

Predictions as to how carbohydrates will react in various antisera can be made, the findings also show, when the con-

stitution of the repeating chemical unit in the carbohydrate is known.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Plan Physician Control

New federal body to allot physicians to medically neglected communities is advocated by committee of physicians. U. S. Public Health Service would operate it.

► A CENTRALIZED federal body to control medical manpower and distribute physicians so that the health of the civilian population as well as the armed forces will be maintained is advocated in a statement by the Committee of Physicians for the Improvement of Medical Care, of which Dr. Channing Frothingham of Boston is chairman and Dr. John P. Peters of New Haven is secretary.

"Maintenance of the health of the civilian population is as much a national responsibility as is the control of the production and distribution and the proper allocation of commodities between the armed forces and civilians," declares this eleventh statement to be issued in the seven years of the committee's existence.

Only a nation-wide plan will be effective, it is argued, because of the barriers of medical licensure and the uneven distribution of physicians between the several states. No reliance can be placed, it is declared, on plans predicated upon the voluntary relocation of physicians.

Calling attention to the shortage of physicians reported by the Office of War Information, it is stated that "so critical has the situation become that the health of many communities is seriously threatened." The Procurement and Assignment Service now in operation has been unable to maintain an adequate supply of physicians in many areas, it is stated, although it was set up "to protect these civilian communities by preventing inequitable and uneven recruitment of physicians for the armed services."

The United States Public Health Service would be the operating agency entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the health of the civilian population, under the committee's plan. It is suggested that it may be necessary for the Public Health Service to grant commissions to physicians in order that they may be assigned to communities where

they are needed, without interference from state licensure.

Nurses and other medical personnel would be included as would be hospital and other facilities where they are needed. Health centers would be established at which groups, including specialists, could work as coordinated units. The plan contemplates the full use of Negro physicians and of qualified refugee physicians.

Where services are provided by U. S. Public Health Service officers who cannot accept fees, the persons treated, when they can afford it, would pay for their medical services on a pre-payment plan or by fees for services rendered. These funds would be devoted to an expansion of the medical services, a plan that is now in effect in certain localities.

Changes in medical education made by military authorities were criticized in the committee's report. Reduction of the premedical course to 21 months instead of the earlier war-accelerated 36 months period makes it "difficult to obtain adequate preparation for medical education" although this action will not give the armed forces more physicians until 1949.

Replacement of younger medical school teachers by older physicians threatens to cause "deterioration in the quality of teaching."

"Instead of vesting the control of our educational system in the military authorities," the report states, "it would be preferable to establish at once a comprehensive authority to assume direction of medical education, with separate bodies responsible for the major scientific and technical branches."

The endorsement of the committee is given to the bill, S. 1161, introduced into the Senate by Senator Robert F. Wagner (Dem. N. Y.) which provides "a framework and a basis for discussion from which a constructive program for

improved medical and health care of the American people may be developed." The bill provides for an advisory health council.

The Committee of Physicians' report also controverts the claims of the National Physicians Committee for Extension of Medical Services, another organization more closely aligned with the American Medical Association, that the private independent practice of medicine has been responsible for practically all the important advances of medicine in modern times.

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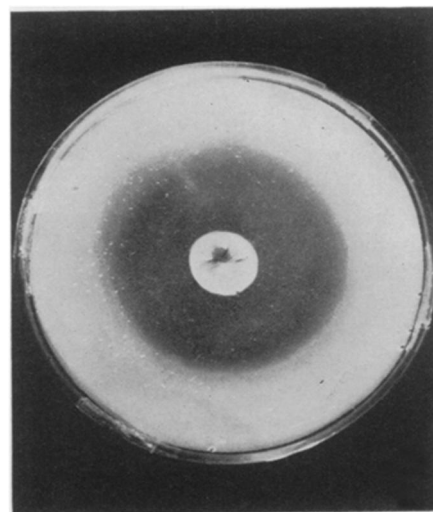
BIOLOGY

Penicillin Production on Large Scale Now Planned

See Front Cover

► PENICILLIN, powerful germ-killing substance made from a mold like that which grows on stale bread, may soon be manufactured on a large scale for military use if efforts of the Squibb Biological Laboratories and other large drug manufacturing companies are successful (See SNL, May 29).

The mold from which penicillin is made is pictured on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER. What



GERM KILLER—The hole of this doughnut was made when staphylococcus germs in the white area, which originally filled the plate, retreated before the onslaught of penicillin, germ-killing chemical from the mold, *Penicillium notatum*, seen as the white spot in the center of the hole and, greatly enlarged, on the cover.



MASS PRODUCTION—The corrugated material in the bottles is the velvety-textured, blue-green-gray growth of the penicillin mold being produced in the culture rooms of the Squibb Biological Laboratories.

it does and how it is grown are shown in photographs from the Squibb Biological Laboratories on this and the facing page.

So far, the entire output of this drug,

which rivals and in some ways outdoes the sulfa drugs as a remedy for germ-caused diseases, is reserved for our armed forces. Civilians are not likely to get any of it for a long time.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

New Health Puzzle

A decided increase in the number of cases of German measles is causing authorities to wonder whether the disease is also becoming more serious.

➤ **GERMAN MEASLES**, a mild and rarely fatal childhood ailment quite unconnected with Germans, Nazi or otherwise, is giving health authorities a new puzzle.

In certain cities a much larger proportion of this type of measles than of true measles has been occurring, city health officers report to the U. S. Public Health Service. Health authorities are wondering whether the increase means the disease is also becoming more serious.

In New York, for example, there were 1,000 more cases of German measles than of true measles during

the first three months of the year. Never before have New York City's health department records shown a larger proportion of German measles than of the other kind. For more than 20 years, German measles cases have averaged less than 15% of the total number of measles cases.

Los Angeles reports a similar situation. Last year there were 1,323 cases of German measles and 10,343 cases of true measles in that city. This year the figures were almost the same for the two diseases: 2,163 cases of German measles, 2,607 cases of true measles.

The puzzling situation is worrisome

because a similar increase in German measles cases in England recently was accompanied by alarming complications of this ordinarily harmless sickness. Encephalitis, the serious brain inflammation popularly called sleeping sickness, was one of the complications.

No such complications have been reported so far in New York City, at least, but if the disease is becoming more prevalent, health officers naturally wonder why and whether the increase means that the causative germ has grown more virulent and may cause a more serious kind of sickness as well as more cases.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Polio Epidemic May Be Coming This Summer

➤ **SIGNS** that an epidemic of infantile paralysis may be brewing for this summer appear in reports, from Southwestern states especially, to the U. S. Public Health Service.

For the week ending July 3, latest for which figures are available, the total number of cases reported from all states and the District of Columbia was 190. The increase over the previous week's total of 136 cases is made up of increases reported from Texas, where the cases jumped from 39 the week of June 26 to 80 the week of July 3, and Oklahoma, which had an increase from 8 cases to 23.

Infantile paralysis cases are expected to increase at this season, but the total number of cases reported since the first of the year was larger, on June 26, than for the same period of any years since 1934. The total for the first six months was 894, of which more than half were reported from California and Texas.

In California the cases seemed to be concentrated in Los Angeles County and other southern counties. For the week ending July 3, however, this state reported 57 cases, which is one less than for the previous week.

No other state reported more than five cases for the week of July 3.

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Some *mosquitoes* bite only in the shade, others only at twilight and still others only in sunlight.

Enough potatoes were raised on United States reclamation projects in 1942 to provide yearly rations for more than 13 million people and enough beans for more than 38 millions.