



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.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

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.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

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.