

PUBLIC HEALTH

Yellow Fever Vaccinations Now Safe From Jaundice Peril

Vaccine Made With Water Now Used in Place of Kind Containing Blood Serum Believed To Blame for Cases

DANGER of jaundice breaking out in the Army among troops vaccinated against yellow fever is now over, the Surgeon General feels sure. Full information about the jaundice outbreak is now released for the first time, although this and other press services and newspapers of the nation have known about the outbreak for some time but withheld the information at the request of Army authorities, pending results of the scientific investigation which started when the first cases occurred.

Contrary to rumors circulating for some weeks, no case of yellow fever has occurred in any of the troops. The sickness was catarrhal jaundice, an ailment that occurs in civil life and for which no specific germ cause has been identified.

Since March 1, 1942, there have been 28,585 cases of catarrhal jaundice in some of the men vaccinated against yellow fever. There were 62 deaths. This is a rate of one death to each 461 men who got sick, not one in 461 of all vaccinated. The numbers of deaths and of cases of jaundice were not large enough to affect the war effort nor were they large enough to change the low death and sickness rates for the Army as a whole.

Jaundice occurred only in men vaccinated with certain batches of yellow fever vaccine. The vaccine was made from chick embryo pulp which had been suspended in normal human blood serum. This type of vaccine had been used for a million vaccinations before the jaundice cases developed among troops getting the vaccine.

The human blood serum was used because it keeps the vaccine active longer when it is stored before use. The unidentified germ of catarrhal jaundice may have gotten into certain batches of vaccine from this serum. The point is not yet definitely proved, but acting on the possibility, the Surgeon General ordered all yellow fever vaccine for the Army to be prepared with water instead of the human serum.

This change was made April 15. Cases of jaundice have been definitely de-

creasing in numbers for the last three or four weeks. Peak of the outbreak apparently came during the week ending June 20, when 2997 admissions were reported during the week. The peak in number of cases occurred after the vaccine had been changed because it takes some time for the disease to develop. The cases reported were among men who had been given the human serum vaccine before April 15.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Shortage of Narcotics Decreases Addiction

SHORTAGE of smuggled narcotics due to war conditions has caused a decrease in addiction in the United States and an increase in desperate attempts to steal the drugs from drug stores and warehouses, the Bureau of Narcotics announces.

Effective control measures, together with restricted shipping facilities, have forced many addicts to take cures because illicit narcotic prices are prohibitive. When available, the cost of raw opium is estimated at nearly \$600 per pound. One form of morphine sold at \$4 for about 1/300 of an ounce (1½ grains).

Illicit heroin, another opium derivative, could usually be obtained only 5% pure, even before the war. Now the "heroin" available in the underworld is mostly milk sugar, often so highly diluted as to be almost valueless for addiction use.

Japs have been active in unlawfully importing these death-dealing drugs into the United States, but are now reported busy with other matters.

By the end of last year smuggled morphine seemed to have practically disappeared from illicit traffic, the Bureau of Narcotics reports.

Possible legal sale of narcotics which could be used for addiction purposes, is further hampered by new laws or amendments passed in Maine, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wisconsin during last year. These laws also help to conserve our limited supply of opium derivatives which constitute some of our most useful drugs when properly administered by a physician.

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LAND BATTLESHIP

The new M-4, 28-ton (medium) tank which has a strong welded hull and superior fire power, due to 75-mm. gun mounted in turret.