

# Medical Sciences Notes

## ANIMAL RESEARCH

### Stanford Beasts to Live Well

Humane societies can rest assured that the 65,000 animals housed each year by the Stanford University School of Medicine will live well in new facilities that will cost more than half a million dollars.

Matching funds of \$281,000 from the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., will provide buildings containing approximately 14,000 square feet of space with an additional 4,000 square feet of outdoor pens, kennels and exercise areas. Indoor housing will include radiant heating where necessary, automatic flushing of pens and automatic watering devices.

"Animal research often benefits animals as much as it does man," says Dr. Orland Soave, director of the Animal Care Facilities. "The vast majority of our knowledge concerning the treatment of animal diseases has resulted from their use in the study of human ailments. Such knowledge is then adapted to animal care."

A model of its kind in the nation, the new center is a contrast to the filthy quarters pictured by animal lovers as the cruel background of research.

One of the major research programs will be a newly initiated one in comparative medicine, which will observe naturally occurring animal diseases that are similar or closely related to human ailments.

## DANGEROUS SPORT

### Football 'Spearing' Disapproved

Football coaches who teach or permit "spearing"—using the head as a battering ram—are endangering their players' lives, the American Medical Association committee on the medical aspects of sports points out.

Neurosurgeons are appalled by coaches deliberately teaching this technique, Dr. Richard S. Schneider of Ann Arbor, Mich., a member of the committee, says.

Death may be only 30 to 60 seconds away if the blood vessels draining the brain are damaged by a heavy blow, or if hemorrhaging begins in the brain. The spearing technique can injure both the person who uses it and his opponent in the game.

AMA committee polled a group of coaches, physicians and sports officials and received support in calling for an end to the method. More high school coaches teach the technique than college trainers. Since 1960, most of the football deaths have been caused by head and neck injuries.

## NUTRITION

### Hair Roots Show Protein Lack

The condition of a person's hair roots will show whether or not he is suffering from protein malnutrition. Examination of the root bulb and the external root sheath offers a quick and inexpensive tool for public health workers, especially in areas where sophisticated equipment is not readily available, say three nutritional scientists at the University of California at Berkeley.

They tried the method on eight men in good physical condition, keeping them in a research ward for three months for a series of 15-day experiments.

The men, aged 24 to 29, were fed a liquid formula diet three times daily, which provided either 75 grams

of protein per man per day in the form of egg albumen, or no protein at all. In the latter case, dextri-maltose was added to equal the calories of the egg albumen.

The diet remained at 2,800 calories per man per day throughout the study.

Samples of 100 hairs were plucked quickly from the back of each subject's head and examined in a dissecting microscope. Successive samples were taken from slightly different locations in both the protein-deprived men and controls. The ones deprived of protein had less hair color and root bulbs were atrophied.

The researchers, Robert B. Bradfield, Marcelle A. Bailey and Sheldon Margen, report in the July 28 SCIENCE.

## INJURIES

### Accidents Decline in Past Year

A 14 percent drop in the number of accidents in the United States for the year ended July 1, 1967, has been announced by the Health Insurance Institute.

A sizeable number among the country's estimated 200 million population got hurt in one way or another, nevertheless—28 million men and 20 million women.

The general injury rate has gone down from 30 to 25 per 100 persons, although no special reason is given for the lower figure.

The home is still the place in which most accidents happen, but even here the number decreased by four million.

## AUTO SAFETY

### Optometrists Study Glare Problem

The problem of glare interfering with a driver's vision will be studied at Indiana University's division of optometry. The first U.S. Department of Transportation contract underwriting the project amounts to \$70,000.

Three phases of the six-month study will be under the direction of Prof. M. J. Allen. He hopes eventually to be able to create standards of glare prevention for automobiles to meet.

## DENTAL RESEARCH

### Oral Biology Expands Dentistry

The study of dentistry is being broadened at the University of Michigan by a million-dollar grant from the National Institute of Dental Research, Bethesda, Md.

The one-year grant is the first phase of a five-year program. Dr. Dominic D. Dziewiatkowski, currently on the staff of Rockefeller University, New York, will join the University of Michigan faculty and become acting director of a new dental research institute.

The Institute will include a department of oral biology, but will be based primarily in the seven basic science departments of the Medical School. The seven are: anatomy, biochemistry, human genetics, pathology, pharmacology, physiology and microbiology. The dental program also will be extended to include sociology, psychology, biophysics, bioengineering and other fields.

Research training will be offered to those preparing to become either basic or clinical scientists in fields related to oral health.