

● RADIO

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

Rear Admiral Luis de Florez, president, de Florez Engineering Company, New York, will discuss "Developing New Ideas."

MEDICINE

Parents Alerted on Tumors in Children

► STATEMENTS ALERTING parents to the fact that babies and children can have tumors and even cancer were made by two physicians at the meeting of the American Medical Association in Los Angeles.

Many babies with persistent vomiting in the early weeks of life have a small tumor in the lower end of the stomach, Dr. William H. Snyder, Jr., of the University of Southern California Medical School said.

These can be cured with comparatively simple surgical operations. Surgery for infants and children is safe and effective today, he explained, because of advances in medical understanding of water, salt and protein needs, the effective use of blood to prevent shock, the advances in anesthesia and the availability of potent drugs to prevent infection.

A mother who notices a progressive enlargement of the abdomen of her child should have him undergo a complete physical examination, Dr. Theodore R. Fetter of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, advised.

"The appearance of a mass in the abdomen, usually on one or the other side, should be considered a possible tumor until proved otherwise. Prompt recognition often will save the life of the child."

Science News Letter, December 8, 1951

MEDICINE

Blood Pump Saves Lives By Forced Transfusions

► A BLOOD pump that promises to be life-saving for a person who has lost almost all the blood in his body has been developed by Jan Petri of the American Optical Company in Southbridge, Mass.

The new device can pump a pint of blood into veins or arteries within one and one-half minutes. It takes 40 minutes to drip the same amount of blood into the patient by the gravity method of the usual blood transfusion.

If the patient has lost three pints of blood, it is not possible by the gravity method to replace the lost blood fast enough to catch up with the deteriorating process that within five minutes can produce permanent damage in the brain deprived of blood and its oxygen.

Science News Letter, December 8, 1951

ANTHROPOLOGY

Why Indians Use Peyote

Five anthropologists urge that use of peyote by Indians not be included in the current national campaign against illegal use of narcotic drugs.

► THE CURRENT national campaign against illegal use of narcotic drugs should not be directed against the use of peyote by Indian tribes, five anthropologists declare in a statement to the journal SCIENCE (Nov. 30).

"Peyote is used sacramentally in a manner corresponding to the bread and wine of white Christians," they state.

The scientists issuing this protest against current propaganda to have peyote declared illegal are: Dr. Weston La Barre of Duke University, Durham, N. C.; Dr. David P. McAllester of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; Dr. J. S. Slotkin of the University of Chicago; Dr. Omer C. Stewart of the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo., and Prof. Sol Tax of the University of Chicago.

The idea that peyote is narcotic, intoxicating and used for immoral orgies is false, say these anthropologists who have themselves made extensive studies of Peyotism, participated in the rites and partaken of the sacramental peyote.

Peyote is a small, carrot-shaped, spineless

cactus which in the United States grows in the Rio Grande Valley. When the peyote "button" is taken internally, it appears to have "remarkable mental and physical effects, although these have not been thoroughly studied," the anthropologists state.

"Peyote does not excite, stupefy, or produce muscular incoordination; there is no hangover; and the habitual user does not develop any increased tolerance or dependence."

Peyotism is a religion, the scientists explain, with a national intertribal organization incorporated under the name, The Native American Church of the United States. Its modern form is Christianity adapted to traditional Indian beliefs and practices.

Followers of this religion believe that God put some of His Holy Spirit into peyote which he gave to the Indians.

"The Native American Church of the United States," the scientists declare, "is a legitimate religious organization deserving of the same right to religious freedom as other churches."

Science News Letter, December 8, 1951



BLOOD TRANSFUSION PUMP—This life-saving device which speedily pumps large quantities of blood, plasma or plasma substitutes into people dying from loss of blood, can force a pint of blood into veins or arteries within one and one-half minutes.