

MEDICINE

New Chemical Aids Treatment of Shock

➤ SURGEONS HAVE a new aid for the treatment of shock. It is a chemical known as l-arterenol or l-nor-epinephrine and also by the trade name, Levophed.

This chemical is related to epinephrine, or adrenalin, and like epinephrine, it raises blood pressure. It has the advantage that it constricts blood vessels without causing any significant change in the heart's output. Its action is "prompt, predictable and easily controlled," Drs. Norton M. Luger, Allen Kleiman and Rudolph E. Fremont of the Veterans Administration Hospital at Staten Island, N. Y., report.

It proved lifesaving in the case of their patient, a 73 year old man with a perforated stomach ulcer. The patient was in such profound shock when brought to the hospital that he could not be operated on. The shock state was rapidly relieved by the drug, so that an operation could be performed and the rupture of his stomach closed.

"The patient has had a satisfactory recovery," the doctors report in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (Aug. 25).

They warn against using the drug until the cause of shock has been learned, as it might aggravate a concealed hemorrhage.

"Excellent" results with this same drug in 50 operations including nerve cutting operations in the spine and head regions, as well as abdominal, chest and gynecological operations are reported by Dr. William A. Shafer of Bluefield Sanitarium, Bluefield, W. Va., in the *West Virginia MEDICAL JOURNAL*.

The drug has been "extremely efficacious," Dr. Shafer reports, in cases of spinal anesthesia in which there is a drop in blood pressure.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1951

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By HERMAN GOODMAN, M.D.

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BASIC THEORIES OF PHYSICS: Heat and Quanta—Peter G. Bergmann—*Prentice-Hall*, 300 p., \$6.70. For graduate students.

THE CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY OF DYING AND PRINTING, Vol. II: Substantive, Basic, Acid, and Pigment Colors, Aniline Black, and Dye-stuffs for Acetate Rayon and Synthetic Fibers—Louis Diserens—*Reinhold*, 446 p., \$12.00. Translated and revised from the second German edition.

COLLECTION AND BURNING OF LOCOMOTIVE CINDERS—E. J. Boer, J. M. Allen, and B. A. Landry—*Bituminous Coal Research, Inc.*, 8 p., paper, 20 cents. Results of the continuing tests of the Norfolk and Western Railway Co. and Bituminous Coal Research, Inc.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE AND HOW TO TEACH IT—Glenn O. Blough and Albert J. Huggett—*Dryden Press*, 532 p., illus., \$5.25. The teacher who has to be a "jack-of-all-trades" in the scientific courses will welcome this handy teaching guide.

A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI—Olin Sewall Pettingill—*Oxford University Press*, 659 p., illus., \$4.00. Bird-watchers will appreciate this geographical locator.

HEALTHY BABIES: A Complete Handbook for Modern Mothers—Josephine H. Kenyon and Ruth K. Russell—*Little, Brown and Co.*, 5th ed. revised, 317 p., 3.00. This new edition includes the latest developments in the field and also presents new material on the child who is slow to develop.

HOW TO KNOW THE AMERICAN MAMMALS—Ivan T. Sanderson—*New American Library*, 170 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. All American mammals from whales to mice, the one that walks on water to the one that inspired the Mermaid myth are included.

IMPROVING OFFICE PLANNING AND CONTROLS: Office Management Series No. 128—*American Management Association*, 40 p., paper, \$1.25. Includes articles on manpower budgeting control, office operations budget, protecting records in time of war, etc.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAMS, January-June 1951—U. S. Atomic Energy Commission—*Govt. Printing Office*,

151 p., paper, 35 cents. A reprint of the AEC 10th semiannual report.

NATURAL RUBBER AND YOU—*Natural Rubber Bureau*, 28 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 1631 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Interesting facts and statistics on this material, vital in both peace and war.

PATTERNS IN THE SKY: The Story of the Constellations—W. Maxwell Reed—*Morrow*, 125 p., illus., \$2.50. Children can find here the 25 most familiar constellations with interesting facts about each one. Charts appear in pairs, one showing the ancient drawings of heroes and animals, the other the actual constellation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE—National Conference on Physical Education for Children of Elementary School Age—*Athletic Institute*, 47 p., paper, 50 cents. A guide for the improvement of physical education programs.

PUNCHED CARDS: Their Applications to Science and Industry—Robert S. Casey and James W. Perry, Editor—*Reinhold*, 506 p., illus., \$10.00. Individual scientists, engineers or other technologists can use this information to solve their individual problems. Particular emphasis is on hand sorted cards.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS, 1949—*Govt. Printing Office*, 684 p., illus., \$5.50.

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MEDICINE

Cancer Three Times as Likely If Mother Had Breast Cancer

➤ WOMEN ARE three times as likely to develop cancer if their mothers had breast cancer.

This finding, from a study of 1,488 cases of breast cancer, is reported by Dr. Dryden Phelps Morse, Columbia University School of Medicine, in the professional journal of the American Cancer Society, *CANCER*.

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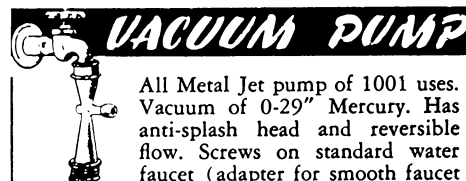
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RADIO

Old Bulbs and New Tubes

Bands of interference across center of television set may be due to an old-fashioned light bulb. Fluorescent lamp causes radio noise.

► IF YOUR television set has a band or two of interference across the middle of the picture, an old-fashioned light bulb may be the trouble-causer. And if your radio gives out with a low pitched buzz, the culprit may be a fluorescent lamp.

These reasons for TV interference and radio noise were suggested to members of the Illuminating Engineering Society meeting in Washington.

The straight wire incandescent lamp—it has not been manufactured for home use since 1925—can cause interference patterns on a TV set as far as two city blocks from its location, Harry E. Schultz and Delmar D. Kershaw of General Electric Company, Cleveland, said.

There are about a million of these lamps scattered around the country. They can be spotted by the clear glass bulb, by a very pointed tip at the top of the bulb and by the filament shape. They are used mainly in attics, closets, fruit cellars, etc., where they are turned on only infrequently and usually only for short times, so that pinpointing the interference source is very difficult. Since modern light bulbs do not interfere with TV reception, the old fashioned lamps are often overlooked, the engineers stated.

The patterns on a TV picture caused by interference from straight wire incandescent lamps are typical and do not look like those caused by small motors, shavers or automobile ignition systems. They do resemble the interference patterns given off by diathermy machines or other similar high frequency equipment manufactured before 1947.

The main channels affected are 2, 3 and 4, since the lamps produce oscillations in

the frequencies used for these channels. The lamps will also interfere with the sound portion of the program. Recommended solution: "Find and replace the guilty lamp."

Radio noise falls into two general classes, J. Warren Culp of Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., Bayside, N. Y., told the engineers. One type is caused by gaseous discharges, such as atmospheric lightning, electric motors and the sustained discharge that is found in neon signs and fluorescent lamps.

The other type is caused by diathermy machines, television receivers and occasionally incandescent lamps, he said.

"Radio noise due to radiation from electrical wiring," Culp reported, "can be effectively eliminated by well known methods but radiation from a fluorescent tube cannot be prevented so easily, since the ionized gas in the tube acts as a transmitting antenna."

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MEDICINE

Blood Tests for Cancer Disappointing

► FOUR BLOOD chemical tests for cancer, hailed within the past four years as very promising for earlier detection of cancer, are termed not accurate enough as diagnostic tests for cancer in a report to the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Sept. 1).

The report is by Drs. Richard J. Henry, Sam Berkman, Marshall S. Little and Richard J. Winzler of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

One of the tests, a mucoprotein test, was developed by Dr. Winzler. The other three were the methylene blue and heat turbidity tests of Dr. M. M. Black of Brooklyn, N. Y., and the iodoacetic test of Dr. C. Huggins of Chicago.

Each of 226 patients was given all four tests. None of the patients was so sick he had to be in bed and therefore none presumably had very far advanced cancer.

Of the 226 patients, 77 were known to have cancer while 149 did not have it. The persons making the tests, however, had no knowledge of the patients' case histories.

The tests gave correct results in only about 60 to 70 per cent of the cases, the four scientists report, "and thus cannot be regarded as accurate diagnostic tests for cancer."

Even when the four tests are run as a battery, and interpreted as positive if at least two individual tests are positive, the results are not much more accurate.

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● RADIO

Saturday, Sept. 15, 1951, 3:15-3:30 p. m. EDT
"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Rear Admiral Calvin N. Bolster, chief of the U. S. Navy's Office of Naval Research, will discuss "Research Pays Off for Defense."

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