

erations are performed. But some patients have been back for the "sixth look."

Almost all of these operations could not have been performed ten or 15 years ago, simply because there was no way to keep the patient alive through so long a time on the operating table and with such drastic cutting and its attendant shock to the system.

Dr. John Scudder, of Francis Delafield Hospital in New York, has told of a new method of building up the nutrition of patients before and after operations. A formula evolved by Dr. John Elliott, Dade County Blood Bank, Miami, Fla., based on proteins and amino acids can be fed to a patient through a tube from his nose down to his intestinal tract. The formula is completely sterile and, when fortified with alcohol and fed, drop by drop, 24 hours a day, it alone has kept patients alive for periods of up to 461 days at Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami.

In addition, more and more of what is necessary for rebuilding strength can be fed to a patient, through his veins. Vitamins and glucose go into the mixtures which are

fed him in this manner.

Massive and frequent blood transfusions are given during operations. However, surgeons are running into complications. There are many combinations of blood known today. One transfusion sensitizes a person against some of the other types of blood for life. If he needs a serious operation and has had previous transfusions, the problem of finding just the right kind of blood is greatly complicated. Therefore it is being urged that patients not be given blood transfusions for minor operations, like an appendectomy, nor for women during the childbearing period.

To get around this, some surgeons collect the blood lost during an operation and transfuse it right back into the patient. Your own blood is safest. Some surgeons draw blood at the beginning of an operation, or save a patient's blood and administer it at later critical phases of the operation.

With all of these techniques, more and more cancer victims, previously doomed to an early death, are being saved, or their lives are being lengthened.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1952

METEOROLOGY

Weather from Antarctic

► THE HIGH plateau which is the Antarctic and the oceans surrounding it have a strong influence on our daily weather.

To determine just what that influence is and to gain more knowledge which will make long range weather forecasting more accurate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists have completed a two-year series of daily weather maps of the

entire southern hemisphere, it was revealed at a meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Washington.

Weathermen have suspected that the southern hemisphere is more important than our half of the world in influencing the world's weather. The new southern weather maps tend to confirm this, Morton J. Rubin of M.I.T. reported.

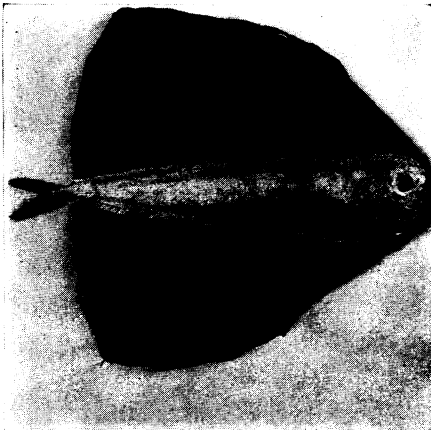
The general west to east current of wind in the southern half of the world, while like that of the north, is much stronger. In fact its minimum strength is about equal to the northern current's maximum strength.

In addition it is much more stable, not undulating northward and southward as much as the northern west-to-east current does. This is because the cold air from the Antarctic tends to seep northward from all around the continent over the relatively warmer oceans rather than to come out on bursts or outbreaks, as happens in the Arctic.

Because of these stronger, more stable zonal westerlies in the south, masses of air are thrown across the equator during the southern winter and our summer. Our winter westerlies are not strong enough to throw much back during the south's summer. Thus the southern hemisphere has a primary influence on the world's weather, Mr. Rubin said.

The group which prepared the two-year series of maps is headed by Dr. H. C. Willett, professor of meteorology at M.I.T.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1952



RARE FANFISH—The first fanfish ever known to have been caught off the United States Pacific coast and one of the few caught anywhere, this rare specimen is now on display at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

● RADIO

Saturday, May 24, 1952, 3:15-3:30 p.m. EDT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. W. D. Snively, Jr., medical director, Mead, Johnson & Co., Evansville, Ind., discusses "Food for Young and Old."

TECHNOLOGY

Fluorescent Tubes Light Airplane Loading Platform

► A BATTERY of eight giant fluorescent tubes are being used to light the loading section of the Logan International Airport's terminal building in Boston.

The tubes, eight feet long, are backed with highly polished, scientifically designed reflectors. Compared to the previous installation, the new units have less glare, provide a substantial increase in the illumination, yet cut power costs.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1952

NEIGHBORS PRAISE HIS ARTICLES



"As a 'buy-product' of my NIA Training, I have received a total of \$73.00 for three articles and filler material from Autobody and the Re-conditioned Car. Autobody paid about \$6.00 an hour. The local weekly, City and Suburban Life, printed one of my practice articles and asked for more. When neighbors stop you on the street to say they read your piece, there's nothing, but nothing, like it."—George R. Maire, 14 9th St., Laurel Gardens, Pennsylvania

To People who want to write but can't get started

DO YOU have that constant urge to write but fear that a beginner hasn't a chance? Here is what the former editor of Liberty said:—"There is more room for newcomers in writing than ever before. Some of the greatest of writing men and women have passed from the scene in recent years. Who will take their places? Fame, riches and the happiness of achievement await the new men and women of power."

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