

## SURGERY

# Human Gristle for Repairs

► DICED HUMAN gristle can be used to make ears and hip joint discs and to repair spines and hernias.

This use of the material surrounding joints, known technically as cartilage, was reported by Dr. Lyndon A. Peer of Newark, N. J., at the American Association of Plastic Surgeons meeting in Galveston, Texas.

Dr. Peer, chief of the plastic surgery department of St. Barnabas Hospital in Newark, first developed diced cartilage grafts to fill out bony depressions of the skull or chin. Cartilage for these operations, Dr. Peer said, can be taken either from the patient's own ribs or from a cartilage bank, and has proved to be well tolerated by the human body.

Dr. Peer created an ear out of the patient's own tissue and cartilage, by the use of cartilage shavings packed into a perforated vitallium mold. The cartilage, he said, conforms to the shape of the mold "like wet sand in a sand mold."

When the mold is buried beneath the patient's abdominal skin for five months, connective tissue grows through its openings. When the cartilage is removed from the

mold, it has become a solid ear structure, ready for attachment to the head. Such ears can be made for a child born without ears.

Working in collaboration with another surgeon, Dr. John Flanagan of Newark, Dr. Peer used a similar principle to construct a cartilaginous disc for a patient with an immobilized hip joint. Eight months after surgery the patient is walking well on the hip.

In spina bifida, a serious congenital deformity characterized by extensive bony defects of the spinal cord, Dr. Peer reported he and Dr. Robert Green of South Orange, N. J., used diced cartilage grafts taken from a cartilage bank to correct the defects.

In cases of recurrent abdominal hernia, diced cartilage has been used by Dr. George Simms of Rutherford, N. J., as a reinforcement for the abdominal wall, where it acts as an internal or buried truss. Although hernia had recurred in one patient following an earlier operation, there has been no recurrence for two years after diced cartilage was added.

Science News Letter, May 1, 1954

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# Atomic Parley In U.S.?

► HOLDING PRESIDENT Eisenhower's international conference of atomic scientists to discuss the peaceful atom may not be possible within the United States.

Visas will not be obtainable for some of the world's leading atomic scientists unless exceptions are authorized to the usual methods of visa granting by the Department of State. Restrictions set up under congressional laws now result in decisions on visas for foreign scientists taking six to nine months or more.

Diplomatic passports may solve the problem for the foreign conferees, but even such credentials may not prevent some invitees from being confined to narrow geographical limits around the conference site, just as most of the nation is "out-of-bounds" to some United Nations diplomats.

Canada may provide an escape from hampering U. S. laws. The International Congress of Psychology is being held at Montreal in June, although at first scheduled for the United States. The move to Canada was made to avoid embarrassing clashes over U. S. visas.

The atomic scientists might also assemble on a cruise ship, one which did not belong to the U. S., and stay outside our three-mile limit.

The National Academy of Sciences, a quasi-governmental organization that serves as the senate of American science, would be the logical "national scientific organization" to convene the President's conference an-

nounced by AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss in a Los Angeles speech.

Scientists generally will welcome free discussion of atomic science, bottled up internationally since about 1940. It is not generally realized that scientists themselves without government sanction or urging established a self-imposed censorship upon atomic research reports which was in effect before the war. This security was very effective. Scientists knew what should and should not be told. In fact, atomic security originated with them. The politicians and the military seem to have forgotten this.

If the proposed conference is closed to all Americans but those with "Q" clearance, the meeting will be a travesty. A small step toward recapturing American atomic science prestige internationally would be to invite Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer to be chairman of the conference.

Science News Letter, May 1, 1954

## MEDICINE

## Green Mice Aid Cancer Studies

► SOME GREEN mice are helping scientists at Beth Israel Hospital, New York, in their search for possible anti-cancer chemicals.

The mice turned green because they had chlorophyll (more precisely, sodium potassium copper chlorophyllin) injected under

their skins. The green stuff spread very rapidly, staining all the tissues covering the bellies of the mice and most of the internal organs. Brain and lungs were not stained green. Six months later the lymph glands, muscles, ribs, skin, livers and kidneys of the mice still were distinctly green.

In mice with cancers, the chlorophyll concentrated in the cancers, turning them green.

The studies were reported by Drs. William Antopol and Susi Glaubach at the meetings of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Atlantic City, N. J.

Science News Letter, May 1, 1954

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 65 MAY 1, 1954 NO. 18

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., NORth 7-2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. When ordering a change please state exactly how magazine is now addressed. Your new address should include postal zone number if you have one.

Copyright, 1954, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service. Science Service also publishes CHEMISTRY (monthly) and THINGS of Science (monthly).

Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate of postage provided for by Sec. 34.40, P. L. and R., 1948 Edition, paragraph (d) (act of February 28, 1925; 39 U. S. Code 283); authorized February 28, 1950. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.



Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 1 E. 54th St., New York 22, Eldorado 5-5666, and 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Superior 7-6048.

## SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Ferdinandus Payne, National Science Foundation; Karl Lark-Horowitz, Purdue University; Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; Homer W. Smith, New York University. Nominated by the National Research Council: Leonard Carmichael, Smithsonian Institution; Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; Duane Roller, American Association for the Advancement of Science. Nominated by the Journalistic Profession: A. H. Kirchofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Sun Papers; O. W. Riegel, Lee Memorial Journalism Foundation. Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate: John T. O'Rourke, Washington Daily News; Charles E. Scripps, E. W. Scripps Trust; Edward J. Meeman, Memphis Press-Scimitar.

Officers—President: Harlow Shapley; Vice President and Chairman of Executive Committee: Leonard Carmichael; Treasurer: O. W. Riegel; Secretary: Watson Davis.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. Writers: Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Ann Ewing, Allen Long, C. Marden Cotton. Science Clubs of America: Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. Photography: Fremont Davis. Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins. Production: Priscilla Howe. Interlingua Division in New York: Alexander Gode, Hugh E. Blair, 80 E. 11th St., GRamercy 3-5410.