

## PHYSIOLOGY-CHEMISTRY

# Warn of X-Ray Dangers

Doctors point out that permanent skin damage leading to cancer and death may follow use of X-rays or atom bomb by-products to remove hair from face and body.

► PERMANENT skin damage leading to cancer and death may follow use of X-rays or atom bomb by-product chemicals used to remove excessive hair from face and body, Dr. Anthony C. Cipollaro of New York and Dr. Marcus B. Einhorn of Albany, N. Y., warn. (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Oct. 11.) Their report is authorized by the A.M.A. council on physical medicine for the guidance of doctors.

More than 50 cases of cancer developing five, six and as long as 20 years after treatment with a so-called safe X-ray system for removing hair are briefly recorded in their report. Thousands more probably occurred.

"A new monster is now lurking around the corner," the two physicians state. "It is hoped that the danger can be forestalled and girls and young women can be saved from the agonizing pain suffered by their sisters two decades ago.

"Even boys and young men may be

subjected to the same danger because a patent has been issued for the 'X-Ray Razor.'"

The immediate results of X-ray treatment for removing excessive hair are always good, they state. It takes months or years for the skin trouble to develop and still longer for ulcers, cancer and death to occur.

Present interest in radioactive chemicals, called radioisotopes, from the atom bomb pile might, the physicians think, lead some one to the idea of using a solution or other preparation of such a chemical for removal of excessive hair. On this particular atomic age danger they state:

"There is no question whatever in the minds of physicians that radioactive isotopes can cause permanent defluvium (sudden loss of the hair) but at the same time can so damage the skin that all the changes associated with a radio-dermatitis (skin trouble), including the malignant changes, will be manifested."

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1947*

## MEDICINE

# New Vaccine To Be Tested

► WIDE-SCALE tests of a new vaccine that may stop a disease of both man and cattle and at the same time increase the quantity of milk for human consumption are getting underway in Michigan.

The vaccine, developed by Dr. I. Forrest Huddleson, bacteriologist of Michigan State College, is for undulant fever. Known also as Malta fever and brucellosis, this disease attacks cows, pigs and goats. Humans get it from infected animals and particularly from unpasteurized milk from infected cows. In humans, it is a tedious, long, weakening disease with frequent relapses. It is occasionally fatal.

Some 220,000,000 pounds of milk are lost each year in Michigan alone because of the disease in dairy cows, it is estimated.

No harmful effects on breeding or milk production were caused by the vaccine in preliminary tests on cows. Almost half, 43%, of animals suspected

of harboring undulant fever germs, were free of infection after being vaccinated.

The great value of the vaccine is expected to come through the possibility of preventing the spread of the disease in animals of recently infected herds. This will make it possible to eliminate infected animals, immunize the remainder and have not only a disease free herd but one which is immune to further attack from the disease.

The Michigan State College laboratory is prepared to produce the vaccine in quantities to treat 2,000 cattle daily. Distribution within the state through registered veterinarians has been authorized by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture. None will be available outside Michigan until Dr. Huddleson and associates learn more about the vaccine's effectiveness, work out distribution problems and apply for a federal license.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1947*



**NEW SPECIES**—This native American yellow lily discovered in the South has been given the botanical name, *Lilium iridollae*, meaning "pot-o'-the-rainbow."

## BOTANY

## New Native American Lily Discovered in South

► A NEW species of native American lily, of rare golden beauty and delicate fragrance, has been discovered in extreme southern Alabama and the western tip of the Florida panhandle by Mrs. Mary G. Henry of Gladwyne, Pa. The recurved segments of its nodding flowers are described as warm buff-yellow to golden yellow in color, conspicuously spotted with brown.

Mrs. Henry, a great lover of lilies, had for years hoped that her searchings afield might some day be rewarded with a really new species, like the fabled pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. When her wish came true, she decided to give the flower a botanical name meaning "pot-o'-the-rainbow". So the species has been formally christened *Lilium iridollae*.

Although native to the South, the new lily seems to be at least fairly hardy in the North. Its discoverer has grown new plants from seed, and both the bulbs and the winter rosettes have survived the cold of Pennsylvania winters.

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Plastic beads, as well as glass beads, are now used in making artificial pearls; the plastic type is said to hold the natural or synthetic pearl essence used as a coating better than the glass bead.