

will use the new information in making weather forecasts, since facts gathered by balloons come from a level only about half as high.

MEDICINE

Benemid against TB

➤ **BETTER** treatment for tuberculosis is expected through use of a new chemical called Benemid. The new chemical will step up the effects of PAS, a remedy already giving some beneficial results in treatment of the white plague.

Studies showing the possibilities to be expected from teaming these two chemicals are reported in Philadelphia by Drs. William P. Boger and Forrest W. Pitts of the Philadelphia General Hospital.

PAS, short for para-aminosalicylic acid, is being applied increasingly to the treatment of tuberculosis. It is sometimes used in conjunction with streptomycin. But the dosage of PAS now used, the Philadelphia scientists pointed out, is based on the amount the patients can tolerate, not on what is believed the optimum dose. Some TB specialists believe twice the dose now used would be desirable.

The Philadelphia scientists decided that PAS might be more effective if some way could be found of getting higher concentrations of it in the patient's blood without increasing the dose. One way might be to give a chemical that would slow its excretion from the body. Benemid seems to be the answer.

Tests on seven patients with tuberculosis showed that Benemid enhanced the concentration of PAS in the blood plasma two to four times.

"Therefore," Drs. Boger and Pitts state in their report to the journal *SCIENCE*

The technical report of the research is appearing in the *PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS* (August).

Science News Letter, August 12, 1950

(Aug. 4), "Benemid may extend and greatly increase the efficacy of PAS in the treatment of tuberculosis."

Benemid's chemical name is p-(di-n-propylsulfamyl) benzoic acid. Sharp and Dohme make it under the trademark, Benemid, but it may get the nonproprietary chemical name of probenedicid.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1950

METEOROLOGY

Predict Dry and Warm August for Southeast U. S.

➤ "APPRECIABLY drier and warmer than it was in July." That is what the Weather Bureau says it will be during August for the area east of the Mississippi and south of the Mason-Dixon line. However, New England will have a little better luck, if "slightly below normal" temperatures during August can be called that. Rainfall will be normal in the northeast.

"This was a very difficult forecast to make," Jerome Namias, chief of the extended forecast section of the Weather Bureau, said as he handed out his regular twice-a-month 30-day forecast. "The indications are not clear-cut," he said.

The dust bowl area of the country is in for some relief. The prediction for the Plains and Rocky Mountain states is "abundant showery rainfall." On the west coast, in the south, rainfall will be its usual

normal, which means very little, but the far northwest will have precipitation somewhat above normal.

Temperatures will be lower than normal for the central and northern Rocky Mountain states. Along the Great Lakes and elsewhere in the west, temperatures will be their usual August selves.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1950

Streptomycin is found by one research group to be the best of eight antibiotics for the treatment of the radiation produced by the atomic bomb.

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