

## MEDICINE

# Treatment for After-Effects Of "Sleeping Sickness" Helps

## White Wine Extract of Bulgarian Belladonna Relieves Rigid Muscles and Mask-Like Faces; Not a Cure

HOPE for recovery of patients disabled by the tragic after-effects of an attack of "sleeping sickness" or encephalitis appears in the report of good results an American physician, Dr. Howard D. Fabing of Cincinnati, has had with a medical treatment imported from Bulgaria via Italy.

While the new medical treatment cannot be called a cure, 22 out of 23 totally incapacitated patients were helped by it, nine of them showing marked improvement, Dr. Fabing reported. (*Ohio State Medical Journal*, November.) The rigid muscles, mask-like faces and peculiar gait are the after-effects chiefly helped by the treatment. The patients feel better, but the mental symptoms are not always relieved.

The medicine used is a white wine extract of the Bulgarian belladonna plant. This medical treatment was first promulgated by a Bulgarian herbalist, Ivan Raeff, of Chipka. Clinics for giving this treatment were established throughout Italy by Queen Elena. More recently, English and American physicians have tried the treatment with good results.

Why Bulgarian belladonna should be better than that grown elsewhere, and why a white wine extract is better than one made with ethyl alcohol or distilled water are questions pharmacologists have not yet been able to answer. Doctors using the treatment, however, find that the white wine extract of Bulgarian belladonna is the best combination. One of them, Dr. Josephine B. Neal, of New

York City, declares that after an intensive 10-year study of many cases of chronic "sleeping sickness" and many kinds of treatment, she finds the Bulgarian treatment "by far the most effective method of therapy."

Patients given the Bulgarian treatment begin to improve anywhere from the third to seventh day after starting to take the medicine, Dr. Fabing found. Greatest gains were made within the first two or three weeks. No dietary restrictions are necessary, but all the patients reported they could not tolerate alcoholic drinks while taking the medicine.

The medicine has a slightly sedative effect, Dr. Fabing reported. Patients sleep a little longer at night and like a nap in the afternoon.

The mental symptoms which are an after-effect of "sleeping sickness" are variously affected by the treatment. One young man who had a severe anxiety state was completely relieved, Dr. Fabing reported, but "a girl with impulsive behavior continues to be a problem to her family."

*Science News Letter, February 17, 1940*

## CHEMISTRY

## Rubber Pierced With Holes Makes New Chemical Filter

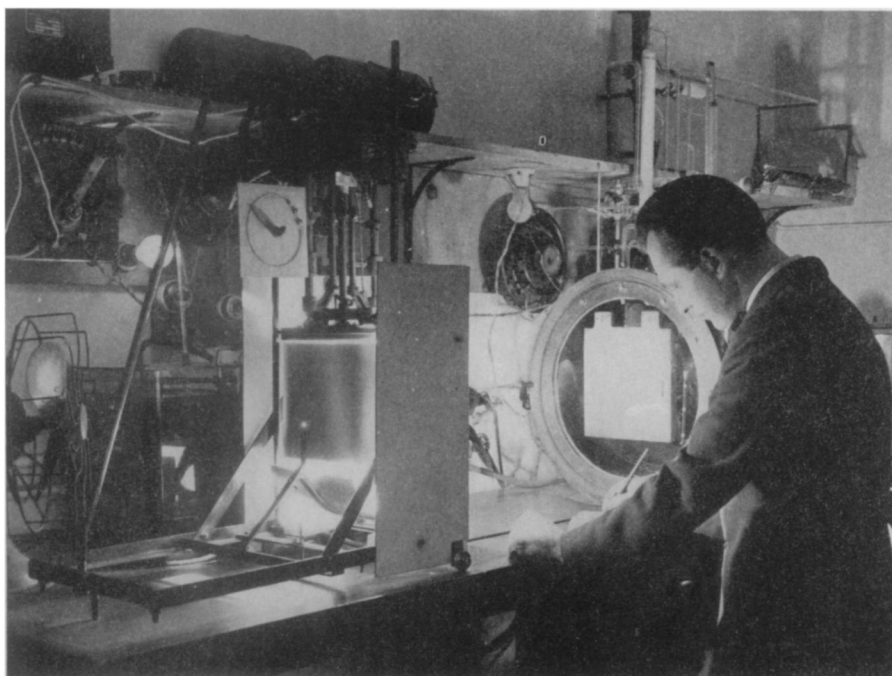
THE number of things that rubber is being used for these days is amazing—not just tires, overshoes or erasers, but transparent sheeting, adhesive and now filters.

Filtering is one of the most important processes in chemical industry, removing solids from liquids. And many things are used for filters, paper, cloth, diatomaceous earth, metal wire screens, etc.

Now add to the list rubber filters with all the chemical resistance and durability of that material. Looking like ordinary sheets of rubber, the new filters are pierced with many small holes. A light behind them shows that they really are rubber sieves that let water through instead of holding it back. The finest rubber filter has 6400 round holes per square inch, each pore from four to five thousandths of an inch in diameter.

How they are made has chemists guessing. Some think the rubber is molded around a bank of fine wires under tension making the holes in the rubber finer than the wires. Others hold that a mold full of holes is used and the rubber pressed into it. Manufacturer: Filter Media Corporation.

*Science News Letter, February 17, 1940*



STUDYING TRANSPARENT SHEETING

Dr. Herbert F. Launer, demonstrates at the National Bureau of Standards, his new photochemical method for study of such solid materials as cellulose, plastics, rubber sheeting, etc. Light after passing through filters to remove undesired wave lengths strikes the sheet which is held in intimate contact with a thermostated aluminum backing. The backing removes the heat. Moisture and oxygen content of the air around the sample are controlled and varied.