

celesticetin from the Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Amebic infection, known to the layman as amebic dysentery, and the widespread infection of the female genital tract, trichomoniasis, are being effectively attacked by some of these antibiotics.

Antibiotic Clears Acne

► SMALL DAILY doses of an antibiotic called Tetracycline, or tetracycline, brought good results in patients with acne that had not been helped by other treatments such as sulfur-resorcin lotion, carbon dioxide slush, X-rays and hormones.

Of 75 patients, one-third got "excellent improvement," another third got "good" improvement and one-third only fair improvement, Drs. William C. King and M. Allen Forbes Jr. of the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, reported at the Second Annual Symposium on Antibiotics.

The patients have been observed from one to three months and most are still under observation.

Why such small doses of the antibiotic give such good results is not known. Bacteriological studies now under way will, the scientists hope, give the answer to this question.

Parrot Fever Epidemics

► THE DANGER of humans getting parrot fever, or psittacosis, from parakeets and other birds can now be eliminated, it appears from a report made at the symposium.

The report came from one of the foremost authorities on parrot fever, Dr. K. F. Meyer and his associate, B. Eddie, of the George Williams Hooper Foundation, University of California, San Francisco.

The way to stop this disease threat to humans, Dr. Meyer and associate found, is to have breeders treat their birds with either chlortetracycline or tetracycline. These two antibiotic drugs are better known as Aureomycin and Achromycin. Aureomycin is regularly used to cure humans who contract the disease from birds.

The California investigators gave twice daily injections of Aureomycin or Achromycin to 181 parakeets for 14 days from flocks known to be infected with latent psittacosis. All of the birds who were sacrificed proved free from psittacosis, and no evidence of infection was found in their offspring.

A related disease known technically as ornithosis can similarly be stopped from spreading to humans by treating squabs in breeding establishments, the California scientists found.

Squabs in various stages of natural acute and latent ornithosis, which proved fatal to 50% of untreated birds held under observation as controls, were freed from the infection when injected three times a day for 25 days.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1954

Whole *milk* can be stored in the home freezer for as long as six weeks without losing its flavor.

TECHNOLOGY

Tin Cans Tailor-Made

Although all tin cans look pretty much alike, they actually are designed especially for the product they will contain, involving many fields of research.

► TO THE casual observer one tin can looks like any one of the other 35,600,000,000 used in the U.S. each year, but actually this ubiquitous container is by no means a simple product to develop and manufacture.

Virtually every type of metal can is tailor-made for the item it is destined to package. Its development involves research into metallurgy, chemistry, engineering and a host of other technical aspects. One of the most recent examples, a container which was years in development, is American Can Company's flat top can for soft drinks.

This can, too, looks almost identical to many other tin cans, but it required the efforts of many engineers, scientists and laboratory researchers to perfect.

First, there was research with suppliers of tin plate to obtain the correct chemical and physical properties of the steel, proper gauge and tensile strength, and the optimum amount of tin.

Then, new interior can coatings were developed to protect the quality and flavor of the soft drinks. Even the profiles of the can ends, where five folds of metal make an airtight seal, were redesigned for added strength against internal pressures.

An interesting part of the soft drink can's architecture is the "nine-tab" construction along the side seam where the body of the can is joined together with outside solder. These tabs overlap on the edges of the seam and make the can so strong that under test the solid part of the can's metal body will stretch before the seam itself breaks. Yet these tabs are barely visible to the eye.

The can company also had to make sure that the high-precision manufacture of this can—some parts fabricated to tolerances of one-thousandth of an inch—would be capable of economical mass production at speeds of 450 cans per minute on a single production line.

Quality control checks are made constantly along the entire manufacturing line. One of the factory tests is a "blow-up" method performed by a large device that measures the side seam strength of the can under various internal pressures well above those that would ever be attained commercially.

Another highly sensitive instrument, capable of weighing small pieces of tin plate at weights as low as one-thousandth of a milligram, helps maintain accurate coating control. Still another chemical test is made to determine the degree of manufacturing quality of can interiors and even the most minute scratch can be detected.

Although it is called a "tin" can, the average food can is made up of less than two percent tin and more than 98% steel.

This unique container not only continues as the backbone of the packaging field, but also has revolutionized the marketing of such products as beer, coffee, paint and motor oil.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1954

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 66 NOVEMBER 6, 1954 NO. 19

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.

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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 Reader's 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, ALdorado 5-5666, and 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Superior 7-6048.

SCIENCE SERVICE

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