

## MEDICINE

## Germ-Killer From Soil Effective for Wounds

A NEW chemical remedy against germs, expected to be particularly useful in treatment of war wounds, has now been tested on 90 patients in Philadelphia hospitals according to reports from Dr. Ellice McDonald, director of the Biochemical Research Laboratories at Newark, Del., and Dr. V. W. Murray Wright of Philadelphia.

The new chemical remedy, H-1, is extracted from germs that live in the ground. It has proved very effective against infections with germs in the gram-positive group, which are the ones found in 80% to 90% of wounds.

H-1 is a fine gray powder with the great advantage of being very efficient in high dilutions. It is prepared for use by dissolving in a small amount of alcohol and then diluting with water. The solution is colorless, thereby enabling the surgeon to observe the wound progress better. This would be of further value in war since a potentially large amount of the germicide could easily be transported in a small package by plane to distant combat areas.

In addition to its germ-killing effect, H-1 seems to stimulate healing. Many wounds and some skin grafts treated with it healed in a remarkably short time, Dr. Wright reported.

H-1 belongs in that rapidly growing group of remedies against germs which are extracted from microorganisms instead of being made in the chemical laboratory, as the sulfa drugs are. The germ-against-germ chemicals include gramicidin, which H-1 is somewhat like, tyrocidine, and penicillin. The latter substance is extracted from molds, whereas H-1 and gramicidin are extracted from bacilli that live in the earth.

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### SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA

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#### NEWS OF CLUBS

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Very few of us appreciate our neighbor's hobbies. The person who devotes his spare time to the rearing of tropical fish often is considered a crackpot by the one who collects stamps; both may be misunderstood by the one who builds model airplanes. However, all are brothers under the skin. In every case a mastery of a certain sort is essential before the hobbyist can become imbued with the bug. But when this happens the hobbyist is quick to explain the thrills he gets from his spare time activity. He hopefully displays his awards whether they be monetary prizes, silver cups or just a rare and unusual specimen.

The hobbyist's hope is that the spectators will be induced to share the benefits of a pet avocation.

It is for this reason that a hobby program is a "natural" for any club. Speakers are not difficult to obtain, audiences are thrilled and the hobbyists feel they have performed a noble service.

Interest in the hobbies of other people is pronounced among members of the Naturalists Club at the Emerich Manual Training High School. Not only does this club stage many hobby shows but the members also build scientific projects and demonstrate the use of member built apparatus. The sponsor is Robert L. Black, biology teacher.

BOALSBURG, Pa.—At every meeting of the Bunsen Burners Science Club at Harris Township High School, the members add to the collections of flowers, bugs, moths and butterflies. Being desirous of aiding in the war programs, the members also have taken up First Aid work. Occasional social gatherings permit the members to meet each other on a purely friendly basis. Mr. Freeley, principal, is the sponsor.

Clubs are invited to become affiliated with SCA for a nominal \$2 for 20 members or less. You can become an associate of SCA for 25 cents. Address: Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

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## Confidence Rides With The Dawn Patrol

WHEN the bombers of the Atlantic Patrol thunder into the dawn, their pilots look ahead with confidence—confidence born of faith in their machines and the fuel that drives their motors. American fuels, like American planes, are built to bring back safely those who fly.

Somewhere, in an American refinery, one of America's great army of behind-the-scenes workers, with a Bausch & Lomb Refractometer, is doing his part in making American oils and gasolines so efficient and safely dependable. Modern refractometric methods of control speed refining operations and maintain a greater uniformity and higher quality than ever achieved before.

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