

MEDICINE

Hormones Aid Arthritics

►HOPE for chemical conquest of arthritis and related diseases grows from encouraging results of a trial of three non-scarce hormone chemicals in treatment of the disease.

The chemicals used are male and female hormones or derivatives of these. Their names are: testosterone propionate, estradiol esters, and pregnenolone. They belong to a class of chemicals known as steroids. Steroid chemicals are also believed to be a possible starting source for cortisone, the adrenal cortical hormone which scientists at the Mayo Clinic discovered was effective in relieving arthritis pain and disability. Cortisone at present is synthesized from ox bile acids by a complicated process and is still very scarce.

The three sex hormone chemicals were given for from four to 12 weeks to 90 patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Of these, 81 "went into a remission," that is, were free of pain, swelling and morning stiffness and had a normal appetite and a sense of well-being.

These results are reported by Drs. William K. Ishmael, Arthur A. Hellbaum, John F. Kuhn and Miss Mary Duffy of the

McBride Clinic and the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in the OKLAHOMA STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Although the results are better than with any treatment previously used by the doctors, who have not yet used large doses of cortisone, they warn that the results and length of observation time "do not warrant at present the use of these substances as a 'treatment' or a 'cure'".

They caution further that these chemicals are "potentially dangerous when given over a long period of time." The value of the chemicals, in their opinion, is twofold: 1. Since they are in plentiful supply and not too costly, they may provide a stop-gap treatment. 2. They may provide another clue to development of a real chemical remedy or cure for arthritis.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

CHEMISTRY

Heat, Oxygen Blamed for Color Fading of Juices

►HEAT and oxygen are the real culprits causing the fading of stored fruit juices,

although the blame is often put on light.

Cool storage protects the color of fruit juice far better than dark storage, scientists at the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station have reported.

Grape, tomato, cherry, currant, raspberry, strawberry and blueberry juices were studied for color changes after six months' storage. Those with naturally high color suffered the most, cherry, grape and tomato juices being the most stable.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

On This Week's Cover

►THE new supersonic jet fighter, the Vickers Supermarine 510, which was shown at the British Aircraft Constructors Display, Farnborough, England, is claimed to be capable of reaching a speed faster than sound. The Royal Air Force is to be equipped with this aircraft which is still on the secret list.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

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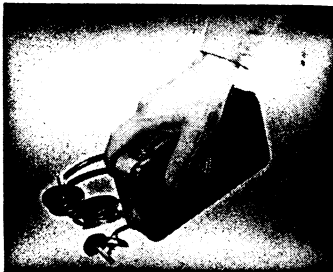
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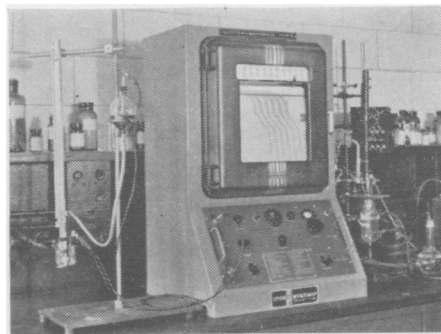
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