering durable with unusual wearing qualities.

The material as shipped is a viscous fluid in metal containers ready for use. It can be applied to steel, wood and concrete. It dries in a few hours. Low temperatures do not affect it, nor do ordinary high temperatures encountered in hot climates. It resists the corrosive action of oil, salt, sulfur, soap and other scrubbing materials.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1943

PHYSICS

National Center Purchased For Physics Profession

► A NATIONAL center for the physics profession will be established in a building just purchased in New York City, the American Institute of Physics has announced.

It will serve as the hub of scientific activities in physics which are playing an important part in the war and promise major post-war industrial developments. Rapid growth of the profession in the last 20 years made the move from rented space necessary, it was pointed out.

A campaign is now being conducted among American physicists and friends of physics to finance the project.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1943

PHYSIOLOGY

Drivers Over 40 Should Have Their Eyes Tested

► DRIVERS over 40 should have their eyes tested more frequently than younger drivers as a precaution against driving hazards due to visual defects, according to a report issued by the American Automobile Association.

Every fifth person applying for a driver's license wears glasses, but it was found that three out of every five persons applying for a driver's license at the age of 60 wear glasses.

For those under 40, every eighth person wears glasses. This proportion holds true irrespective of whether the 20-year or 40-year group is considered. But the number using glasses increases rapidly after 40.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1943

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