

## MEDICINE

# TB High in Men Over 50

► MEN IN RUSSIA as well as in some other countries are more frequently affected by tuberculosis than are women. The majority are more than 50 years old.

In one group of 759 tuberculosis patients over 50, 453 were men, Prof. Ph. V. Shebanov, president of the Society of Soviet Phthisiatry, Moscow, told the International Tuberculosis Conference in Toronto, Canada.

However, various non-tuberculosis diseases also occur among elderly patients more often than among those under 50, Prof. Shebanov said. This causes confusion and delay in the diagnosis, as elderly people tend to think that TB is one of their other ailments.

Prof. Paul Freour of Bordeaux, France, said tuberculosis of aged persons is becoming more frequent in France.

When an old person has a cough, he considers it trivial and neglects to have medical attention, Prof. Freour said. It often happens that a pre-existing disease masks tuberculosis and delays the diagnosis.

Tuberculosis among the aging is often carried over from early life, Prof. E. A. Uehlinger of the Pathology Institute of the University of Zurich said.

Old people have senile atrophy of the lungs, Prof. Uehlinger said, which decreases

the ability of the lungs to expand. Also at fault are lung adhesions, chronic bronchitis and fibrosis. In certain cases, cortisone can increase the respiratory efficiency of the lungs.

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## Resistance to TB Drugs

► RESISTANCE of infections to anti-tuberculosis drugs is slowing up the global control of tuberculosis, which takes nearly 3,000,000 lives a year the world around.

Paris and New York have the highest percentages of infections showing resistance to the drugs usually efficient in treating TB. Hungary, Germany and the Netherlands have the lowest frequency of such infections.

Scientists from the Soviet Union, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary and the United States opened the first panel discussion on drug resistance of the tubercle bacillus in Toronto, Canada.

Prof. Miklos Lanyi, chief of the laboratory of the lung clinic, Budapest, Hungary, said several drugs in combination would show better results than one alone.

His statement was backed up by Dr. D. A. Mitchison of the Postgraduate Medical School, London, who said the higher prevalence of primary resistance to isoniazid

in India was due to the use of this drug alone. Isoniazid, para-aminosalicylic acid (PAS) and streptomycin are the three most widely used drugs in TB treatment.

Complacency in certain countries because of the comparative success of the anti-tuberculosis drugs is another obstacle in the way of eradication of the disease.

In another panel, on how to inform the public that TB is not yet under control, Dr. T. J. Joseph, medical superintendent of the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli, India, said conditions in the underdeveloped countries must be especially considered.

Methods of tuberculin-testing, X-rays and bacteriological examinations should be presented simply in various countries, with audio-visual teaching aids used for the great numbers of illiterate people in need of help, Dr. Joseph said.

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## GENERAL SCIENCE

# News From Science Clubs

► IDEAS that keep club members interested and active are plentiful in the latest group of activity reports sent to Science Clubs of America.

THE SIERRA High School Science Club in Whittier, Calif., has published a 75-page Science Journal detailing experiments and scientific investigations done by students. The Journal will be published annually. Copies of the first issue are available to science teachers and others interested on request. The school's address is 9401 South Painter Avenue, Whittier.

ALSO NEW to the publishing business is the Science Club at Central High School, South Bend, Ind. The club's biweekly paper is called Contrails. The members have been making field trips to out-of-town industries via chartered bus.

THE SCIENCE CLUB at Springfield High School, Springfield, Pa., conducted an electronic workshop for its members in June, featuring lectures and demonstrations on voltmeters, electric soldering, telescopes, oscilloscopes and transformers.

IN SOUTH INDIA, the Science Club at B.E.M. High School, Badagara, Kerala State, has been working on scientific models made of clay and paper pulp.

THE SEMPER SCIENTIA Club at Davenport High School, Davenport, Wash., has made a science lecture program available to grade school classes. Members prepare and

present demonstrations on specific science units that are being taught at the elementary level.

THE SENIOR Science Club at Van Buren High School, Eufaula, Ala., has repaired radio sets, helped with community garden shows, and sponsored an "atomic greenhouse."

THE HONORARY Chemistry Club at the East Peoria, Ill., Community High School schedules a talk by a visiting scientist at each of its monthly meetings.

THE SCIENCE Club at the Philadelphia, Pa., High School of Agriculture and Horticulture has conducted soil tests for the school and the community, and is maintaining collections of small animals and tropical fish.

IN PATERSON, N. J., the Albertus Magnus Science Club at St. Mary High School sends its members to elementary schools to serve as student teachers, and has been active in the Junior Civil Defense program.

THE BIOLOGY Workshop Club at Mt. Pleasant, Tex., High School takes care of the rose garden on the school campus.

YOUR OWN class, group or club can be affiliated with Science Clubs of America, the world's largest scientific organization, at no cost whatever. Simply write to SCA at 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

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