

GENERAL SCIENCE

"Guinea Pig Club" for Human Volunteers

► "GUINEA PIG CLUB" is the name given informally to a new national medical organization formed in Chicago.

Membership will be limited to those men and women, whether doctors, students or non-professionals, who have ever served in any way as "guinea pig" or human test material for research leading to better health and longer life for mankind.

The purpose of the organization is not for recruitment of volunteers but for education. Plans include meetings at which papers will be presented describing experiences and results of "guinea pig" service. Citations or some form of honorary recognition for outstanding volunteer service are also planned.

An activity of the group will be to publicize the codified rules now in effect for the conduct of experimental procedures on humans.

At the meeting of the first chapter, at the headquarters of the National Society for Medical Research in Chicago, a committee to organize the club on a national basis was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Anton J. Carlson of the University of Chicago.

"Walter Reed Volunteers" was selected as the formal name of the organization, honoring the volunteers who helped Walter Reed and associates discover that yellow fever is spread by mosquitoes.

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TECHNOLOGY

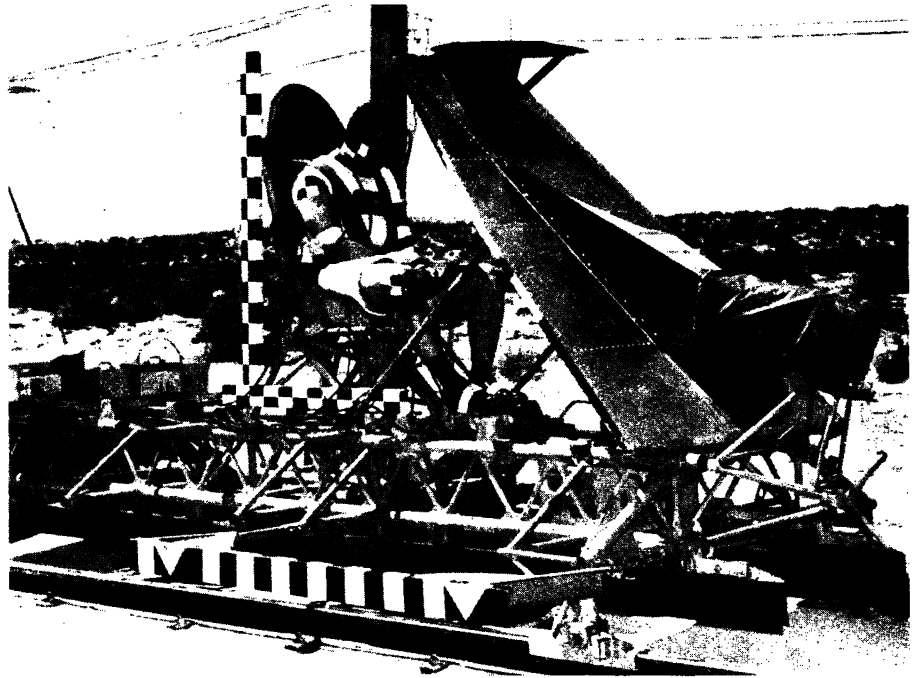
Combat Soldiers Get Hot Bath by Field Sterilizer

► MR. COMBAT SOLDIER in Korean front areas can now get an outdoor shower bath with sterilized warm water with the aid of a mobile trailer unit that can be towed by a jeep. Any local water supply may be used.

This small size, two-wheeled trailer, total weight less than two tons, picks up water from a nearby river or tepid pond, heats it to a scalding temperature to kill germs and other organisms, cools it to a comfortable bathing temperature and delivers it to 24 shower heads for the bathers.

A gasoline engine is used to pump the water and deliver it to the shower jets. Oil is normally used for fuel for the heating unit that does the sterilization, but any type of liquid fuel can be substituted. It requires about 14 gallons of fuel an hour. The device delivers water to the showers at a rate of 43 gallons a minute. Baths are ready for use about 20 minutes after the unit is parked beside the water supply.

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CLUB CANDIDATE—Eligible for the newly formed "Guinea Pig Club" is Maj. John P. Stapp, U. S. Air Force, shown here just about to subject himself to gravity forces of 45 G, the highest known voluntarily encountered by a human. Maj. Stapp is strapped into a rocket-propelled decelerator sled which reaches a speed of 170 miles per hour. He is an aero-medical scientist of the Air Research and Development Command.

AVIATION MEDICINE

Weight Loss in Space

"Possibility that weightlessness is followed by a kind of space-sickness which would easily incapacitate the crew of a space ship" cannot be excluded.

► MAN MAY soon have to contend with a new disease—a sort of occupational ailment. This is "space-sickness."

It may come from the weightlessness to be experienced by crews of space ships.

We cannot exclude "the possibility that weightlessness is followed by a kind of space-sickness which would easily incapacitate the crew of a space ship," said Dr. Heinz Haber, of the Department of Space Medicine at the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Tex.

Dr. Haber was one of the speakers at the symposium on space travel held at the Hayden Planetarium in New York.

Dr. Haber said that space-sickness might result when the evidence of a crew member's position that he perceives with the eye does not correspond with the evidence he perceives through the effect of position and of active and passive movement of the body. In a state of gravity, he pointed out, these correspond. Without weight, they are in disharmony.

Recent investigations, he said, have revealed that certain forms of seasickness can be induced by this disharmony.

Weightlessness is already with us, Dr. Haber pointed out. Pilots of modern, high-altitude, fast-moving planes begin to experience reduction or lack of body weight in certain maneuvers, although, so far, this has not lasted more than one minute at the most.

Space-sickness is not the only hazard crewmen who explore the heavens will have to face. Dr. Fred L. Whipple, chairman of the department of astronomy at Harvard, another symposium speaker, pointed out that meteors might pierce thin skins of space ships.

Dr. Whipple advocated "meteor bumpers" to lessen the danger from meteors. The bumpers would consist of an extremely thin outer skin, separated from the surface he said, would explode the meteor, and distribute the force over a wider area of the space ship skin.