

## MEDICINE

# Successful Gland Grafts

Key to transplantation is use of glands from unborn animals or human fetuses before they have reached the fifth month so no antibodies are formed in blood.

► **SEX REJUVENATION** by transplants of sex glands may be possible after all. If this is attempted by future surgeons, it will be done by transplanting the sex glands from unborn apes, instead of from adult animals as was tried 30 years ago by the Russian physician, Serge Voronoff.

The key to success in gland transplants into humans is the use of glands from unborn animals or human fetuses at an early stage of development rather than from adults, Dr. Harry S. N. Greene of Yale University, New Haven, Conn., finds.

He has already made three such transplants. Two were of adrenal gland tissue and the third was thyroid gland tissue. One of the patients, a 35-year-old man with Addison's disease, was operated on a year ago, is now alive and working. The second patient got his adrenal gland transplant four months ago. The thyroid gland transplant was made only a few weeks ago.

Both these last two patients are still living but Dr. Greene says it is too early to tell what the results of the operation will be. In the first patient the five pieces of adrenal gland grafted into the man's abdomen

seem to be growing and producing hormones the man's own adrenal glands failed to make.

In all three cases the gland transplants were taken from human fetuses before they had reached the fifth month of life in the womb. Up to this time, Dr. Greene has discovered, tissues from fetuses do not call up antibodies in the body of an adult. After the fifth month antibodies do arise when fetal tissue is transplanted into an adult. The antibodies, similar to those the body mobilizes to fight disease germs and other foreign protein, keep the gland grafts from being successful.

The tissues from fetuses under five months are like malignant cancers in that the young fetal tissues and the cancers do not call up antibodies when transplanted into another body. Dr. Greene thinks this means there is some factor missing from the fetal tissue and the cancers. For cancer fighting, the hope is that this factor can be identified and from that knowledge better means of controlling cancer can be developed.

Science News Letter, April 5, 1952



**PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE PLANE**—The RF-84F high-speed, high or low altitude, day or night photo reconnaissance plane, carries four .50 caliber machine guns for armament. Although performance details are under security wraps, it flies very much faster than the Thunderjet.

## ● RADIO

Saturday, April 12, 1952, 3:15-3:30 p.m. EST

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. H. Jackson Davis, Director of Technical Cooperation in Uruguay for the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, U. S. Department of State, discusses "U. S. Technical Assistance in Uruguay."

## TECHNOLOGY

## Machines Will Make Clerks Obsolete

► **CLERKS WILL** be as obsolete in the future as galley slaves of old, Dean Louis N. Ridenour of the University of Illinois predicted to the Mutual Insurance 200th anniversary conference on the future in New York.

Electronic brains or information machines will bring about a second industrial revolution, he declared. Machines will be able to substitute for human beings in the performance of any routine occupation that can be fully specified. Except for acts of imagination and genius, machines will be able to do any mental task for the next generation better than human beings.

The only reasons that machines are not used more now are that they are costly and still somewhat primitive. For many jobs, people can still be hired for less than an adequate machine.

Dr. Ridenour warned labor unions that they are the machine's best friend since the cost of human labor is pricing people out of the labor market.

Science News Letter, April 5, 1952

## PSYCHOLOGY

## Discounting Opponent's Claims May Help Him

► **A POLITICAL** speaker who tries to discount what his opponent has said is using a two-edged weapon, it is indicated by an experiment reported in Atlantic City.

He may reduce the effectiveness of the opponent's arguments for the time being. But as time goes on his speech may actually serve to prevent the opponent's arguments from losing their effectiveness.

In an experiment reported by Walter Weiss of Yale University to the Eastern Psychological Association meeting, high school students were given a lesson on the effects of smoking. Later a group of the students were given a lecture intended to discount or make them skeptical of the original lesson. Opinions about smoking changed after the first lesson. After a few weeks, however, the opinion change was lessened. Those who listened to the discounting lecture had less change of opinion at first. But later on the original lesson's effectiveness had dropped less for those of the discounted group.

Science News Letter, April 5, 1952