

MEDICINE

Nobelists Found Cortisone

Dr. Kendall, Dr. Hench and Dr. Reichstein are awarded the Nobel prize for the discovery of the gland chemical which has found many uses.

➤ MILLIONS of sufferers from arthritis, now and in the future, will join in the world's thanks to the three latest Nobelists in medicine, Drs. Edward C. Kendall and Philip S. Hench of the Mayo Clinic and Dr. Tadeus Reichstein of the University of Basle, Switzerland.

But the arthritis sufferers, rejoicing over relief of painful, stiff and crippled joints, are not the only ones to benefit from the chemical remedy discovered by these three men.

Little children bed-ridden with heart-crippling rheumatic fever, patients with severe eye inflammations, asthmatics and other allergy sufferers, victims of severe burns and perhaps, in future, even patients with cancerous diseases of blood and lymph glands may be helped from the discovery of a gland chemical now called cortisone.

The chemical is produced by the outer part of two small glands, the adrenals, that are located just above the kidneys. Dr. Reichstein, organic chemist who synthesized the anti-scurvy vitamin C almost two decades ago, and Dr. Kendall, biochemist, both spent more than 10 years in their laboratories half a world apart extracting and identifying the various chemicals produced by these two small glands. Then, independently but at about the same time, they announced the discovery of cortisone.

Meanwhile Dr. Hench for about the

same two decades had been searching for a chemical that would help the arthritis sufferers he saw daily at the Mayo Clinic. He observed that attacks of jaundice, pregnancy, periods of fasting, surgical operations and anesthesia without operation, each

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Stand-In for Lost Stomach

➤ A WAY to give a patient a new stomach when his has been removed because of cancer was reported by Dr. C. Marshall Lee, Jr., of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine at the American College of Surgeons meeting in Boston, Mass.

Dr. Lee would substitute for the stomach that part of the large intestine which runs up the right side of the abdomen from the appendix region. This is called the right colon, or ascending colon.

By cutting free this and the end four inches of small intestine and rotating it counter-clockwise, it can be brought up into the stomach location. The piece of small intestine is the right size for attachment to the esophagus, or gullet, down which food is swallowed into the stomach.

With this operation, Dr. Lee thinks, the patient would have a kind of stomach which could act as a reservoir for food, even

would temporarily relieve the patients of their pain and cause the joint swellings to go down. From all this, he suspected that the answer to the arthritis problem lay in the adrenal glands. When Dr. Kendall, whose work had been supported by the Research Corporation, New York City, was able to supply him with the first small amount synthesized from a bile acid, he got dramatic proof in the arthritis patients who could walk free from pain after a few doses of the gland chemical.

Now cortisone is available to physicians generally for treatment of patients at a cost to the physician of \$35 for about one-thirtieth of an ounce.

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if it did not do much digesting. The patient would then be able to eat full meals and not get undernourished as sometimes happens now when the entire stomach is removed.

The new colon-stomach would be able to absorb water and send the food along into the intestines. Hydrochloric acid could be given to make up for the lack due to absence of a real stomach. At the age when stomach cancer usually develops, however, stomach acid is normally low anyway, Dr. Lee points out. Liver extract or other remedy could be given for any anemia that might develop.

The right colon is usually not involved even when a cancer in the stomach has grown to large size, so it would be a healthy organ for use as a stomach substitute.

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NOBELISTS IN MEDICINE—Dr. Tadeus Reichstein, professor of chemistry at the University of Basel, Switzerland, and two American doctors, Dr. Philip S. Hench and Dr. Edward C. Kendall of the Mayo Clinic, have been named as joint winners of the 1950 Nobel prize in medicine. The prize came for their work in the discovery of cortisone which has spelled relief for millions suffering from various diseases.