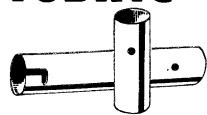


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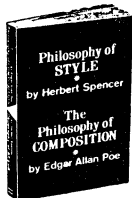
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VIROLOGY

Virus Involved With Degenerative Diseases

➤ VIRUSES may not only be the cause of human cancer but may be involved in degenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, or shaking palsy, "speculates" Nobel Prize winner Dr. John F. Enders, who opened the way to polio and measles vaccines.

It seems possible, Dr. Enders said in the New England Journal of Medicine, 271:969, 1964, that "infection in certain persons, perhaps with common viruses like those of measles or mumps or herpes simplex," might be followed by the establishment of a sort of virus-cell relation.

The long-lasting immunity conferred by an attack of many acute viral infections, he said, has long been held by some to depend upon the continuous presence of virus in the tissues.

In the case of cancer, however, scientists probably should not expect to find viruses in the complete, or resting, state in tumor tissue. In fact, in spite of many attempts they have not been found.

"Rather than continue to look for agents in this form," he advised, "a more promising approach would consist in exploring a variety of conditions that might release the full capacity of the virus genome (a set of chromosomes). Already, investigations are proceeding along these lines."

Referring to degenerative diseases, Dr. Enders said new antigens might appear as a result of the virus-cell relationship. The cells bearing the antigens would become immunologically foreign and eventually might be injured and destroyed. This destruction could happen either through development of antibodies specific for the new antigen, or by a cellular reaction of the homograft-rejection type.

A mechanism of this sort might even condition some of the autoimmune diseases.

Dr. Enders of Harvard University won the 1954 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for tissue culture work.

• Science News Letter, 86:324 November 21, 1964

TECHNOLOGY

Medical TV for Hospitals To Teach Courses

➤ VITAL INFORMATION from medical centers all over the United States will be carried to subscribing hospitals in a closed-circuit television network beginning some time in 1965.

Refresher courses on new developments in medical techniques, diagnosis and therapy and coverage of significant meetings will be televised in hour-long programs for viewing by full hospital staffs. The network, called Medical Television Communications, will carry commercials from pharmaceutical companies on products of interest to the medical and nursing profession.

Programs will be carried via American Telephone and Telegraph long-line cables directly into hospitals where they will be shown on special high-fidelity receiving sets.

• Science News Letter, 86:324 November 21, 1964

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