



RESEARCH LUNCHEON—President Eisenhower is sampling orange juice, prepared as a result of research carried on in the laboratories and field stations of the Department of Agriculture, during his recent tour of the Beltsville Research Center, Beltsville, Md. He is shown with Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson and Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Foot-and-Mouth Fight

► MOVING WITH an efficiency and speed learned from bitter experience, Mexican and United States authorities have supervised the complete slaughter and destruction of nearly 500 head of cattle in the new foot-and-mouth disease outbreak near Vera Cruz.

This newly discovered infection will probably mean the U. S.-Mexican border will remain closed to nearly all livestock and meat commerce for at least a year, even if no further evidence of foot-and-mouth, also called aftosa, is detected.

The border was only reopened last September, after being shut tight since the great aftosa outbreak beginning 1946, in which thousands of animals were eradicated and about \$160,000,000 spent by a joint commission of U. S. and Mexican scientists and technicians to wipe out the disease.

The new aftosa outbreak was called to the attention of Dr. D. F. Werring, acting co-director of the Mexican-U. S. Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Mexico, by the Cattlemen's Association of Vera Cruz on May 21.

The commission immediately collected materials for serological tests of the suspected animals, and on Saturday, May 23, presence of the disease was verified from the laboratory. Authorities of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry in Washington were noti-

fied by phone. In a matter of hours Secretary of Agriculture Benson had signed an order closing the border to further importation of all cattle, sheep and other ruminants, and unprocessed meat of those animals from Mexico.

Meanwhile in Mexico, the exposed or infected cattle, numbering from 450 to 500 head, were ruthlessly slaughtered and their remains buried. No further infections have been detected, and authorities are optimistic that the outbreak has been halted at its source.

The last known outbreak of aftosa in Mexico occurred in August, 1951, in the state of Vera Cruz. A policy of eradication of all animals involved quickly ended the trouble, and a year later the border was opened to traffic of cattle, sheep and other ruminants. Since September, 1952, 250,000 head of cattle have come from Mexico into the United States. None of them, however, is believed to have come from Vera Cruz, site of the latest infection.

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When an experimental animal is chilled so that its body chemistry slows down, the animal can take several times the normally damaging dose of X-rays without great injury.

SURGERY

Operation Advised for "Cotton-Candy" Lung

► ENCOURAGING RESULTS with a surgical treatment for "cotton-candy lung" were reported by Drs. Gerald L. Crenshaw and Donald F. Rowles of Oakland, Calif., at the meeting of the American College of Chest Physicians in New York.

"Cotton-candy lung" describes the X-ray appearance of degenerated lungs. The condition occurs chiefly in older persons, begins insidiously and is characterized by progressive difficulty in breathing, weakness and blue skin color. Patients are often extremely thin and are comfortable only when at rest.

The condition arises because of a slowly progressive inflammation and obliteration of blood vessels in both circulatory systems of the lungs.

In addition to medical treatment, the Oakland doctors operate to remove the degenerated areas of the lungs, and to cut nerve endings and arrange for a secondary supply of nourishing blood through collateral arteries. This last is an attempt to change the cycle of progressive lung degeneration.

Science News Letter, June 13, 1953



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