SURGERY

Shaking Palsy Stopped

Accidental discovery during an operation has led to relief of nine patients disabled with shaking or rigidity, or both. Anterior choroidal artery is crushed.

➤ A NEW artery crushing operation, discovered by accident, has relieved some patients of rigidity and involuntary movements in the condition doctors call Parkinsonism but which the layman often calls shaking palsy.

One 36-year-old man, completely disabled and living like a vegetable for eight years, is now playing golf, six weeks after the operation.

The new operation was announced by Dr. Irving S. Cooper of New York University Post-Graduate Medical School, New York, at the meeting of the American Neurological Association in Atlantic City.

The artery that is crushed lies inside the head and originates from the internal carotid artery. It is called the anterior choroidal artery. There is one on each side of the head. In some cases both arteries are operated on, in others, only one.

The object is to affect the nerve structures supplied by this artery. Disease of these structures presumably is responsible for the shaking and rigidity in the patients.

So far the operation has been performed on ten patients disabled by shaking or rigidity, or both. One died but all the others have improved. The operation was tried on a second group of five patients with other nerve-motion disorders in which there are uncontrollable worm-like movements of hands and feet or St. Vitus-dance-like movements. Some were helped, others were not. One developed muscular weakness on one side which is improving.

The operation was discovered when Dr. Cooper was trying to relieve a 39-year-old man incapacitated by shaking or palsy on one side. The surgeon had planned to cut a part of the brain stem. Before he got that far, the left anterior choroidal artery was torn and bled profusely.

To stop the hemorrhage, the artery was squeezed closed between silver clips. Not knowing what would result from this unplanned closure of the artery, the surgeons stopped the operation at this point.

The patient got along all right, the "most notable" feature being the disappearance of the shaking. This has been relieved now for nine months and the patient is working and earning a living.

Some of the patients suffered Parkinsonism as a sequel to the brain disease, encephalitis or "sleeping sickness" as it is popularly known.

While Dr. Cooper makes no attempt to "define" the possibilities of this operation as a remedy for various conditions of shaking and rigidity, he thinks further attempts should be made to see what can be done for advanced cases of such disorders by this surgical approach.

Science News Letter, June 27, 1953

ENTOMOLOGY

Tent Caterpillar Moths Emerging From Cocoons

► THE GREAT colonies of tent caterpillars that have been nesting in apple, wild cherry and other trees since early spring, greedily devouring their leaves, have about all broken up. These striped caterpillars, *Malacosoma americana,* have been abandoning their community tent-like nests, which can attain two feet in length, and going to secluded spots to weave their individual cocoons.

A week or two later, dull reddish brown moths emerge from the cocoons, they then mate, and each female lays all her eggs in a single ring-like cluster about a twig. The eggs will remain dormant until early next spring.

When the eggs hatch, the caterpillars remain together and build a collective tent in the fork of a tree. The caterpillars leave the tent only to forage for food, and then they spin a silken thread wherever they go to lead them back home. As the caterpillars grow in size, they migrate to larger branches to build greater webs.

Best time to fight the pesty tent caterpillars is in early spring. The webs should be destroyed early in the morning, late in the evening or on a cool day, when the caterpillars are not scattered about the tree.

Science News Letter, June 27, 1953

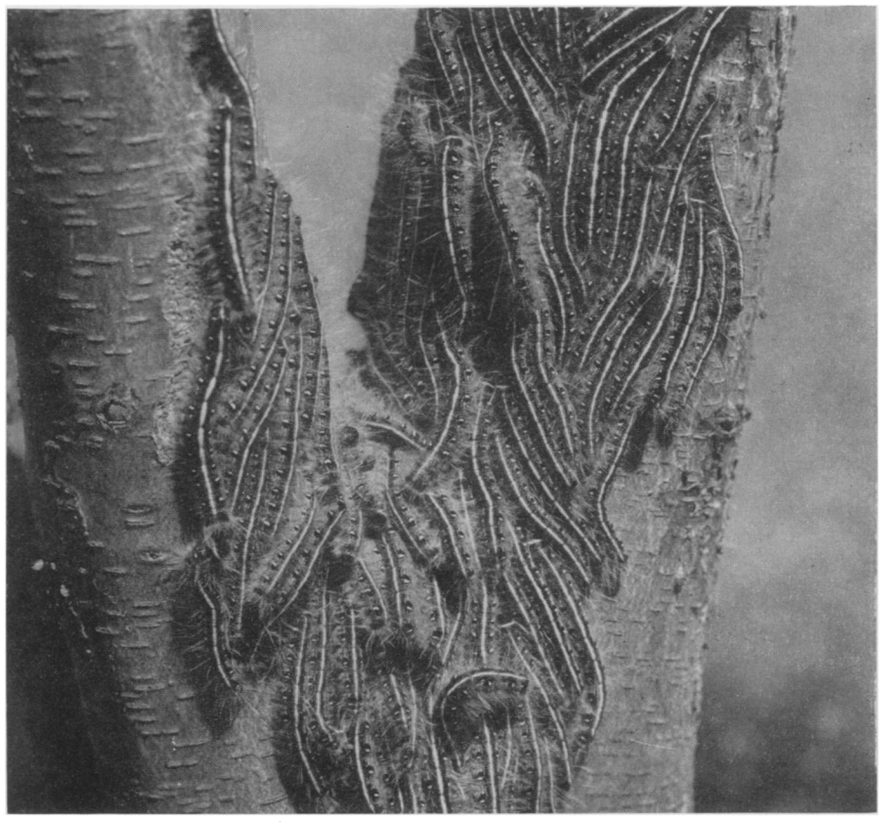
NUTRITION

Introduce New Cheese For Factory Production

➤ A NEW mild, creamy, smooth cheese, as yet unnamed, was announced to the American Dairy Science Association meeting in Madison by dairy specialists from the University of Wisconsin. Similar to process cheese, it has a flavor all its own.

It will ripen as fast as any cheese on the market, in one or two months, and is suitable for factory production.

Science News Letter, June 27, 1953



CATERPILLAR TIME—Though they grew up in a great common group, these tent caterpillars have been separating, each to spin its own private cocoon. The adult moths emerge three weeks later.