

BIOLOGY

Sperm Cells Stored By Gas Method

➤ A NEW METHOD for storing sperm cells, using carbon dioxide gas to preserve their life and fertility, is reported by G. W. Salisbury and N. L. VanDemark of the University of Illinois, Urbana.

Up to now, the main way of storing animal sperm cells has been to keep them at extremely low temperatures. The new method uses carbon dioxide to replace the low temperature and preliminary results have shown the sperm from bulls can be stored for several days at room temperature in this way. The cells are kept in a special solution through which the carbon dioxide gas is bubbled, the scientists report.

The carbon dioxide gas inhibits the metabolism and "respiration" of the cells, effects which are similar to those produced by low temperature storage.

When the sperm cells are to be "revived" after the storage period they are again gassed, this time with a mixture of 95% nitrogen and five percent carbon dioxide until the metabolism returns to normal. The sperm then regain their original fertility.

"The practical applications of these observations in the preservation of semen for artificial insemination are readily apparent," the scientists conclude in their report which appears in *Nature* (Nov. 9).

Science News Letter, November 23, 1957

AERONAUTICS

First Snark Squadron Ready by 1958

See Front Cover

➤ HEADING skyward is this USAF-Northrop Snark intercontinental missile. The launch-site view of the long range, 5,000 miles, Snark shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER shows the intense flames from its rocket boosters.

The Strategic Air Command is moving toward activating its first Snark guided missile squadron late this year, the Air Force has announced.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1957

Questions

ASTRONOMY—How near the earth will Venus be on January 28, 1958? p. 331.

PHYSIOLOGY—What relationship seems to exist between a pilot's "g" tolerance and a high adrenaline level in his body? p. 324.

SEISMOLOGY—How does pressure at the earth's center compare with that at the surface? p. 325.

Photographs: Cover, Northrop Aircraft, Inc.; p. 323, Bell Helicopter Corporation; p. 325, Harvard University; p. 336, Quicksee Diaper Panty Corp.

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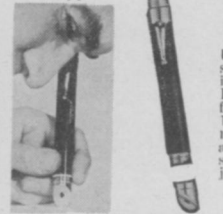
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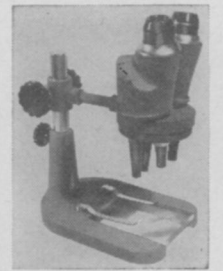
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