

MEDICINE

Tibione May Fight TB

Treatment of TB with a new German synthetic drug has given "most impressive" results. It would be used together with streptomycin in TB treatment.

➤ A NEW weapon may soon be available for the fight against tuberculosis. It is a German synthetic drug called Tibione.

More than 7,000 patients have been treated with the drug in Germany during the past two years, with "most impressive" results in some forms of tuberculosis.

Tibione is untried and almost unknown in this country. But at the Eighth Streptomycin Conference in Atlanta, Ga., Drs. H. Corwin Hinshaw of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., and Dr. Walsh McDermott of the New York Hospital—Cornell Medical Center, New York, reported results of a survey they made in Western Germany in September of the trials German physicians have made of Tibione.

"Tibione," Dr. Hinshaw said, "appears to have antituberculous activity of the same general order as para-amino-salicylic acid and a potential toxicity about like the arsenicals used in the treatment of syphilis."

If no "superior" anti-TB chemicals are developed, he said, a drug with these apparent degrees of anti-TB activity and toxicity would be "an important addition" to currently available germ-fighting chemicals.

"It is virtually certain," he declared, "that Tibione will not replace streptomycin but would be used together with streptomycin in the treatment of tuberculosis."

The American physicians were most impressed with the results obtained in Tibione treatment of certain serious complications of extensive tuberculosis of the lungs, especially tuberculosis of the larynx (voice box) and of the intestinal tract.

The drug is not sufficiently powerful to have much effect on most cases of tuberculous meningitis and miliary (not military) tuberculosis. German physicians now give streptomycin to these patients.

Tibione is neither as dependable nor as rapid in its action in tuberculosis of the lungs as streptomycin.

If, as seems likely, TB germs do not develop resistance to Tibione and the drug does not produce serious toxic effects, it could be depended on to continue fighting the germs for many months of treatment. This would give it "very great usefulness" in many chronic types of tuberculosis for which streptomycin usually cannot be prescribed.

Tibione was developed by Drs. Robert Behnisch and Fritz Mietzsch and Prof. Hans Schmidt of the Bayer Company. Its effectiveness against the TB germ in the test tube and in animals was discovered by Prof. Gerhard Domagk, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1939 for his discovery of the anti-germ activity of the sulfa drugs.

Drs. Hinshaw and McDermott made their survey as consultants for Schenley Laboratories. Schenley will make the drug available to certain government agencies, tuberculosis research organizations and other qualified clinical investigators for trials and study in this country. If the German results are confirmed Schenley will produce it for use by physicians in the United States.

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from two widely separated special broadcasting stations. Loran can be used when the sextant is useless because of fog or darkness. It is a particularly desirable device for use in the North Atlantic, an area blanketed by fog from April to July each year.

Two converted Air Force B-17s were used in the aerial iceberg count. Cameras were installed in plexiglass bubbles on each side, and thousands of pictures were taken. The only sure sign of an iceberg is to see it, the Coast Guard declares, but the camera "sees" it better than the human eye.

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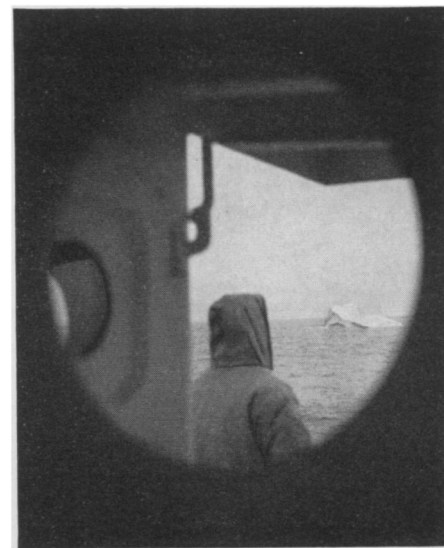
MEDICINE

New Chemical Effectively Treats Many Allergies

➤ GOOD results with a new, longer acting chemical for hay fever and other allergies were reported by Drs. Louis Cullick and Henry D. Ogden of Louisiana State University Medical School and Charity Hospital, New Orleans, at the meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, of the Southern Medical Association.

The chemical is Perazil chlorcyclizine. It is an anti-histamine chemical but differs from others developed in the fight against hay fever, asthma and so on in its longer action. This means that patients need take only one or two tablets daily.

The 30 patients, 27 with hay fever,



LAST ICEBERG—A member of the veteran ice patrol aboard the Coast Guard cutter, *Evergreen*, keeps his eye on the last iceberg of the season. Disposing of this one did not spell *finis* though, for when the ice patrol ends, it is only the beginning of the iceberg census which counts the bergs constituting a potential menace to North Atlantic shipping.

GEOLOGY

Iceberg Count Made

➤ ANOTHER government census is now completed and a summary issued. It is the "iceberg census" of the Baffin Bay region. The count, taken by aerial photography, totals 40,232 icebergs during the 1949 operation. These bergs later may become a menace to shipping in the Atlantic.

This iceberg count job is a function of the U. S. Coast Guard. Counting is done to anticipate and forecast ice menace to North Atlantic shipping. Many hundreds of those spotted will disintegrate on the 2,000-mile trip before reaching the shipping lane. Others will not. Danger from them to ocean vessels on the usual routes from the United States to Europe is kept at a minimum by the iceberg patrol kept by

the Coast Guard during the iceberg season.

Greenland glaciers are responsible for the North Atlantic iceberg menace. Twenty of them on the west coast along Baffin Bay are responsible for most of the icebergs that drift toward the Grand Banks off Newfoundland in the shipping lane. Coast Guard units in surface ships and airplanes keep careful watch for these great masses of ice during some five months of the year. Their exact geographical location is determined by sextant or loran and widely broadcast by radio for the benefit of vessels.

The use of loran for this purpose is a postwar application. Loran itself is a wartime development. It enables a vessel to get its location by intercepting radio beams