

woodpeckers, little children and humanity in general.

Like two opposite poles of a magnet, the great newspaper publisher and the great scientist attracted each other. And the field of their influence was great.

Science Service is one of the major projects upon which they collaborated. The first world war had visualized the importance of science to the world. E. W. and W. E. had worked together on other projects—the study of the sea which both loved, an inquiry into population. They saw the necessity of making science understandable to the public. In their discussions of the way the world is going they agreed that the scientists themselves must see to it that their findings reach the ordinary person in comprehensible form.

Science Service as the institution for the popularization of science was born of the enthusiasm and wisdom of E. W. and W. E., given economic independence by E. W. and sold to the scientists by W. E. Under the watchful eyes of both, it took up its work of spreading to the public through newspapers and other agencies the facts and implications of science.

Dr. Ritter was an important personality in the growth of American biology, particularly on the west coast where he organized and headed the Scripps Institution for Biological Research, affiliated with the University of California. In his later years as professor emeritus



DR. RITTER in 1940

he gave aid and encouragement to the study of little human animals at play in a Berkeley nursery school. He worked upon his philosophy of the unity of the

organism, an idea that promises to live on in the thought stream of science.

W.D.

*Science News Letter, January 22, 1944*

MEDICINE

## Identical Chemicals

**Two mold cousins are found to produce the same germ-fighting substance, called both clavacin and patulin, which was thought for a while to be common cold remedy.**

► DISCOVERY that two different molds produce the same germ-fighting chemical is announced by Dr. I. R. Hooper, Dr. H. W. Anderson, Dr. P. Skell and Dr. H. E. Carter, of the University of Illinois. (*Science*, Jan. 7)

The chemical was named clavacin by Dr. Selman A. Waksman and associates of New Jersey State Agricultural Experiment Station, who discovered it was produced by the mold, *Aspergillus clavatus*. It was named patulin by British scientists, Dr. Harold Raistrick and associates, who found it was produced by the mold, *Penicillium patulum*.

Patulin was at first heralded as an

effective remedy for the common cold, but subsequent reports were not so promising and doctors generally are awaiting further studies before drawing any conclusions about it.

Patulin and clavacin have the same physical and chemical properties and are beyond doubt identical, the Illinois scientists declare. The molds that produce them belong to distinct but related genera, that is, they have about the same degree of kinship as apples and pears, although the mold from which patulin was obtained is more closely related to *Penicillium notatum*, from which comes the famous penicillin.

*Science News Letter, January 22, 1944*

MEDICINE

## Liver Damage Warning

► A WARNING that "in nearly every case of malaria" the liver may be damaged to some extent is issued by Maj. I. Arthur Mirsky, Miss Ruby von Brecht and Maj. Leonard D. Williams (*Science*, Jan. 7) The experiments on which it is based were done in the laboratory of the station hospital of the Miami Beach Air Training Base.

The liver damage is not believed due to either atabrine or quinine given in treatment of malaria, since in several cases the test showing liver damage was done before treatment was started.

Every student of malaria, the scientists point out, knows that enlargement and tenderness of the liver and even jaundice may occur in various forms of malaria. Very few, however, have given attention to the possibility of disturbance of liver function and associated derangements in metabolism.

Treatment of malaria, Major Mirsky and his colleagues urge, should be revised to include measures for restoring the liver to normal. Such measures are giving diets high in carbohydrates, proteins and vitamins, and not "giving only

fluids during the course of the fever," as is advocated by some leading authorities on malaria.

*Science News Letter, January 22, 1944*

GEOGRAPHY

## Geographical Society Honors British Scientists

► TWO of the gold medals of the American Geographical Society will be awarded to British scientists this year. The Charles P. Daly Medal will go to Sir Halford John Mackinder, English geographer and statesman, and the Cullum Geographical Medal to Arthur Robert Hinks, secretary of the Royal Geographical Society since 1915.

Sir Halford Mackinder in 1919 in a book warned the Western democracies against the danger of a mighty land power gaining control of the interior of the Eurasian continent. The book is said to have exerted a considerable influence on the development of geopolitics in Germany.

*Science News Letter, January 22, 1944*