

MEDICINE

# Home TB Treatment?

Doctors divided in opinion concerning isoniazid and other anti-tuberculosis drugs. Some hold home treatment now possible, others believe hospitals more needed than previously.

► WHETHER ISONIAZID and other anti-tuberculosis drugs will make it possible for TB patients to be treated at home, instead of going to sanitariums, was the big question under discussion at the Veterans Administration sponsored conference on tuberculosis treatment held in Atlanta.

One group feels that at last patients can be treated at home, and taxpayers can begin to save on the \$200,000,000 spent annually on tuberculosis hospitals.

The other big group feels hospitals are needed more than ever, because now something can be done for the patients to get them well fast.

Hospital treatment for a few months, until the disease is "stabilized," is considered the ideal by many authorities. The two big advantages are: 1. Rest, which is still important to help the patient fight the infection and the diseased lung recover; 2. Education on how to live to prevent further sickness, once the tuberculosis has been brought under control. Many authorities think this education can only be given in a hospital.

In Baltimore, 358 patients have been benefited by a home treatment program started last June. Most of these patients got streptomycin and PAS (para-amino-salicylic acid) while awaiting admission to a tuberculosis hospital. "Very many" of these survived

the waiting period where formerly they probably would have died before getting into the hospital, Dr. Huntington Williams, Baltimore's Health Commissioner, recently reported.

As further benefits of the program, he said the patients were in favorable condition for successful treatment when they got to the hospital, and their morale improved because they felt better and could, for the first time, feel hopeful about eventual cure of their disease.

Science News Letter, February 21, 1953

## • RADIO

Saturday, Feb. 28, 1953, 3:15-3:30 p.m., EST. "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Alan Gregg, vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation, discusses "Medical Research."

## Do You Know?

Wild *geese* have been known to live as long as 70 years.

Over four tons of raw materials are required to make a ton of *steel*.

The life of a *broom* can be doubled if its bristle ends are coated with thinned shellac.

Some passenger *car horns* are tuned to the musical notes E-flat and G, which are pleasing tones said to carry a maximum distance.

The ability of *pilots* to react with normal speed at altitudes of 15,000 feet or more depends largely upon the type of food eaten before take-off.

A new *watermelon* developed at the University of Rhode Island has a rind so tough that it does not burst when the melon is tossed onto a truck.

"*Varnish*" comes from the word Vernice, the name of a goddess of ancient mythology who had golden amber hair; generally speaking, varnishes have an amber cast.

Some adventurous white conger *eels* back into a corner of aquarium tanks, stick their tails out of water and feel about; if they can reach the top of the tank, out they come, tail first.

# Questions

CONCHOLOGY—How many cone shells are poisonous to man? p. 120.

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GEOPHYSICS—How does a star's twinkle show position of the jet stream? p. 116.

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OPERATIONS RESEARCH—How can "growth unit days" make tastier vegetables available? p. 121.

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PHYSIOLOGY—How does oxygen at rest periods help fatigued athletes? p. 119.

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TECHNOLOGY—Of what is warm, but itch-less, underwear made? p. 122.

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VITAL STATISTICS—What is the increase of average length of life during the last ten years? p. 120.

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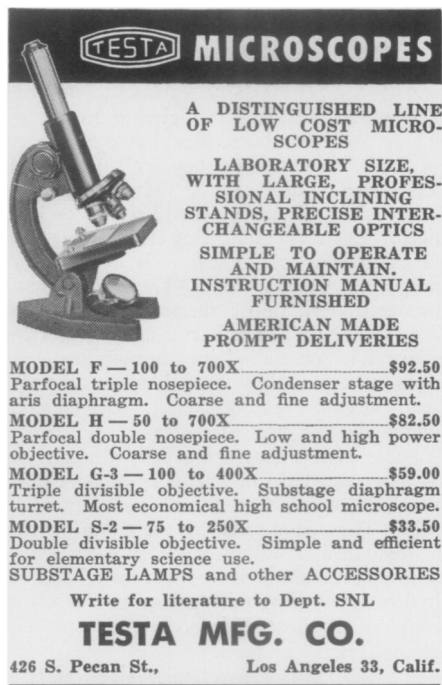
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