

MEDICINE

New Seasickness Aid Found

➤ A SYNTHETIC chemical made to relieve hay-fever, hives and other allergies has turned into probably the best remedy and preventive yet found for seasickness and other forms of motion sickness. The chemical is called Dramamine. The lucky accident that revealed its anti-seasickness possibilities and an Army sponsored experiment proving them were reported by Drs. Leslie N. Gay and Paul Carliner of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at a meeting of the Johns Hopkins Medical Society, in Baltimore.

When the drug was on trial at the hospital's allergy clinic, it was given to a woman with hives who incidentally had suffered all her life from carsickness. Unexpectedly, the carsickness was relieved as well as the hives. The drug gave complete relief if the woman took one capsule a few minutes before boarding a streetcar.

The Hopkins scientists then tried it on other patients who got carsick or airsick. They were all completely free of discomfort if they took the drug just before getting on car or plane.

Seasickness trials were made last summer on the U.S.S. America. They were so encouraging that the drug was reported to the Chief of Staff and the Surgeon Gen-

eral of the Army. Seasickness was an especial problem to the Army during the war. Many drugs were tried but those apparently successful produced other symptoms as seriously handicapping as the motion sickness itself. Dramamine is without this disadvantage.

A special study of seasickness was carried out on the Army transport General Ballou during a voyage from New York to Bremerhaven last December with 1,376 men aboard. The Ballou, built originally for the Pacific, was chosen because its narrow, high construction promised a rough mid-winter Atlantic crossing with the likelihood of much seasickness.

One group of men was given the drug as a preventive. They got a capsule as the ship left the harbor, six hours later and then before each meal and before retiring. Less than two percent who got the preventive doses developed seasickness. Of those given the drug to cure seasickness after it had developed, all but three percent got complete relief.

Dramamine is not yet available commercially. It is made by the G. D. Searle and Co. of Chicago. Its full chemical name is betadimethylaminoethyl benzohydril ether 8-chlorothioophyllinate.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1949

indicate that progress is more nearly equal at present.—M. L. Pool, Ohio State University.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1949

Mint-growing, in the Pacific Northwest, is becoming an important farm activity now producing a \$4,000,000 crop; oil distilled from the *peppermint* is used as flavoring in chewing gum, medicines and candy.

The West Texas-New Mexico oil region now has over 27,000 petroleum-producing wells, yielding 857,000 barrels daily.

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Letters To The Editor

Progress More Nearly Equal

➤ IN reference to my report titled "British Lead in Bevatron" SNL, Feb. 19, it is true that last autumn England was leading the world in the development of billion-electron-volt accelerators. This fact probably prompted the acceleration on the accelerator program now in operation in the U. S.

I have just returned from the New York meeting of the American Physical Society and the Berkeley meeting of the American Physical Society and find that the statement that could be made last autumn is not applicable now.

The recent developments in this country in the construction of machinery for this billion-electron-volt energy range seem to

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