

AERONAUTICS-DEFENSE

Fast Aircraft for Defense

► SUPERIOR speed in military aircraft is essential to the success of air attack as well as air defense, Dr. Jerome C. Hunsaker, chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, states in the recently issued annual report of the committee to the President.

In an age of atomic bombs it appears that no nation can win a war without control of the air, he added. During the past year the NACA has directed much of its effort to solutions of the complex problems of high-speed flight. By the achievement of successful supersonic flight there was gained for America a substantial advantage in the race for air leadership.

Achievement of flight faster than sound by American research airplanes has given a strong stimulus to the design of very high speed aircraft both in this country and abroad. The NACA, he says, has evidence of increasing international competition in aeronautical research and development.

"The demonstrated possibility of supersonic flight is a significant turning point in aircraft performance," he declares. "For the future, we must accept the view that flight at supersonic speeds by practical military airplanes can be attained by any nation willing to make the effort.

"Notable during the past year," he continues, "has been the eagerness of aircraft designers to apply the new knowledge being obtained by the Committee's high-speed research program. Now that experimental supersonic flight has been attained, great efforts are being made by the Air Force and the Navy in fostering the design of operational and transonic and supersonic aircraft."

Entire credit for the achievement of supersonic flight should not be given to NACA, Dr. Hunsaker indicated.

"This gain was made through the co-

ordinated effort of scientists and engineers throughout the country—notably in the aircraft industry, the military establishment and NACA—supported by the work of educational institutions and other research agencies. The same teamwork is required to consolidate these gains and to push forward.

"The Congress has wisely provided for increasing the effectiveness of the team by authorizing the Unitary Wind Tunnel Plan for establishment of needed facilities for transonic and supersonic research, development, and evaluation. The Unitary Plan represents an extension of the teamwork, idea initiated by the cooperative military-industry—NACA research-airplane program that lead to achievement of supersonic flight."

Science News Letter, January 28, 1950

MEDICINE

Dramamine Used by Window Operation Patients

► A NEW use for dramamine, the chemical that both prevents and relieves motion sickness, has been discovered. This is for patients who have had the so-called window operation to cure deafness.

The operation is not suitable for all types of deafness. But in those on whom it is performed, vertigo, nausea and vomiting are troublesome complications during the first two days after the operation and patients have much nausea and occasional vomiting even after the first 48 hours. Vertigo is the sensation of things revolving around you or of yourself revolving in space.

When dramamine was given to 28 patients undergoing this operation, 12 had occasional slight attacks of vertigo and 10 had occasional nausea. None had vomiting.

When the dramamine was stopped, eight relapsed, but recovered immediately after a dose of the drug.

The trial of dramamine in this condition was made by Dr. Edward H. Campbell of the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. The results were included in a report to the American Medical Association meeting in Washington, D. C., by Drs. Leslie N. Gay and Paul E. Carliner of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine who were the discoverers of dramamine's anti-motion sickness effects.

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Question Box

AERONAUTICS-DEFENSE

What is the prime need for successful air defense? p. 52.

CHEMISTRY

What exceptional electrical property is possessed by barium titanate crystals? p. 55.

What is the newest element? p. 51.

ENGINEERING

What is the latest aid to traffic surveys? p. 60.

GEOGRAPHY

Why are many South Americans migrating to the east? p. 54.

Photographs: Cover, National Bureau of Standards; p. 51, Tennessee Eastman Corporation; p. 53, U. S. Navy; p. 55, Northrop Aircraft, Inc.

MEDICINE

What is the new anti-arthritis drug? p. 50.

METEOROLOGY

Of what material are the skyhooks made? p. 53.

MINING

How is gas obtained from shale without mining the shale? p. 53.

PHYSICS-CHEMISTRY

What precipitated the rain-making debate? p. 61.