

MEDICINE

Mumps Mocks Chick Ill

► A BLOOD relation between mumps in humans and a serious poultry sickness, called Newcastle disease, has been discovered.

Half the patients recovering from mumps have in their blood factors which react against the virus of the poultry disease as if they had actually had this chicken sickness, Erwin Jungheer, Roy E. Luginbuhl and Lawrence Kilham, of the University of Connecticut and Harvard School of Public Health, report in the journal, *SCIENCE* (Sept. 30).

Newcastle disease has been reported spreading to human beings. So far, only five cases in humans that have been confirmed by isolation of the virus that causes it have been reported. The first two confirmed cases in the United States were discovered less than a year ago by Dr. W. L. Ingalls and Ann Mahoney of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Ohio State University.

The Connecticut and Harvard group warn that the diagnosis of Newcastle disease in humans should be made with caution, since their discovery that blood from recovering mumps patients may contain factors suggesting the person had the chicken disease.

The Ohio cases that were proved by isolating the virus occurred in a broiler plant operator and a junior veterinary student. The broiler plant operator came to the

poultry diagnostic laboratory at Ohio State University bringing several of his chickens for diagnostic purposes. While he was there, Dr. Ingalls noticed that the flock owner had a definite inflammation (conjunctivitis) of his left eye. The flock owner said he had had this for three days and that it started three days after sickness was noted among his chickens. A little of the pus in the corner of his eye was removed on a cotton swab and in this the virus of Newcastle disease was discovered.

The veterinary student apparently got his infection from chickens he was examining after they had died of the disease. Details of both these cases are reported in the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH* (June). Both patients recovered within a few days.

The eye inflammation is a typical symptom of the disease in humans. The nervous system and respiratory tract are also affected, according to a report from the American Veterinary Medical Association. Chief signs of the sickness in chickens, this association states, are a high death rate among the young chicks and a sharp reduction in laying rate among mature fowl.

The virus that causes the disease is said to resemble closely human influenza virus A and B. Vaccines are the chief means of combatting the disease among poultry.

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he gets started and so these statements point him out:

"I go on a bender at least once a month."

"I usually pass out after I start drinking."

"I often have blackouts when I am drinking."

Men alcoholics appear to be more consistent drinkers and show stronger preferences for drinking than do women addicts. Women show much less control over their drinking, think up more reasons for their drinking and display more emotional immaturity than do men.

Dr. Manson's complete report appears in the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY* (Sept.).

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ELECTRONICS

One Electron Beam Controls Another Stream

► A NEW kind of electron tube promising advantages in television and radio has been developed at the famous Philips Lamp Works Research Laboratories, Eindhoven, The Netherlands. In it a beam of electrons controls another ribbon of rushing electrons, which are the smallest particles of electricity.

Other devices approaching the effect of this new tube have not given very large voltage differences, while the new tube is so positive that it is expected to have commercial usefulness.

So small is an electron that if one is sent across a beam of electrons the chance is very small it will pass close enough to any other electron to influence it or deflect it from its original path.

The two Philips scientists, J. L. H. Jonker and A. J. W. M. van Overbeek, worked out a small tube with grid, screen and conducting walls that allows one beam to lower the potential in the space where the other electron beam crosses. The passage of one stream can be modified or completely stopped by the other beam.

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PHYSIOLOGY-ANTHROPOLOGY

Living at High Altitudes Causes Racial Variety

► LIVING at the high altitudes of the Andean mountains may have brought about new racial characteristics in the Indians there, Dr. Carlos Monge M., Peruvian physiologist, has suggested.

The differences in the culture and in the behavior patterns of the Indians of Peru and Ecuador might be explained by the high altitudes, Dr. Monge told the Twenty-ninth International Congress of Americanists meeting in New York. Blood and chemical indexes for humans living at sea level, at 1000 feet and at extremely high altitudes were established by Dr. Monge.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Test Detects Alcoholics

► THE alcoholic addict can be distinguished from the social drinker by a simple paper-and-pencil test, Dr. Morse P. Manson, of the Birmingham Veterans Administration Hospital, Van Nuys, Calif., reports.

From the answers given by a man or woman to 60 simple yes-no questions, a physician can tell whether to advise the person never to touch liquor or whether it is safe for him to drink in moderation.

"I drink because I am unlucky in love." This is one of the items which sets the alcoholic addict apart from non-alcoholics and the social drinker. The alcoholic can think up many more reasons for his drinking than does the social drinker.

"A drink or two is the best way to get quick energy or pep," is another in this same category.

The alcoholic is a very emotionally immature person who is often hypersensitive, Dr. Manson found. Among the items that bring out this personality trait are the following:

"Drinking puts me at ease with people."

"I drink to get over my feelings of inferiority."

"A drink or two before a conference, interview, or social affair helps me very much."

"I take a drink or two before a date."

The alcoholic addict is a steady drinker and so he is betrayed by his answers to these statements:

"I often take a drink or two in the middle of the afternoon."

"I drink about a pint or more of whisky a week."

"I get drunk about every pay day."

The alcoholic is frequently an under-socialized individual who shuns social occasions. He prefers drinking over other activities. That is why he answers no to the following questions.

"I would rather go to a dinner or banquet than drink."

"I would rather attend a lecture or concert than drink."

"I would rather go to a movie than drink."

The addict cannot stop drinking once