

within two or three days after the start of oxygen therapy, can be reversed by cutting out the treatment. However, after a couple of weeks, it may be too late to undo the harm. There are situations, Dr. Pratt points out, in which continuous and steadily increasing oxygen therapy is essential to the patient's life and in such situations oxygen cannot be fairly blamed for death if it occurs.

Dr. Pratt and Drs. Harold S. Weiss and Richard B. Pilmer reported their studies to the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists meeting in Washington, D.C. The research was carried out at Ohio State University.

## Bone Growth Helped

Premature loss of teeth caused by defective bone may soon be prevented by the use of acrylic sponge, a foamy mixture that can promote bone growth.

Already successful in replacing the lost jawbone of monkeys, the new method will be tried in about a month in humans, Dr. Edward P. Henefer of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Philadelphia, says. Preliminary surface tissue implantation of this "acrylate amide elastomer" in the human jaw shows promise for deeper implants, he told the 45th general meeting of the International Association for Dental Research in Washington, D.C., last week.

Dr. Henefer and his co-workers created tooth socket bone defects next to the teeth roots of 20 squirrel monkeys and then inserted acrylic sponge into the defective areas. The sponge prevented the collapse of overlying gum tissues and promoted bone growth within two months.

## Dog Biscuits or Cake

Dog biscuits with large amounts of sugar cause little tooth decay when fed to rats—not nearly as much as that produced by cookies of the type commonly used for human consumption, a meeting of the International Association for Dental Research in Washington, D.C. was told.

Unlike the cookies, dog biscuits generally contain some source of added calcium phosphate, meat and crude molasses. Thus certain food combinations may be formulated that have relatively little decay-causing properties even though they contain substantial amounts of sugar, Dr. Robert M. Stephan of the National Institute of Dental Research, Bethesda, Md., explained.

The work adds to evidence of a relation between phosphates and tooth decay.

## Brain Drain Refrain

The cure for the "brain drain" problem lies more with the nations that are complaining about it than the United States, the Senate was told by three witnesses last week.

The U.S. has recently been criticized by foreign nations, particularly the better developed ones, as a seducer of their best talent, a rich land hiring away their future development in the form of highly trained brains, and creating something called a "technology gap" in the process.

"If the domestic policies of a number of advanced nations demonstrated nearly the same high evaluation of their scientists and engineers that are evident in their protests over the brain drain, the outward flow would be markedly diminished," Dr. Donald F. Hornig, director of the Office of Science and Technology, testified.

Before the immigration subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Dr. Hornig specifically exempted the underdeveloped nations from his accusation, suggesting that the United States aid them in developing conditions that would keep their highly trained people at home.

But the Europeans could solve the problem, he testified, by increasing their level of investment in higher education, paying higher salaries, giving more autonomy to junior workers, promoting them sooner and relaxing bureaucratic rigidity. Dr. Hornig was recently assigned by President Johnson to do a study for him of the gap and the drain.

Addressing the problem of foreign students who train in this country, ostensibly to work at home, and then elect to stay on, another witness declared, "The burden of persuasion should rest on the countries of origin rather than upon us." Richard A. Humphrey, director of the Commission on International Education of the American Council on Education, a group of 1,261 colleges and universities, added:

"The evidence is not yet very convincing that loser nations have exerted all possible efforts to regain their own talent.

"We ought, I think, to look hard for such evidence before accepting as just the criticism that we have exploited the talent of a specific nation."

David Dickinson Henry, director of the International Office at Harvard University, heads two programs that bring African and Latin American students to this country for training, "a form of technical assistance," and requires that they return home after completing school.

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