

preventable, theoretically," Dr. Higginson says, "so our agency has a specific scientific mandate to go after the etiology. We will make full use of our unique international position."

One 1968 project will be to organize specialized three-week courses, for 30 junior researchers from as wide an international range as possible. The agency will pay all costs and publish the courses.

The agency's transplantation center will be in the Department of Tumor Biology at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. The Institute maintains a frozen tumor bank of transplantable tumor strains, and offers materials to any investigator.

David Alan Ehrlich

FROM CANADA

Microwave Dryer

An experimental microwave machine which can dry soaking wet paper at 25 feet a minute was revealed in Toronto by Houston-Schmidt Ltd. The equipment is based on a design evolved by the National Research Council of Canada.

The machine can be used for rapid drying of paper, photographic prints and even leather. Water molecules in the material are brought to the boiling point without heating the material itself. The steam is then blown away.

The experimental unit will be delivered to the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada near Montreal this month.

The machine uses a magnetron to generate five kilowatts of power at a frequency of 2,450 megacycles per second. This microwave field is contained in a four foot long waveguide.

In a demonstration of the equipment, heavy wet paper was fed through the device at about 25 feet a minute. The power generated by the waveguide was adequate to handle 18-inch-wide wet paper at that speed.

The machine resulted from investigations by the Canadian research group when it was confronted with finding a method of drying very large mural photographs for Expo '67. The machine reduced the time needed to dry such prints from 12 hours to five minutes. As the microwave field generates heat only in the moisture in the print and not in the fiber of the print, the fiber is not damaged by the heat.

Tom Weissmann

FROM AUSTRALIA

Fallout No Health Worry

The National Radiation Advisory Committee has reported that fallout from the five French nuclear tests in the Pacific last year does not consti-

tute a hazard to the health of Australians.

The report said the first substantial fallout deposits in Australia occurred 12 to 14 days after each explosion. The highest radiation doses to the whole body was an insignificant 0.46 millirad compared with an average annual natural dose of about 100 millirads.

Kidney Grafts Successful

Doctors at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, have achieved an 83 percent success rate in transplantation of kidneys over the last 12 months—believed higher than anywhere else in the world. Since January 1965, 24 patients have received kidney grafts at the hospital and 20 have recovered to lead normal lives so far.

Dr. T. J. K. Jamieson, medical superintendent, says the program began three years ago as a pilot project but results have been so outstanding that it could no longer be considered a trial scheme.

The hospital's team of doctors has, with the permission of relatives, used only kidneys from donors who had died. Overseas practice has preferred kidneys from living donors related to the patient because surveys showed that grafts from related living donors gave a 65 percent success rate, while grafts from dead donors gave a success rate of only 39 percent. But the results in Melbourne were much better than either of these figures.

The Melbourne team has used an artificial kidney machine to prepare patients for the transplantation operation and intensive care to make sure they were free from infection and their blood pressure was normal.

The first patient to undergo the kidney graft successfully two years ago is still in good health. Kidney function in all the long-term survivors is reported excellent and stable.

"It is hoped that even greater success will be achieved with the establishment of a tissue-typing center on an experimental basis in June," Dr. Jamieson says.

W. A. Scholes

FROM GUATEMALA

Million for Nutrition

The Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama in Guatemala City received grants of \$1,158,512 last year, most of it from United States sources. This is \$87,068 above the 1965 figure.

An accounting released last week shows that the National Institutes of Health put up \$907,730 for 14 research projects, making it by far the largest single donor. The U.S. Army contributed \$43,795.

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