

MEDICINE

Thyroid Saves Unborn

Daily doses of this gland extract have been found to help women who lose their babies prematurely to give birth to living infants.

➤ MANY of the women who lose their babies prematurely may be helped to give birth to living infants by small daily doses of thyroid extract. Studies showing this were reported by Dr. Eleanor Delfs of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine to the Southern Medical Association meeting in Baltimore.

In 31 of 45 patients she studied, a deficiency of thyroid hormone was found. Deficiencies of a sex hormone and of vitamin E occurred in a few of the cases. The thyroid extract should be given starting three to four months before the woman undertakes to have a child and should be continued during the pregnancy. Failure to start the hormone treatment early enough probably accounts for disappointments in some cases in which it has been used in the past.

In addition to the hormone treatment, vigorous sports, strenuous activity and

hard work are banned throughout pregnancy for these patients. Sedentary work and ordinary household duties are permitted, but the women are warned to avoid getting over-tired. It is usually not necessary for them to have long periods of rest in bed.

Of 39 patients who had previously had 155 pregnancies, only 12 bore living babies. These same women, after study and treatment, have borne 29 living infants in 43 pregnancies.

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AERONAUTICS

British Airliner Small Compared to Hercules

➤ THE British are boasting that their new Brabazon I airliner is bigger than anything which has yet flown, but it is far outclassed in size by the Hughes Hercules flying boat now under surface

taxi tests, which recently made one short flight.

The Brabazon has a wingspan of 230 feet, the Hughes craft has a spread of 320 feet. The fuselage of the British airliner is 177 feet, the American flying boat is 220 feet long. Comparisons may not be exactly fair, for one will use landing fields, the other the water.

Although the British giant aircraft has not flown yet it is out of the hangar where it was constructed.

The Brabazon is a 126-ton craft, designed for passenger-carrying from London to New York. It will be able to accommodate 120 persons, or a total of 24,000 pounds.

The carrying capacity of the Hercules, primarily a cargo craft, is not yet known but is estimated to be four times that of the war-tested veteran Martin Mars which on one trip carried 35,000 pounds of cargo. The Mars is 220 feet in wingspan and approximately 117 feet in overall length.

Size alone is not the only point of interest in the eight-engine Hercules. It is of plywood construction rather than of the usual light metals such as aluminum and aluminum alloys. This plywood consists of built-up panels and beams of very thin sheets of wood, with each alternate layer laid crosswise, and the whole strongly bonded with a resin.

Hughes' Hercules flying boat, which has proved that it can fly, also has a rival in weight-carrying capacity in the new giant land-based Air Force transport, the Consolidated-Vultee XC-99, which is now undergoing flight tests.

The XC-99 is estimated to be able to carry 400 troops or 100,000 pounds of cargo. The Hughes boat could probably carry 600 troops.

The new XC-99 is a cargo brother of the B-36, the Air Force's biggest bomber, which is roughly 40% larger than the famed B-29 Superfortress. It will have a range of 1,500 miles fully loaded, but with reduced load can fly non-stop some 8,000 miles. This means that the bomber could take off from the new airport under construction in northeastern Maine, deliver bombs to western or central Europe and return without a stop.

While the XC-99 is designed particularly for cargo carrying, it can also be used for the transportation of airborne troops. It is powered by six Pratt-Whitney engines of the pusher type, turning 19-foot reversible-pitch propellers. It has a cruising speed of about 300 miles an hour. Its wingspan is 230 feet and its length is about four-fifths of this.

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RIVAL—In weight carrying capacity, this new giant transport rivals Hughes' Hercules flying boat. The Consolidated-Vultee XC-99 is the world's largest land-based plane and the Air Force's largest transport capable of carrying 100,000 pounds of cargo.