



ACADEMICIANS GATHER—Discussing recent scientific advances at the autumn meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington are, left to right, Dr. V. K. Zworykin, consultant for Radio Corporation of America, Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, director of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and Dr. Franklin Roach of the National Bureau of Standards Boulder Laboratories.

MEDICINE

Anti-Ulcer Drug

► AN ANTI-ULCER drug that lets ulcer patients eat what they want was introduced to American doctors at the first annual Clinical Conference on Peptic Ulcer Therapy in New York.

The new drug, trade-named Exul, is already in use in Denmark, Italy and Canada, and is now being made available to U. S. doctors on a prescription basis.

The drug's basic ingredient is a substance called Nupra, discovered over 20 years ago in research on vitamin K.

Nupra is extracted from the liver, brain and adrenals of cattle by certain organic solvents.

Reporting on his use of the drug on human ulcer patients over a two and a half year period, Dr. Ejner Jarlov, dean of medicine at the University of Copenhagen, said he had effective results in 30 out of 47 patients. All of them were able to continue working and had no restrictions put on their diet.

Describing the action of the new drug, Dr. Carl W. Ebeling, chief of the gastroenterology department, University of Maryland Medical School, said it was effective even when there was a high acid content in the stomach.

Dr. Jarlov reported that the drug eliminates ulcer symptoms. He hopes that use

of the drug will help determine the nature of ulcers.

Exul is being made in Denmark and distributed in this country by Yorktown Products Corporation, New York.

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HEMATOLOGY

Pituitary Gland Tumor Linked With Blood Group

► TUMORS of the pituitary gland of the kind causing underfunctioning of this important organ are more likely to strike persons belonging to blood group O than persons in other blood groups, Drs. Ernst Mayr, R. Paul Levine and Margaret Mayr of Harvard University and Dr. Louis Diamond of Children's Hospital, Boston, find.

Very few persons with this rare pituitary tumor belonged to blood group A, while the number in group B was about normal or perhaps a little high, compared to the distribution of these blood groups in the general population.

Patients with brain tumors, on the other hand, show about the same distribution of blood groups as the general population, they report in *Science* (Nov. 9).

Science News Letter, November 24, 1956

PUBLIC SAFETY

Change Attitudes to Cut Auto Traffic Toll

► NEWSPAPERS and magazines should print "more interesting and informative stories" on traffic safety, Dr. Herbert J. Stack, director of the Center for Safety Education, New York University, New York, said at the American Public Health Association meeting in Atlantic City.

He praised the press for the support it is giving the traffic safety movement, but urged increased effort both by the press and by radio and television.

Citing a recent report that the driver who operates a car 10,000 miles a year would make about 25,000 errors or violations annually, Dr. Stack said it is "no wonder so many drivers get into trouble."

Commercial driving schools are not as good as the driving courses given in many high schools, he said.

Chiefly needed, however, in Dr. Stack's opinion are ways of changing the attitude of grown-up and youthful drivers. Faulty attitudes and bad personality characteristics are important causes of accidents.

Science News Letter, November 24, 1956

PUBLIC HEALTH

Money Major Problem Starting Dental Plan

► OBTAINING MONEY is the biggest problem in starting prepayment dental plans, Dr. Bissell B. Palmer, president of Group Health Dental Insurance, New York, told the American Public Health Association meeting in Atlantic City.

Prepayment dental plans allow people to pay small monthly premiums for needed dental care, just as they now do for hospital, medical and surgical benefits.

However, dentists interested in setting up such a non-profit plan can find no organization or foundation willing to donate the needed money to start one. The reason is the Government's current attitude on giving money to non-profit organizations.

In the early days of health insurance, foundations were not restricted in this way, but now they stand to lose their tax-exempt status if they make sizable contributions.

Dr. Palmer, who has headed such a prepayment plan in New York for two years, found many other problems in keeping his plan going. One was the big drain already being made on people's money by other types of health and insurance plans. Also the operating expenses of the plan are too big to allow much saving to the public.

Dr. Palmer believes the best way for the dental plan to keep costs down is to team up with some already existing medical, surgical or hospital insurance plan.

Dr. Palmer also said that many management and union groups were enthusiastic about such plans, but expected them to grow slowly because of the many problems.

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