

MEDICINE

Benadryl Treats Hives

This new drug that is used for hayfever treatment relieves hives, or urticaria, by lessening itching and reducing swelling. It is given by mouth.

➤ **BENADRYL**, a new drug that has come into use in treatment of hayfever, is now pronounced "highly effective" in the treatment of hives.

Drs. Paul A. O'Leary and Eugene M. Farber, of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., report to the medical profession through the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (July 19), that some patients who have had chronic hives for years, trying unsuccessfully a large array of therapies, were relieved within a few hours by swallowing small doses of Benadryl.

The drug was also very effective in acute cases of urticaria (which is what doctors call hives) caused by some medical injection or something a person has eaten. Usually an attack of such temporary hives subsides in a few days or weeks, but relief from the itching occurs in 20 to 60 minutes after the first dose of Benadryl is taken and the swelling is reduced in 2 to 6 hours.

In 35 patients with such acute hives, 20 were completely relieved in one to two days, 12 were improved with itching reduced and fewer and smaller wheals and three patients were not benefited.

Those with chronic hives must continue to take the drug to prevent the trouble from recurring. Of 75 chronic urticaria patients, 48 were entirely relieved while they were taking Benadryl, 17 had fewer lesions and less itching, and 10 obtained no benefit. A third of the patients had some harmful reactions to the drug, but only a few were sufficiently severe to stop the use of the drug.

Two other conditions that involve skin swelling and produce stiffness and inability to move one's fingers responded to Benadryl treatments. These ills are known as scleroderma and acrosclerosis.

The drug is given by mouth and Drs. O'Leary and Farber recommend that the treatment should begin with small doses administered three times a day, increasing gradually to discover what regular dose is needed to relieve the condition.

Benadryl is a white powder that has the chemical name, betadimethyl aminoethyl benzohydryl ether hydrochloride, and it is manufactured by Parke Davis and Company.

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AERONAUTICS

Twin-Engine Helicopter Carries Twelve Persons

➤ THE U. S. ARMY has a new helicopter. It is its largest craft of the helicopter type, and can carry 10 passengers in addition to pilot and copilot. It features overlapping rotors.

It is of all-metal construction, a twin-engine affair, with two sets of rotors placed relatively close together and lifting blades that overlap as they turn, somewhat like the blades of the ordinary household egg-beater. This arrangement eliminates the need for a separate rotor at the tail to counteract torque or any tendency to get off its forward course.

The new helicopter, to be known in military circles as the XR-10, is a product of Kellett Aircraft Corporation, North Wales, Pa. Flying tests have already been completed. It has a maximum forward speed of over 100 miles an hour, and a range of 350 miles at a cruising speed of 90 miles an hour.

While the best known helicopters are one-engine craft with limited passenger capacity, there are other twin-rotor helicopters. One is a Navy craft, built by the P.V. Engineering Forum, Inc., Philadelphia. This is an elongated craft, resembling somewhat a suspended rowboat, with rotors at the front and rear ends. It carries a total of 12 persons, including pilot and assistant.

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AAF'S LARGEST—Army's new 12-person helicopter, all metal, has rotors that overlap as they turn much like the blades of an egg-beater; the Kellett XR-10 has speed of over 100 miles an hour.

BOTANY

Rubber Tree Seedlings Seem Immune to Disease

➤ RUBBER TREES that seem resistant to the destructive leaf-spot disease have been brought out of the jungles of Brazil by Prof. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., of William and Mary College, and introduced into cultivation at the Instituto Agrônômico del Norte at Belém.

They belong to a different species from *Hevea brasiliensis*, the disease-susceptible plantation rubber tree. Their botanical name is *Hevea rigidifolia*; the species is not nearly so abundant as its cultivated cousin.

As actual yielders of latex, the new trees have little value. However, because they can be crossed with the plantation rubber tree species there is hope that they can be used in breeding to render the latter more resistant to leaf-spot disease.

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