

THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATOR—Richard O. Arther—Thomas, C. C., 236 p., photographs, \$8.75. Explains in nontechnical language how the laboratory can help solve criminal cases.

THE SEMI-ARTIFICIAL MAN: A Dawning Revolution in Medicine—Harold M. Schmeck, Jr.—Walker & Co., 224 p., \$5. A readable survey of the field of surgical transplantation, the transplantation of organs from one individual to another and the development of artificial substitutes for functioning parts of the human body.

A SOPHISTICATE'S PRIMER OF RELATIVITY—P. W. Bridgman—Harper, 164 p., paper, \$1.35. Reprint (1962).

THE STORY OF OPTOMETRY—James R. Gregg—Ronald Press, 305 p., illus., \$5.50. History of the skills and technological advances in understanding and improving man's vision.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER ADMINISTRATION: TICA Conference, Drexel Institute of Technology, 1964—Arthur W. Elias, Ed.—Spartan Bks., 171 p., illus., \$8.75. Includes papers on training, research, abstracting and indexing control, and on computer management in information centers.

TERATOLOGY: Principles and Techniques—James G. Wilson and Josef Warkany, Eds.—Univ. of Chicago Press, 279 p., illus., \$5.50. Based on lectures and demonstrations given at 1964 workshop concerned with biological malformations in embryos and factors influencing teratogenic response to drugs.

THAT MAN MAY SURVIVE—Alan Bateman and others, preface by Everett R. Clinchy, Pres.—Institute on Man and Science, 64 p., paper, 50¢ direct to publisher, Rensselaerville, N.Y. Contains digest of the Institute's teaching on the public understanding of science, and the taped conversations of nine scientists on the subject of conservation.

TO THE ZOO IN A PLASTIC BOX—John & George Newmark—Random House, 240 p., photographs, \$3.95. Amusingly written account by two brothers who collect insects and other creatures for the London Zoo.

TWO GROUP REACTOR THEORY—J. L. Meem—Gordon & Breach, 417 p., diagrams, \$20.50. This two-semester text for graduate students in nuclear engineering emphasizes the engineering analysis of reactors rather than fundamental reactor physics.

• Science News Letter, 87:156 March 6, 1965

PHYSIOLOGY

Men, Mink and Cattle Have Same Rare Ills

► CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS of humans, mink and cattle have similar abnormal white blood cells that make them tend to have light hair or fur and to make them susceptible to bacterial diseases.

The white blood cells of the rare and beautiful Aleutian mink and those found in a little-known and fatal condition of humans known as the Chediak-Higashi syndrome resemble each other. This remarkable similarity was found by scientists at the Fur Animal Disease Research Laboratory, part of the research section of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Veterinary Pathology at Washington State University.

Like the Aleutian mink, persons with the rare syndrome are partially albino, having light hair, pink eyes and an abnormal sensitivity to bright light. They are also highly susceptible to bacterial infection, and most die before they are seven years old.

The same type of white blood cells are found in the world's only herd of partial albino Hereford cattle at Washington State University. They have grey eyes and avoid bright sunlight.

In all three mammals—man, mink and cattle—the abnormal coloring and white blood cells are inherited through genes that are recessive and not sex-linked. In other words, either male or female may have the rare condition if both parents are carriers.

Granules were found in the white blood cells of these individuals which do not function normally in the process of destroying

bacteria as they enter the cells, reported the scientists. They apparently fail to release special enzymes to destroy the bacteria.

In addition, many of the group are also "bleeders."

Research on the white blood cells of the Aleutian mink was begun because the animal proved so difficult to raise. The family line started from a mutation that suddenly appeared in a single mink on a western Oregon ranch in 1941. Today, one of the rare creatures may bring thousands of dollars.

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SURGERY

Ear Cartilage Supplies 'Spare Parts' for Repair

► THE SMALL FRONT cartilage flap over the opening to the ear can be considered a storehouse of "spare parts" for repairing defects in the hearing apparatus.

The cartilage, known as the tragus, is covered by a versatile tissue called the perichondrium, which has proved excellent for grafting purposes in middle ear surgery.

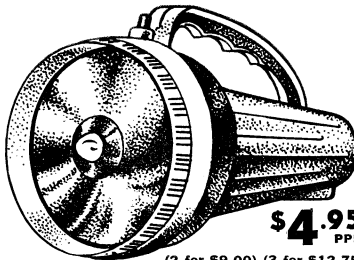
Drs. Victor Goodhill, Seymour J. Brockman and Irwin Harris of the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School and Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, report successful use of this tissue in more than 200 cases of reconstructive middle ear surgery.

This "all purpose" tissue can be used in repairing punctured eardrums as well as in more extensive procedures involving rebuilding of the entire middle ear to restore its function in the transmission of sound.

Perichondrium from the tragus appears to be superior to other tissues, such as vein, fat and skin, which have been used in the past for such grafts. It is conveniently located in the operative site and is available in adequate amounts.

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