

MEDICINE

Pregnancy Illness Relief

► RELIEF from the nausea and vomiting which afflict one-fourth to one-half of expectant mothers may be had through daily doses of the new anti-seasickness remedy, Dramamine, scientists at Johns Hopkins University and Hospital in Baltimore are finding.

Complete relief of symptoms three hours after taking the drug was experienced by 31 of 43 women, Drs. Paul E. Carliner, H. Melvin Radman and Leslie N. Gay reported in the journal, *SCIENCE* (Aug. 26).

These 43 women had suffered nausea and vomiting for four to six weeks. A number of remedies, including some of the B vitamins, sedative drugs and psychiatric treatment, had failed to relieve their symptoms.

Substitute pills of milk sugar (lactose) that looked just like the Dramamine pills were given to 10 women, without their knowing the change had been made. Dramamine had controlled their symptoms, but when they got the substitute pills they relapsed. They regained their normal health after Dramamine was given again.

The drug failed to give relief to 12 of the 43 women.

Although nausea and vomiting may affect as many as half of all expectant mothers, the severity varies. Frequently it is necessary for the patients to be taken to a hospital for treatment because of the dehydration, or loss of water, that occurs. The cause of the condition has never been established. Occasionally, about once in 15,000 pregnancies, the condition is so severe that it is necessary to stop the pregnancy to save the mother.

The results with Dramamine in this condition are so encouraging that an extensive comparative study is being made at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dramamine was developed by scientists at G. D. Searle and

Co. of Chicago as a possible remedy for hayfever and other allergies. Its value in stopping car sickness, accidentally discovered through the experience of an allergy patient at the Johns Hopkins allergy clinic, led to its trial, with successful results, as a remedy for other forms of motion sickness, including seasickness and airsickness.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1949

ICHTHYOLOGY

Fish Can Feed Millions In Warm Parts of Earth

► FISH can feed the millions of growing population in the warm parts of the earth, a leading Indian zoologist stated at the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources at Lake Success, N. Y. Almost any little body of water can be made to produce food at less cost and with a yield much higher than can be obtained from dry land farming.

Dr. Sunder Lal Hora, who is director of India's Zoological Survey at Calcutta, recommended that other countries follow the example of China, India and other Asiatic nations in raising fish for food, often in the same fields that rice is grown.

Not only do fish produce food for the table but they control the disease of malaria by feeding on the larvae of these insects.

A great advantage of fish farming is that it utilizes materials of the soil and added waste material without competing with ordinary farming.

Often two species of fish eating different kinds of food can be grown in the same pond, making the water do double duty.

Little capital is needed to start fish farming, Dr. Hora said, and pond culture pro-

motes a happy village life as well as furnishing needed addition of protective food to the diet.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1949

Wild burros are the worst threat to the vegetation and water supplies in some western national parks.

The *fishing industry*, one of America's oldest, is composed of about 4,000 shore establishments, 8,000 vessels of five tons or more, and 73,000 smaller fishing craft.

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