

PUBLIC HEALTH

Legislators Win Laskers

TWO U. S. LEGISLATORS have won Special 1959 Albert Lasker Awards for extraordinary public service to the nation's health.

The Albert Lasker Awards are conferred annually by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation through the American Public Health Association in New York.

It is the first time that the award has been given to legislators. Awards were also given to a public health administrator and four research scientists for their outstanding achievements in public health leadership and medical research.

The two winners of the Special Awards are Sen. Lister Hill (D.-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor-Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations, and Rep. John E. Fogarty (D. R. I.), chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Labor-Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations. Senator Hill and Congressman Fogarty were cited for pioneering in support of the legislation and appropriations that have made it possible for the U. S. to achieve world leadership in the field of medical research.

Other awards went to Maurice Pate, executive director, the United Nations Children's Fund, New York, for notable service in directing the Fund's international program against childhood disease and suffering; Dr. John Holmes Dingle, Western Reserve University Medical School, Cleveland, for outstanding studies of acute respiratory infections that have led to new knowledge of colds, flu and pneumonia.

Dr. Albert Coons, Harvard University Medical School, Cambridge, for developing a new fluorescent antibody technique expected to simplify and speed up the diagnosis of viral, venereal and staphylococcal infections; Dr. Jules Freund, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., for new findings in the field of immunology and allergy that have strengthened immunization procedures against such diseases as tuberculosis, malaria, rabies and poliomyelitis, and Dr. Gilbert Dalldorf, the National Foundation, New York, for demonstrating the ability of one virus to modify the course of infection by another and for discovering the Coxsackie virus by a significant new technique.

These five winners will receive honorariums of \$2,500 each, individual citations, and a gold statuette of the Winged Victory of Samothrace, symbolizing victory over death and disease.

The legislators, receiving the Special Awards, will receive the statuettes and citations plus an honorarium of \$5,000 each. Special Albert Lasker Awards have been conferred in the past only upon four others, Dr. Alan Gregg in 1956, Dr. C. E. A. Winslow in 1952, Dr. Haven Emerson, 1949, and Dr. Thomas Parran, 1947.

The seven winners will receive their awards at a formal presentation on Oct. 22. This is the 14th year these awards have been presented. Since their founding, ten winners have later received Nobel Prizes.

Science News Letter, October 17, 1959

MEDICINE

Triple Vaccine Protects

ONE SWALLOW of cherry-flavored syrup will give adequate protection against all three types of polio virus, seven American researchers report in the *British Medical Journal*, (Oct. 3).

The syrup contains types I, II and III polio viruses that are very much alive. They are, however, too weak to cause paralyzing polio—they merely cause antibodies to be formed in the body.

The scientists from the viral and rickettsial research section of Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, N. Y., are Drs. Herald R. Cox, Floyd S. Markham, Arden W. Moyer, Victor J. Cabasso, Max J. Moses, Manuel Roca-Garcia, and James M. Ruegger.

Tests before and after 550 persons swallowed the vaccine showed that good neutralizing antibody responses were formed in the 241 persons carefully checked. The remaining persons have not yet been checked.

Since the introduction of numerous reports on the live virus vaccine, English health officials now appear to be more favorable toward the live vaccine than they were six months ago. They are awaiting, how-

ever, further U. S. trials with the vaccine before starting an experimental program in Great Britain.

Presently, only the Salk vaccine, made of killed viruses, is now backed by the health departments of both the U. S. and Great Britain. Persons must have three separate injections of Salk vaccine to receive immunization against the three types of polio virus.

Currently, the Lederle scientists have finished vaccinating 250,000 Costa Ricans with the tri-valent vaccine. They are now undertaking to vaccinate an additional 250,000. Results reported show that the vaccine is immunizing satisfactorily.

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ICHTHYOLOGY

Analyze Pigments In Rare Red Codfish

THE ATLANTIC cod is a real "red herring."

Two Canadian scientists have analyzed the orange-red flesh in several rare specimens of this important food fish. Two

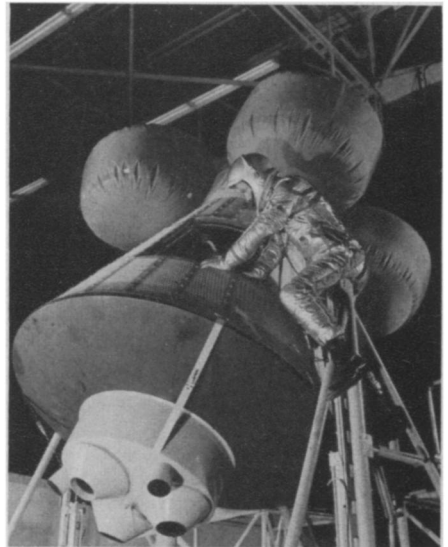
pigments are responsible for the red cod, they report in the *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada* (Aug.).

The entire fish, including head, fins, muscle tissue and the lining of its intestinal cavity, was of a pronounced orange-red color, report E. G. Bligh and W. J. Dyer of the Board's technological station in Halifax, N. S.

Astaxanthin—which gives salmon its color—was found. However, another pigment called zeaxanthin was also present in the proportion of one part to two parts of the salmon pigment.

An unusual reddish haddock was tested and contains zeaxanthin pigment.

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SPACE CAPSULE—A pilot is getting ready to climb into a model of the manned satellite being built for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by McDonnell Aircraft Corporation. The retro-rockets (lower left) and the flotation bags give the capsule buoyancy and stability in water.

ROCKETS AND MISSILES

"Strip-Winding" Used for Polaris Missile Chambers

See Front Cover

PAPER-THIN steel alloys of great strength are used in making the chambers for the solid rocket propellant of the Navy's submarine-launched Polaris missile.

Tests of the chambers simulated the enormous internal pressures in the Polaris rocket motor. They showed capability of withstanding stress of up to 305,000 pounds per square inch static tension ultimate stress, far beyond that ordinarily achieved in industrial use of this kind of cylinder. The cylinders are shown in the photograph on the cover of this week's *SCIENCE NEWS LETTER*.

The technique used in producing these chambers is a welded "strip-winding" technique that was developed by Ryan Aeronautical Company.

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