

MEDICINE

Malaria Cure

One of two common forms yields in practically 100% of cases to treatment with primaquine, derived from corn cob and coal tar products.

► ONE of the two common forms of malaria can now be cured in "practically 100%" of the cases by a new drug, primaquine, Dr. John H. Edgcomb of the University of Chicago announced at the joint meeting in Savannah, Ga., of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and the National Malaria Society.

Ability to prevent relapses in the vivax type of malaria is the important advantage the new drug has over other malaria remedies. When given alone, one out of five patients had a relapse. But when given with quinine, all of 33 patients recovered and had no relapses. Vivax malaria patients ordinarily may have eight to 10 attacks, or relapses, even when symptoms of the first attack have been suppressed and the patients have gotten over the attack.

Primaquine is not a "one-shot" cure. Treatment must be given under the supervision of a physician for 14 days.

Weight for weight, primaquine is four

times as effective as any anti-malaria drug yet tested in the seven million dollar research program begun for the U. S. Government during World War II to find better drugs for treating malaria.

Primaquine is derived from the common corn cob and from coal tar products. It was first synthesized by Drs. Robert C. Elderfield and James D. Head of Columbia University, New York. It was tested first on animals by Dr. L. H. Schmidt of Christ Hospital, Cincinnati.

Trials on human malaria patients were made on volunteers from the convicts at Stateville (Illinois) penitentiary, under supervision of Dr. Alf S. Alving of the University of Chicago. U. S. Army and National Institutes of Health scientists also were on the research team that tested the chemical and established the effective dose for treatment.

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posed was made by Dr. Karl K. Darrow of Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Outlining to the members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers the elementary particles, such as electrons, protons, neutrons and mesons, that are now known and their properties, Dr. Darrow concluded:

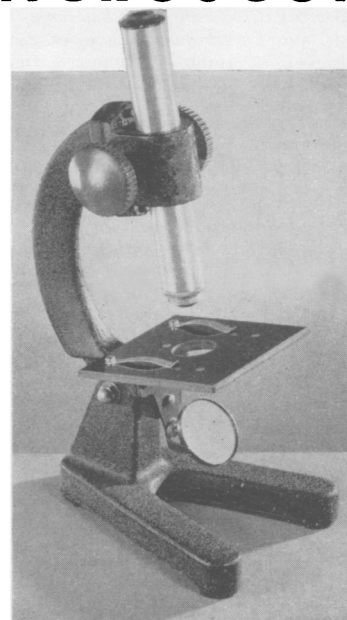
"Five years hence the list may be much longer, for accelerators of greater and greater potency are being planned or are already being built, and who knows what extra particles they can create?"

"Nor is there anyone who would dare to say that the cosmic rays do not have any more undiscovered particles up their collective sleeve," Dr. Darrow declared.

He defined an "elementary particle" as any particle of which the mass is not greater than a certain maximum value. "As this maximum value is the mass of the heaviest particle which is now regarded as elementary, you perceive that the definition is not a very rational one," he stated.

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MEDICINE

Streptomycin For TB

► PATIENTS with tuberculosis of the lungs do better and get well faster when given 90-day treatment with streptomycin along with other treatment such as rest in bed and operations, the U. S. Public Health Service announced.

The announcement is based on findings reported from 14 groups of scientific TB fighters in various parts of the country, working in collaboration with the Public Health Service.

Careful controls were followed so that the scientists could be sure whether the improvement was due to the drug or to some other factor. Half of a group of 541

patients got streptomycin in the same dosage. All the 541 got the usual forms of treatment.

All patients were examined by X-ray, laboratory tests and otherwise at regular intervals for one year. The ones getting streptomycin soon began to show more improvement than those not getting the drug and continued to be ahead of the non-streptomycin patients all through the year.

Because of the careful controls during the study, there is "no question of the validity of the findings," Dr. Robert J. Anderson, chief of the Public Health Service's tuberculosis division, stated.

Details of the study are reported for the group by Drs. Esmond R. Long of Philadelphia and Dr. Shirley H. Ferebee of the Public Health Service in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

Science News Letter, December 2, 1950

PHYSICS

Predict Finding of New Particles of Matter

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