

Hubata, S. C., A.U.S. The test is reported in *War Medicine* (January), published by the American Medical Association and the National Research Council.

The simple test will be valuable, Capt. Hubata believes, in determining whether or not a person has taken a sulfa drug.

It is made by moistening a small area on a blank strip of newspaper with a drop or two of a specimen of urine from the person being tested. A small drop of dilute hydrochloric acid, one part acid in four parts of water, is then placed on the center of the moistened

area. The immediate appearance of a yellow to orange color shows the presence of a sulfonamide compound.

The method is based on the color reaction in the presence of acids between crude cellulose, such as newspaper, match sticks or pine shavings, and the arylamine group. Paper from refined pulp, for example white bond, will not give the reaction.

The color varies from orange yellow to orange, the yellow color, or one plus reaction, being obtained from persons who have recently stopped taking a sulfa drug.

*Science News Letter, February 19, 1944*

years which show that scarlet fever consistently follows this pattern of reaching a high point in February, March and April and falling off sharply in May.

Scarlet fever is caused by a germ of the streptococcus family. Children can be immunized against it, but because the reaction may be severe, public health officials feel they cannot advise it for all children. They believe the matter should be decided in each case by the parents and physician.

Production of a relatively new type of material for scarlet fever immunization, a precipitated toxin, has been de-

#### GENERAL SCIENCE

## A. A. A. S. To Meet

American scientists to discuss war and post-war problems in Cleveland in September, after two years without conventions because of the war.

► THE AMERICAN Association for the Advancement of Science and its numerous affiliated scientific societies will hold their first full-dress wartime meeting in Cleveland next autumn, during the week beginning Sept. 11, Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the Association, informed Science Service. For two years these meetings have been suspended because of the war, but it is felt now that so many scientific problems of importance to the attainment of victory and especially in the setup of the post-war world require full discussion that a gathering of this size is justified.

For many years, A.A.A.S. meetings have been held during the week after Christmas. The last one to be held, at Dallas, Texas, was during the tense Christmas week following Pearl Harbor; it had been arranged long in advance and could not well be cancelled or postponed on short notice. However, holiday-season meetings were then given up for the duration by general consent. A meeting in the early autumn is not expected to place too much of a strain on transportation or hotel accommodations.

*Science News Letter, February 19, 1944*

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Scarlet Fever Epidemic

Number of cases is mounting throughout the nation. Pacific coast states report three times as many cases during past January as the same month last year.

► SCARLET FEVER cases are on the increase in all parts of the country except New England and the west southern states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, reports from state health officers to the U. S. Public Health Service show.

The number of cases mounted from 4,936 the week of Jan. 29 to 5,365 for the week ending Feb. 5. The five-year median figure for the first week in February is 4,037. The three Pacific coast

states reported three times as many cases during January, 1944, as during the same month last year.

The cases in the current outbreak are very mild, according to information reaching the federal health service. The peak of the epidemic is expected this month or next, with cases continuing at a high level until May, when a sharp decline is foreseen. This unusually specific prediction for the course of the epidemic is based on records for many

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 45 FEBRUARY 19, 1944 No. 8

The weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N. St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. NOrth 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years, \$8.00; 15 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, if still available, 25 cents.

Copyright, 1944, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Entered as second class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices, Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566; and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, STate 4439.

#### SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

**Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science:** Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois; Edwin G. Conklin, American Philosophical Society. **Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences:** R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; W. H. Lewis, Wistar Institute. **Nominated by the National Research Council:** Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Hugh S. Taylor, Princeton University. **Nominated by the Journalistic Profession:** O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism; A. H. Kirchofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Executive Editor, Sun Papers. **Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate:** Frank R. Ford, Evansville Press; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Harry L. Smithton, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Officers—President:** Edwin G. Conklin. **Vice President and Chairman of Executive Committee:** Harlow Shapley. **Treasurer:** O. W. Riegel. **Secretary:** Watson Davis.

**Staff—Director:** Watson Davis. **Writers:** Frank Thone, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Morton Mott-Smith, A. C. Monahan, Martha G. Morrow. **Librarian:** Jerome Harris. **Science Clubs of America:** Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. **Photography:** Fremont Davis. **Sales and Advertising:** Hallie Jenkins. **Business Manager:** Columbus S. Barber.