



**LARGEST HELICOPTER**—The world's largest helicopter is now undergoing "tie-down" tests at Hughes Aircraft Company airport in Culver City, Calif. Known as the XH-17, it is powered by two turbojets and designed for short-range moving of heavy military equipment.

## METEOROLOGY

## Weather Data From Arctic

Balloons will be launched from a floating "ice island" to probe the secrets of our weather at its place of origin. Two other such islands now known.

► **BALLOONS** will soon be launched regularly from an "ice island" drifting in the Arctic Ocean close to the North Pole to probe the secrets of the "home" of our weather. Hydrogen to send them up 40,000 to 50,000 feet will be generated on the 12-mile-long island by a permanent crew of Air Weather Service men.

The men are now sending surface weather observations back to the states four times a day and these observations are being used by the Air Force and the Weather Bureau to give us more accurate weather forecasts. Since what happens high in the air above the North Pole has an even more important effect on this country's weather, meteorologists are eagerly awaiting the start of these farthest north upper air observations.

The ice island, known as T-3, is the last of three such ice formations discovered in the Arctic Ocean by Air Weather Service crews in the past five years.

T-1, the first island discovered, was vastly different from the much smaller and thinner ice floes which cover the surface of the Arctic Ocean. More than 200 square miles in area, and more than 100 feet thick, the island was tracked for three years. It was then lost, but recently crews have seen it grounded on Ellesmere Island, north-west of Greenland.

T-2, a little smaller, may have a different career. When last seen a few months ago, it seemed to be undecided whether to follow the East Greenland current down into

the Atlantic or to circle back around the Arctic Ocean again.

T-3 may some day be in the same indecisive position, but right now it seems to be sticking pretty close to the North Pole. Its present position is 88.4 degrees north by 160 degrees west. It is the only island which has been occupied. Planes as large as a C-54 have landed on it, but the weather crew is regularly supplied by C-47's. The crew is under the command of Lt. Col. Joseph O. Fletcher, who is credited with the discovery of the islands.

In addition to the meteorological crew, a civilian geophysicist, Dr. Albert P. Cray of the Cambridge, Mass., Air Force Research Center is on the island. He is taking seismic and gravitational observations. Shortly, an oceanographer will join the crew and it is expected that there will be visits from other scientists. Right now they are all living in continuous daylight at temperatures which range downward from zero degrees Fahrenheit.

Hopes that there might be more such ice islands in the Arctic were pretty well dashed last year when an extensive reconnaissance was carried out over a period of six weeks.

The reconnaissance covered more than 400,000 square miles of the Arctic Ocean and no new ice islands were found. The ice islands are not therefore as numerous as the early successes in finding the original three islands led Col. Fletcher to believe.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

## Many Displaced Persons TB Patients Within Year

► **MANY DISPLACED** persons are being treated for tuberculosis within a year of their admission to this country, in spite of screening done in Europe to detect the disease in persons seeking entry here, Dr. Robert E. Plunkett of the New York State Department of Health reported to the National Tuberculosis Association meeting in Boston.

Dr. Plunkett served with Dr. Donald King of Boston, Dr. Robert Liggett of Denver and Dr. Ira Lewis of the U. S. Public Health Service on a board set up last year by the Public Health Service to review in Europe the clinical records of displaced persons seeking entrance into the United States.

A law now prohibits entrance into this country of any person having tuberculosis. If Congress intends to extend immigration quotas, a more realistic approach was suggested by Dr. Plunkett as follows: Appropriate funds for centers, particularly in Germany and Austria, for careful study and observation of persons who show signs of tuberculosis which cannot be definitely classified by periodic examinations only.

Funds spent on scientific clinical study and medical care of displaced persons seeking entrance into the U. S. would prevent the spread of TB by segregating infectious cases, give adequate care to these patients and provide greater assurance that fewer persons admitted to the United States would soon after require hospital care.

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## MEDICINE

## Boy's Blood Lacks Anti-Germ Globulin

► **THE UNIQUE** case of a child without any germ-fighting gamma globulin in his blood was reported by Col. Ogden C. Bruton, chief pediatrician at Walter Reed Army Hospital and assistant professor at Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, at the meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Washington.

The gamma globulin part of the blood is the part that forms antibodies to fight disease germs, such as measles.

Col. Bruton's patient was an otherwise normal eight-year-old boy who had 19 attacks of blood stream infection. In 10 of these some type of pneumonia germs was found in his blood.

Tests showed his lack of gamma globulin and that his blood did not form antibodies to pneumonia germs. When gamma globulin was given to him, it disappeared completely within six weeks. Monthly doses of it have kept him free of germ poisoning for 14 months.

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