

MEDICINE

# Artificial Fever Reduces High Blood Pressure

## Induced By Certain Chemicals or By Triple Typhoid Vaccine, It Will Reduce Pressure But Is Not Cure

**F**EVER artificially induced by certain chemicals or by triple typhoid vaccine will significantly reduce blood pressure, particularly in patients suffering with high blood pressure, Dr. Herbert Chasis, Dr. William Goldring and Dr. Homer W. Smith, of New York University College of Medicine, announced at the meeting of the American Heart Association in Atlantic City.

Repeated doses of the fever-inducing substance will keep the blood pressure at lower levels, even when the fever itself is kept from developing by first giving amidopyrin. The treatment, however, cannot be called a "cure" since it does not correct the fundamental process that causes the high blood pressure, the New York physicians found.

The substances used besides the triple typhoid vaccine were a kind of sugar called inulin and tyrosinase, the enzyme that blackens potatoes which had previously been reported as a blood pressure reducing chemical. None of these caused any harm so far as could be observed, but they must be used cautiously. This was shown by the alarming experience with one patient whose blood circulation was slowed down so far that she became unconscious following treatment with the triple typhoid vaccine.

The blood pressure lowering effect of the fever-inducing substances, the New York doctors believe, is the result of an "adverse" reaction of weakness on the part of the heart and blood vessels.

The practical value of the results of the treatment was not the discovery of a new remedy for high blood pressure but the new light thrown on the action of other remedies that might at first seem to be effective in treatment of this condition. They may owe their apparent effectiveness as high blood pressure remedies, it now appears, to the fact that they are contaminated with common bacteria related to the typhoid fever group of germs. These germs and substances from them may cause fever and may also reduce blood pressure. The chances for blood pressure reducing remedies becoming contaminated with

these germs are plentiful. The New York doctors point out that such contamination must be ruled out before the remedies themselves can be credited with reducing blood pressure.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1942*

## More Common in Women

**H**IGH blood pressure, one of the unsolved medical problems today, is more common in women but more serious in men, Dr. R. L. King, Dr. Thomas Carlile and Dr. J. M. Blackford, of the Mason Clinic, Seattle, told members of the American Heart Association.

Among 794 patients found to have high blood pressure in general examinations given between 1924 and 1930, the

women predominated in a ratio of 3:2. However, twice as many women as men were living 10 to 16 years later.

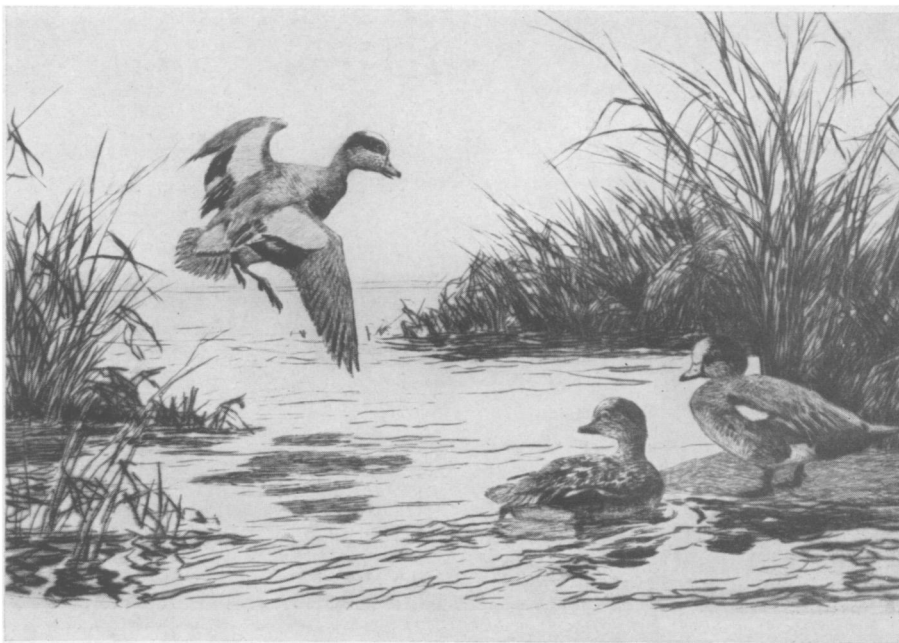
Of the total group followed up 10 to 16 years later, 128 or a little over one-fourth, were still living, with 353 dead. Fourteen lived 15 years or longer after their high blood pressure was first noted.

Heart failure caused twice as many deaths in this group as any other single cause. Heart enlargement may occur in high blood pressure patients in a relatively short time, the Seattle doctors observed. This depends for the most part on how high the blood pressure is and how long it remains high.

The influence of high blood pressure on the expectation of life is "striking," they said. Men 40 to 45 years old, with a life expectancy normally of about another 25 years, lived only about five years longer.

The seriousness of the outlook for high blood pressure patients, the Seattle doctors said, is, in general, influenced by the height of the blood pressure, advancing age, and the presence of signs of progressing changes in the blood vessels, especially in the brain, heart and kidneys.

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### 1942 DUCK STAMPS GO ON SALE JULY 1

*This year's Duck Stamp design, by the well-known wildlife artist A. Lassell Ripley, features the American widgeon. A pair are shown in typical habitat surroundings, with a second drake about to alight on the water. These stamps, which go on sale July 1 at all first and second class postoffices, are much in demand by collectors as well as by hunters, who must show them on their licenses if they are gunning for migratory waterfowl. Ninety per cent of all money raised by their sale, added to other funds, goes toward the purchase of land for new wildfowl refuges.*