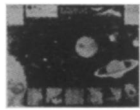


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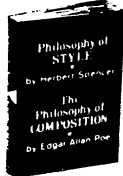
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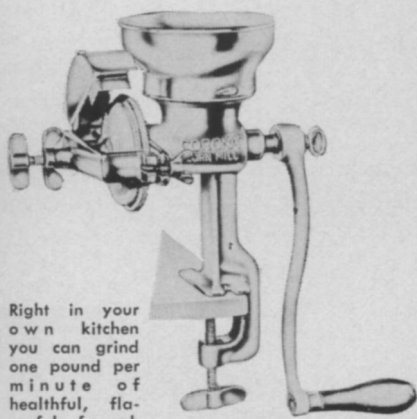
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from abroad

GENEVA

WHO moves in immunology

The Immunology Unit of the World Health Organization was formed four years ago by Dr. Howard Goodman, who left the National Institute of Health for the job. So far it has operated on the little-more-than-catalytic budget of \$33,000 a year. But in the wake of the world's first heart transplants, there is great interest in intensifying the unit's activities, particularly in the field of tissue typing.

Several physicians representing their governments at a recent WHO executive board meeting in Geneva urged immediate response to what was termed an emergency situation.

Dr. Marcolino Gomez Candau, WHO director general, noting that transplant research is going on at a great rate in many countries, says, "Transplant immunology is a large, complex field. The need for WHO assistance has been most evident in the development of tissue typing antigens."

"More resources should be devoted to immunology," says Dr. A. G. Engel of the Swedish Health Ministry. "The development of practical methods for selecting donors, and the production of human sera containing antibodies against tissue antigens, will be of the utmost importance for clinical medicine and surgery, as well as of immense theoretical value."

Dr. Goodman and his principal colleague, Dr. Zdenek Trnka of Czechoslovakia, outlining some of the unit's activities and plans, notes that the unit has helped to organize and support two recent international tissue typing workshops, one at Leiden, Holland, and the other in Turin, Italy. In addition it is supporting research at Leiden into typing techniques.

It is planned later this year to hold an international conference on tissue typing terminology. After uniform terminology is decided on, a WHO international reference center for tissue antigen typing will be selected. The unit already has selected ten such centers on other areas in immunology. The tissue typing center may be at Leiden or in Paris, according to current speculation.

There is more speculation that Dr. Jan Van Rood of Leiden, originator of a European network of transplant surgeons, has a plan for a similar worldwide transplant system that WHO would be asked to administer.

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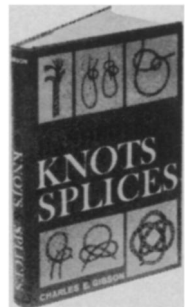
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