

## MEDICINE

# Cold Pill Results

**"Excellent results" have been reported in preventing and treating common colds with the anti-cold pill, Anahist. In these tests Neohetramine caused no unpleasant reactions.**

► **LATEST** from the cold front: Report of a scientific trial of one of the new anti-cold pills states that this pill gave "excellent results" both in preventing and treating the common cold.

This report gives your doctor his first chance to read the scientific evidence on one brand of the pills which are now being sold at drug stores without a doctor's prescription.

These particular anti-cold pills are sold under the name of Anahist. They are chemically the same as Neohetramine, an anti-histamine chemical used for treatment of hay fever and other allergies. The trials of them that gave "excellent results" are reported in *INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE* (Dec. 1), by Dr. Charles C. Sweet, medical director of Sing Sing Prison, and his consultant on allergy, Dr. Joseph J. Arminio of Ossining, N. Y.

The tests were made at Sing Sing and

at a convent and a seminary. At the convent and seminary the pills were given, in different sized doses, every day from late October, 1948, to the middle of April, 1949. Of 100 persons getting 50 mg three times a day, eight persons came down with colds during the 180-day period of the test. Only one of these was what the physicians call a third phase cold, the kind in which there is a heavy purulent discharge from the nose and which lasts four to seven days.

Among 100 getting the 50 mg dose twice a day, which adds up to four a day of the 25 mg pills on the market, there were 10 colds, three of the third phase type. Of 100 getting 50 mg once a day there were 17 who got colds, 12 the third phase type.

Of 300 who got substitute pills that looked just like the cold pills, 241 got one or more colds, some as many as five

or six during the 180-day period. More than half of these, 179, were third phase type. Complications such as pneumonitis, bronchitis, sinusitis, and the like developed in 11 of these.

None of the persons getting the pills knew which were the drug and which were the dummy pills. Since members of the two groups lived and ate under the same conditions, some sleeping in the same dormitories, their chances of getting colds were considered about equal.

At Sing Sing, the cold pills were given to every third person coming for treatment. The second of each three persons got a dummy pill and the third was given whatever he usually took for a cold, such as aspirin, nose drops, and the like.

Of 40 who got the cold pills during the first 24 hours the cold lasted an average of 1.2 days, about one-fifth the time the cold lasted in those getting the dummy pills. Of 40 who got the pills within the second 24 hours of development of a cold, the time for complete relief was cut in half of the time for those on the dummy pills. Those getting the pills more than 48 hours after the start of the cold and those getting aspirin instead of the cold pills had colds lasting the usual length of time, about five days.

Besides these results of the cold pills in preventing or quickly stopping colds, the two physicians report that the drug, Neohetramine, did not cause dangerous or unpleasant reactions when given in doses of 100 mg daily. None of the persons getting this dosage for 180 days were bothered by sleepiness, dizziness, digestive or other distress.

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## AGRICULTURE

## Rats Plant Seed of Range Land Weed

► **UNWANTED** seed planted by rats is the latest headache of ranchers in the Southwest.

The planters are Merriam kangaroo rats and the unasked-for crop is mesquite shrub. Mesquite, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture, competes with range grass. Fewer cattle and sheep can be carried on range overrun with mesquite.

Merriam kangaroo rats are a type of desert rat found in the dry regions of the Southwest. They are very fond of mesquite seed, storing them in much the manner of squirrels. They dig a shallow hole in which they bury several seeds. To make germination easier for the hard-shelled seed, the rats gnaw at them just enough to insure sprouting of most of the seeds. This precaution parallels the most progressive agricultural practice, in which machines are used to "scarify" seeds of sweetclover and other hard-shelled seed.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949



**FUR COATS "EN MASSE"**—Seals sun on the beaches of the Pribilof Islands completely unaware of the role they will later play in enhancing milady's wardrobe. Eighty percent of all existing fur seals in the world today make their summer homes on the Pribilofs. The close relationship of the natives to the management of the valuable fur seal resources allows the natives to enjoy an economic security on par with the highest income group of any native people in all Alaska, according to a recent survey conducted by the Department of Interior.