

ten-thousandths of an ounce—per pound give a marked response.

Since the fermentation product used need not be purified, the cost of adding aureomycin to feedstuffs is not great. This product sells for 30 to 40 cents a pound, and about five pounds of the product is enough to mix with a ton of feed. Pure aureomycin was employed in the tests which established the drug's role in nutrition.

Inclusion of aureomycin in a ration reduces the requirement for vitamin B-12 by 50%. This partially explains the fact that animal protein factor supplements from aureomycin fermentation products apparently contain more vitamin B-12 as meas-

ured by chick assay than as measured by microbiological assay.

"The use of feeding supplements containing aureomycin promises to give faster growth than has been obtained on many diets of natural ingredients. This increase in growth has been observed in chickens, turkeys, and pigs. The use of aureomycin as a feed supplement is not limited to vegetable protein rations. It produces an increase in growth when added to diets containing animal proteins as well as when added to all-vegetable protein diets. This promises to give more efficient utilization of feed and to decrease the cost of meat production."

Science News Letter, April 22, 1950

A. Lauffer and Dr. Herman T. Epstein of the University of Pittsburgh at the meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1950

MEDICINE

Leg Cramps Preventive

► THE often agonizingly painful cramps that attack the legs at night can be prevented by one of the early anti-allergy drugs, benadryl. Success with this drug in 17 patients is reported by Dr. Meyer Naide of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (April 15).

Why this drug, one of the first of the now famous anti-histaminics, prevents these cramps is not known. Dr. Naide tried it because it had been reported effective in relieving the muscle rigidity of parkinsonism, or shaking palsy as it is popularly called.

The first patient was a man who had suffered for 17 months from nocturnal leg cramps. Quinidine which usually helps this condition failed to give relief, as did a variety of other medicines. One capsule of benadryl at bedtime has given this patient complete relief since March 14, 1949, when the first one was taken.

Some of the other 16 patients found their cramps failed to return when they stopped

taking the drug. Others, however, had to go on taking it.

The benadryl has the added advantage of being safe to give pregnant women who often suffer severe leg cramps and to whom physicians do not like to give quinine or quinidine.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1950

MEDICINE

Infesting Particles Have Been Seen

► SCIENTISTS are now convinced that they can see the thing that gives you a cold or 'flu or infantile paralysis or other virus-caused disease. Using electron microscopes they have been seeing particles which were believed to be viruses.

But heretofore there has been some doubt about whether these particles were the infectious virus or something associated with it. Evidence that the particles are the infectious virus was reported by Prof. Max

Question Box

CHEMISTRY

In what way may man outstrip nature? p. 253.

GEOLOGY

How is uranium made by test tube? p. 242.

HYDROGRAPHY

What measures are being taken against the iceberg menace? p. 247.

MEDICINE

How can nocturnal leg cramps be prevented? p. 244.

Photographs: Cover, U. S. Coast Guard; p. 243, Bakelite Division, Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation; p. 245, General Electric; p. 247, Hamilton Wright; p. 256, U. S. Rubber Company.

What are the newest chemical conquests? p. 245.

METEOROLOGY

What may be used in the future to control thunderstorms? p. 246.

NUTRITION

What is the latest role of aureomycin? p. 243.

PSYCHOLOGY-EDUCATION

What should be done to utilize and cultivate talents? p. 242.

RADIO

Saturday, April 29, 3:15-3:30 p. m. EST

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, Director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Samuel K. Allison, Director, Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, and Dr. Victor F. Weisskopf, Professor of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will discuss "Is Scientific Secrecy Necessary"?

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