

American Medical Association, Jan. 1) their results of a careful study at New York Hospital and Cornell Medical College of 72 colds in 66 different persons. Small doses of sulfadiazine were given by mouth daily for four days to 48 of these cold victims, while 24 served as controls.

The treatment did not shorten or alter the course of uncomplicated colds, they report. No striking benefits were seen in the complicated colds. The number of germs, other than the cold virus itself, at the back of the nose above the soft palate decreased uniformly under the

treatment and the growth of disease-causing germs, such as pneumococci and hemolytic streptococci, was checked. The cold virus itself is known not to be affected by sulfa drugs.

The physicians therefore are opposed to routine use of sulfa drugs for the common cold but favor their use in a few selected cases as protection against severe secondary infection or complications. Giving sulfadiazine by mouth is simpler and more dependable, they found, than trying to apply a sulfa drug directly to the nose and throat.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1944

Cox anti-typhus vaccine are the three weapons which have protected the American Army from this former war plague.

On the controversial question of atabrine versus quinine for malaria, Gen. Simmons said in his opinion atabrine is as good as quinine and is "thankful to God" we have developed atabrine production in this country so we can supply ourselves and the world. Critical research studies, moreover, have established that it can be safely given to flying personnel.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1944

MEDICINE

Leukemia Conquest Hope

Resistance to this fatal malignant disease is apparently related to the endocrine glands, studies with animals reveal.

► A NEW LEAD in the search for a way to conquer leukemia, fatal malignant disease characterized by increased number of white cells in the blood, appears in a report by Dr. James B. Murphy and Dr. Ernest Sturm, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. (*Science*, Dec. 24, 1943)

Resistance to leukemia, their studies show, is apparently related to the glands of internal secretion. These glands include the pituitary, thyroid, thymus, adrenals and sex glands. Exactly which of these glands are involved and how the scientists do not yet know, but their evidence implicates both the thymus and adrenal glands.

The studies so far have been made with rats. Removal of the adrenal glands greatly reduced the resistance of these animals to a highly malignant form of transplantable lymphatic leukemia. Less than half, 46.9%, of a group of these animals from a strain very receptive to this transplantable leukemia developed the disease upon inoculation, but almost all, 90.3%, of a group of animals of the same receptive strain developed it when inoculated after their adrenal glands had been removed.

The disease in these animals is characterized by extensive invasion of the thymus gland, which other scientists have found is greatly stimulated by loss of the adrenal glands. Lack of these glands and their hormones apparently upsets the normal balance between the various endocrine glands in such a way as to make the animals more susceptible to this form of leukemia.

Further work along this line, it is hoped, will show what specific glandular imbalance may be responsible for lack of resistance to leukemia. If this can be learned, and if the rat findings apply also to man, it may be possible to find a way of stimulating leukemia resistance so as to prevent or cure the disease. The work is still a long way from that hoped-for, life-saving stage, but is believed to be at least a step in that direction.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH

Insect Disease Carriers Critical Health Problem

► THE PROBLEM of introduction of insect carriers of disease is one of the most critical now facing health authorities of the U. S., Brig. Gen. James S. Simmons, director of the preventive medicine division, Office of the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, declared at the American Public Health Association meeting in New York City.

Malaria, the diarrheas and dysenteries, and venereal disease are the three big disease problems of the Army, he found on an extensive tour of theaters of operations.

Typhus fever, which a few years ago would have been the fourth big plague threatening the Army's health and would have been put first 50 years ago, is not now giving any worry at all. The new anti-lice powder the soldier shakes into his clothing, methyl bromide to delouse clothing he has been wearing, and the

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