

MEDICINE

Wonder Drug Cures Typhus

Chloromycetin prevents as well as cures the dreaded jungle disease, scrub typhus. This wonder drug was tried due to the lack of a satisfactory vaccine for scrub typhus.

► **CHLOROMYCETIN**, one of the Big Four of today's wonder drugs, can prevent as well as cure the dangerous jungle disease, known as scrub typhus or tsutsugamushi disease.

Field experiments showing this were described by Dr. Joseph E. Smadel of the Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C. Dr. Smadel, who is leaving for Malaya on a third tropical medical expedition, spoke as guest of Watson Davis, director of Science Service, on the nation-wide Columbia network.

"The most satisfactory method for the prevention of disease is vaccination, because this protects the individual for relatively long periods," Dr. Smadel explained. "For this reason, the United States Army vaccinates against smallpox, typhoid fever, diphtheria, tetanus and many other diseases. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to develop a satisfactory vaccine against a disease. Then it becomes necessary to use other methods of prevention.

"Since no satisfactory vaccine has been developed for scrub typhus, it was hoped that chloromycetin might prove to be a chemoprophylactic agent as well as a curative agent. While other members of a research team in Malaya were treating patients, the entomologists of the group, Dr.

Cornelius Philip of the U. S. Public Health Service and Major Robert Traub of the Army, went out into the brush to find areas suitable for these chemoprophylactic experiments. These areas must be heavily infested with the mites which transmit the disease. Two such areas were found nearby.

"Healthy volunteers were exposed in these areas. One-half of these volunteers were given chloromycetin during exposure. The other half served as controls and received no drug. No cases occurred in those receiving the drug while 70% of the control group developed scrub typhus. These men, who had not received prophylaxis, were promptly treated and cured. It appeared that chloromycetin not only would cure scrub typhus but would prevent its development in persons taking the drug during their exposure and for a short period following the last exposure."

The list of diseases which can now be successfully treated by chloromycetin includes, besides scrub typhus, epidemic typhus fever, typhoid fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, brucellosis or undulant fever, tularemia or rabbit fever, certain types of pneumonia and certain types of bladder and kidney infections.

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PSYCHIATRY

Spots Emotional Problems

► A **NEW** picture test for rapidly detecting emotional problems in eight- to 14-year-olds was announced by Dr. Max L. Hutt of the University of Michigan at the meeting in Atlantic City, N. J., of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

With the new test, psychologists can tell in 75% less time than by present methods whether a child has an emotional problem and what it is. And methods for giving it have been so simplified that an objective analysis can be given by a trained clerk.

The test consists of 21 separate pictures of familiar situations. Four of them, called "core pictures," are used first. The child is asked to describe what he sees in these. The problem is located by observing the following factors in the child's response: 1. frequency of a particular verb tense, such as did, or does, or will do; 2. emphasis on certain pronouns, I or you or him, for example; 3. preference for popular or unpopular themes; 4. type of story ending; and 5. reference to special sexual characteristics.

With the problem determined, the remaining 17 pictures in the series are used to pick out the specific conflict troubling the child. The kind of problem bothering a child can be determined by the test even before he is capable of putting it into words.

Working with Dr. Hutt in development of the new test were Dr. Samuel W. Hartwell, Guen Andrew, research psychologist, and Ralph E. Walton, research coordinator, all of the Michigan State Department of Mental Health.

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VETERINARY MEDICINE

Find Quick New Test For Newcastle Disease

► **NEWCASTLE** disease of poultry can now be quickly and easily identified by a new and simple blood test that eliminates costly laboratory analysis.

The disease is caused by a virus, is highly contagious, and causes death and heavy

egg production loss. Speedy and accurate discovery is important because the symptoms of Newcastle disease are easily confused with those of other diseases.

The simple blood sampling and analysis technique of the new test can be performed on the farm by the veterinarian, without the necessity of carrying blood samples to the laboratory. In two to five minutes, the veterinarian knows whether the birds are affected or not.

The technique, which is suitable for inspecting large flocks quickly, was developed by Drs. S. L. Zargar and B. S. Pomeroy at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Zargar, deputy director of veterinary sciences, Nagpur (India), reported his findings in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (Nov.).

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WILDLIFE

Carp Make Ducks Carp, Birds Make Carp Duck

► **IF** you think civilization is complicated, you should be glad you're not a carp.

It seems that carp eat plants and ducks eat plants. Unfortunately the same plants. Carp, being fish, can get to the root of the matter. They not only destroy the aquatic plants whole, but they churn up the mud so that new plants can't grow.

The ducks go hungry and grumble audibly. Man who loves all of nature's creatures, especially duck, deer or trout, hearkens to the ducks' carping, and he obligingly poisons the carp which is not a game fish.

As if this wasn't hard enough on the carp, the cormorant enters the picture too. Cormorants are rather large goosenecked fish-eating birds. One of their favorite foods is—that's right, carp.

Fishermen used to think that they went after salmon and trout. They were so unhappy about this that at one time they were offering 25 cents for every cormorant head brought in. Now, however, it has been demonstrated that cormorants stay away from the swift game fish, preferring the slower moving fish. In the latter category are included great quantities of carp, says the Fish and Wildlife Service which has just gone into the matter in some detail.

Although the carp comes out worst, it looks as though everyone has grounds for complaint except the cormorants, which seem to be sitting pretty. But they have their troubles too. In China and Japan fishermen put a ring around the bird's neck so it can't swallow. Every time they catch a big fish, the fishermen take the fish away and send the birds back for more.

If you think civilization is bad, you should be glad you're not a cormorant, either.

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