



SUN GAZING—Two miles up, in Climax, Colo., scientists study the sun from the observatory. Using a rare coronagraph, they have taken movies which throw new light on the activities above the sun's surface and the relation of those activities to the earth.

of the sun. There are only two of these in the western hemisphere now, one two miles up at Climax, Colorado, and the other on Sacramento Peak in New Mexico.

Harvard and the University of Colorado operate the Climax station jointly, under the sponsorship of the Navy and the National Bureau of Standards. They go two miles up in the mountains because the skies

are so clear and blue there.

The coronagraph is a telescope with a very perfect lens, made from the finest glass which is kept completely free of dust. Because Dr. Menzel and his associates want to study the corona around the sun, they put a small disk in the telescope which just eclipses the sun—artificially.

Science News Letter, March 4, 1950

MEDICINE

Blood Plasma for Arthritis

► BLOOD plasma from women who have just given birth to babies may be added to the new medical weapons against arthritis.

"Striking clinical improvement" lasting from three to 16 weeks after such treatment in rheumatoid arthritis patients is reported by Dr. Louis W. Granirer of the arthritis clinic at Queens General Hospital, Jamaica, N. Y.

"Improved sense of well-being, a brighter mental outlook, increased appetite, a disappearance of joint symptoms, a gain in weight" are among the results of the treatment reported by Dr. Granirer in the journal, *SCIENCE* (Feb. 24).

There were no toxic effects and in 320 such plasma transfusions no case of jaundice.

The material is readily available and comparatively inexpensive, Dr. Granirer points out.

The pattern of albumin and globulin and total proteins in the blood plasma of the mothers just after childbirth, he found, seems to be like the pattern for these chemicals in the blood plasma of expectant mothers at or near term. This may explain why the post-childbirth blood plasma is

effective in rheumatoid arthritis. Pregnancy has previously been known to produce a partial or complete let-up of symptoms in rheumatoid arthritis in a high percentage of cases.

The effect of the post-childbirth plasma, Dr. Granirer thinks, is not solely due to a "steroidal factor," such as ACTH or cortisone, the two anti-arthritis hormone chemicals.

Science News Letter, March 4, 1950

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Scientists Look for Increase in Cosmic Rays

► SCIENTISTS have sent balloons high into the air trying to catch increased cosmic ray activity on photographic plates.

They were looking for a sharp increase in this ray activity because of the sudden increased activity of the giant sun spot area that recently traveled across the sun.

They are trying to find out if there is a correlation between the solar noise outbursts and cosmic ray activity, in order to

get a better idea of the origin of cosmic rays.

There are, however, only five known instances of cosmic ray photographs being taken at the time of or directly after a solar flare. Scientists, therefore, need more instances of this type before they can establish any correlation between solar flares and increased cosmic ray activity.

Science News Letter, March 4, 1950

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